James C. Christie and Family Papers

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Version 3
August 20, 2018

City School Superintendent's Certificate.

CITY OF BELOIT, WIS.

Office of City Superintendent.

Beloit, Wis., September 2, 1871,

The undersigned, City Superintendent of Schools in and for the City of Beloit, having examined Miss S. J. Christie, *as to her qualifications as a Teacher, and having found her qualified to teach in the Public Schools of the City of Beloit, and being satisfied that she is of good moral character, hereby certify that she is entitled to this certificate, and that the same is valid in this City for* One Year from the date hereof, *renewable at the option of the Superintendent of Schools of the City of Beloit by endorsement hereon.*

Given under my hand at the date aforesaid.

T. L. Wright

City Superintendent of Schools of the City of Beloit.

Madison, Sept. 4 1871.

Dear Sarah: [Christie]

I arrived at midnight on Sat. night, and had my trunk taken up to my room at once,

Was so sleepy yesterday that I went to bed at 5 P.M., and rose at 6 this morning. Have had classes as usual this forenoon.

Bought today, the bedstead &c you saw. There are two pr. sheets, so you need send me none, I also have 3 pillow cases – so only want one more. Have wash bowl &c

Do not forget to send my globe. I need it in my history class.

Direct to Box 1633.

Have written to Mr. Ward today, and he will call on you. You know the things I want — Box of books, black trunk, library case & table, round table & my little stand. Besides these there is a little music stand at Miss Pitt's belonging to Mrs. Carson.

There goes my dinner bell —

Yours affectionately
J. D. Christie.

Tell me how Mrs. M. is when you write. The Dr. was very kind in taking me around on Sat. Evening. Got good letter from C yesterday morning.

Have written
he will call on you. You know the
things I want — Box of books, black
trunk, library case & table, round
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Yours affectionately
J. D. Christie.

Tell me how Mrs. M. is when you
write. The Dr. was very k
in taking me around in
evening. Got good lett
C yesterday morning

Ribbons are had
Quante napkins
correct Jobs
Sorbe, Bibles
Wash all
over the
Dressing

Lima Sept. 5/71

My Dear Tom.

I suppose I have misbehaved in not answering your last letter sooner, as there was a question in it that would not admit of delay. The fact is that I expected an immediate answer to my note inquiring in regard to the class-letter and wanted to answer it at the same time, and another thing that has hindered me from writing has been that I have been waiting for a photograph to send you. More than three weeks

Will be sufficient, and that we may turn to pray for each other, both need wisdom and direction, so I am, Your Brother in Christ.

Yours affectionately

Relait

VESTIGIA NULLA RETORSUM

Dear Brother

Yours received a great pleasure to grace to receive a kind letter from you at present in Christian life. There were a great many things in actual work. It is not so easy for us to write

For your pertinent questions, please let me know when you write if Sarah is still teaching at Detroit and respond when you write. Yours Brotherly

since Nellie sat for a negative and expected to get some photographs in a few days, but the artists eyes have been so sore so that the pictures could not be had until a few days ago. I send you one which she gave me for you. I think it is a pretty fair picture. But I dont think it does her justice. It makes her features look coarser than what they are. I shall be glad to get a peep at your girl. I than thought since that it was rather bad taste for me to ask her picture to keep not being acquainted with her at all. If you have not said anything to her about it I think you better say nothing at present about my wanting a picture. After I get acquainted with her, which I hope will be shortly, as when you get married

which I presume will be before a great while, then I can get a picture. Perhaps you will think Nellie has suggested this but it is not so.

In regard to the ring I suppose of course that it was given some time ago. I will tell you however what Nellie told me when I read your question to her. She said it would be altogether a matter of individual taste, that for herself she preferred a plain one, that the main thing was to get one that would be durable. I send you a photograph of Mr. Penfield which I think must have been left with me for you.

I liked the extract you send me of Miss Brewer's letter very much. It says a good deal for her womanly heart. I read

Since Nellie sat for a negative and expected to get some photographs in a few days, but the artists eyes have been so sore so that the pictures could not be had until a few days ago. I send you one which she gave me for you. I think it is a pretty fair picture. But I dont think it does her justice. It makes her features look coarser than what they are. I shall be glad to get a peep at your girl. I than thought since that it was rather bad taste for me to ask her picture to keep not being acquainted with her at all. If you have not said anything to her about it I think you better say nothing at present about my wanting a picture. After I get acquainted with her, as when you get married

I will have to wait until you come to Chicago to see you. I wish you were here. You must write to me occasionally.

Yours truly
Oliver

it to Nellie. She expressed herself highly pleased with it. You must continue to let me hear of your joy as a lover. I think you will believe that I am not without enthusiasm as a lover when I tell you that I actually attempted to write a few stanzas of poetry to Nellie since I have been at home. I was successful in the main thing—pleasing Nellie. She commences to-day attending the Normal School at Whitewater.

I was a little vexed at your not starting the class-letter. You preferred that I should send him back your letter. I thought I could give the news about you in less space. I thought it would do no harm to let you off so easily so I did not send your letter.

I congratulate you in getting a congenial place. It would be a fine opening for you if you desired to follow the profession of a teacher. If you should go to Iowa after two years, it might have been better to have gotten a more lucrative post. If you are offered a professorship you will be strongly tempted to settle down since. It may be that Providence will so order it that you go ahead in that direction and for one reason or another I might be for you go ahead in that direction.

Write oftener. I may be dull for months to come but I am not lonely when I know that I have a lover.

My Dear Father

Last this week I sent you the "Vade Mecum" and also some Medicine - three vials of "Jellies" - I wrote you a short letter telling you how it should be taken - but I am afraid I did not post the letter - I mislaid it I think, in some way and I couldn't find it to post - or it may be I posted it with other letters and didn't know - However I will give you directions again - The "Bell" and "Nux" are for your use - The "Phx" for Dave -

He is to take it three times a day six jellies at a time - and continue at it till it is exhausted - If it does him good, (as I know it will, although he may not be entirely conscious of it) I will send him more - You are to take the "Nux" twice each day, about middle of forenoon - ditto afternoon and two doses of "Bell" each day - in Evening say at 7. and 9. o'clock P.M. and continue for two weeks till you see what effect

Madison, Sept 9. 1871.

Received yesterday a letter from Mr. Foster telling me he had paid Mr L. a hundred dollars, and enclosing a note for me to sign. I sent the note to him today.

And now in reference to Uncle David, I must tell you frankly that I think you and Annie should pay him from your earnings this coming year. I shall not be able to do anything towards it. I am saving to the utmost & shall do so through the year, but shall not be able to pay or to stave off all that will come on me before Spring.

Have a letter from C. the other day - 16 bags of potatoes cost, and as good in quality as in quantity. I shall try to be married next year sometime.

Received & look. My kind love to the dear Mother, Sister, Brother John.

So tell me what I shall say to Uncle when I write, and I will write in your name; or if you chose, you may write him yourself. I can have nothing to do with it, simply because I shall not be able to do anything.

It will be feasible, though no doubt difficult, for you and Annie to save that amount from your year's work; we must all pinch and save in every way to get these awful burdens off and save the family honor. I shall be able to save every cent except what goes for board, light, washing, stationery, and traveling expenses.

I must go to Amboy in vacation, So you must make your arrangements according to what you can do, and I have no doubt Uncle will be accommodating.

I expected my things up this week, or at least a letter from you. but I suppose the school takes up all your time this first week.

Try, however, to let me have the things next week. You know I wrote to Mr. Ward last Monday.

I have moved into the room in which I showed you the bed I was going to buy, when I am alone.

This makes it necessary for me to have some more furniture. Let me tell you what I have - Bed, two blankets, Coverlet, pillows & cases, 2 pr sheets, wash bowl & pitcher & case of shelves.

I need a mirror, a carpet, if I could get one, - but am not particular. All the pictures you can send me, for the room is large & the walls bare; send

Oct 16 33.

also the hammer, I need it in fitting up. Should have a chair or two, if there are any there.

In short — send anything you think I shall need in a room, not forgetting my slippers & those heavy shoes in the closet.

I write in a great hurry, for I should be in bed. Have written six letters since noon; to father, Carmelite, you, Mr. Foster, Prof. Whitney, & Mr. Bushnell, asking for letter to the Church here, I am to take up Country S. S. work here tomorrow. Do not think of me as dropping the ministry — I shall stay here but a few years at the farthest. My kindest remembrance to Mrs. M. & the Doctor, to Lanier & to Daniel.

United States Internal Revenue,
Collector's Office, 4th District, Wis.

Beaver Dam, Sept 18th 1871

My Dear Alex

Your favor of the 14th inst. Enclosing P O Money Order $20.00 is received for which I am much obliged.
from your last letter to me concerning Money Matters I did not expect you to send the Interest on that Note. as I wrote to you saying that you might send me a Note for the $20.00. but by the way I dont know whether you received that Letter or not as I directed it to Maple Grove P.O. and the One previous I sent to Garden City.
If you receive this please Answer. I am pleased to hear that your Grain is yielding so much better than you expected. It is not doing very well here. from 10 to 12 Bush. per Acre and the price at present $1.00 to $1.10. I suppose you are aware that Thomas is teaching in the State University. I hope he will do well.
We are all in the usual health and I presum

You and your folks are also. I have not
seen any of the Clyman people since
before the 4th of July. I sometimes hear
from them by way of others. I understand
Maggie Aimes is going or has gone to
Minnesota to see Wellies folks. dont know
whether she intends staying or not.
I suppose you know Jessie got
Married. I have not seen her but once
and that was when Rosine was sick
in the spring she came up to see her
I hear that her husband
is given to drinking a good
deal. but I beleive she
dont beleive it. it is a
Son of John Louth and I am afraid
that he has come honestly by the habit
give my compliments to your father
Mother and all the family and
I come out any where near you I will call
Please answer and let me know how
you are all getting along. and beleive me
Yours very truly D J Bertie

No. .....

J. J. WILLIAMS,

Collector of Internal Revenue

4th DISTRICT OF WIS.

Beaver Dam,

IN RELATION TO

No. of Enclosures,

Officers of Internal Revenue must fill out the endorsement and send on the back of each letter to the Department.

Beloit Sep. 23rd 71

Mrs S. J. Chritie

Beloit

By a resolution passed by the Beloit City School Board June 13th 1870 authorizing the Clerk to name a day in each month for the payment of Teachers salaries. I hereby appoint every fourth Saturday, between the hours of 9 A.M., and 4 P.M. as the day ~~for~~ when the payments in question will be made,

Office at Mr Pritton's Book Store

Fayette Royce

Clerk

I do hereby certify that this Edition of the Common Prayer Book, the Articles, Offices, and Metre Psalms and Hymns, having been compared and corrected by the Standard Book, by a Presbyter duly appointed, as the Canon directs, is permitted to be published accordingly.

HORATIO POTTER,
Bishop of the Diocese of New York.

NEW YORK, June 10, 1867.

OXFORD:
PRINTED BY T. COMBE, M.A., E. B. GARDNER,
E. PICKARD HALL, AND H. LATHAM, M.A.,
Printers to the University.

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THE BOOK

of

COMMON PRAYER,

And Administration of

THE SACRAMENTS;

And other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church,
according to the Use of

The Protestant Episcopal Church

in the

United States of America:

Together with the

PSALTER, OR PSALMS OF DAVID.

Oxford:

Printed at the University Press,

And Sold by T. NELSON & SONS, New York.

1869.

Beloit Wis.-
Mon. Sept. 25th 1871.

My Dear Father, [James Christie]
Your letter written on Aug. 17. to me, I rec'd three weeks ago, on my return from Clyman. Rec'd from Sandy at the same time, a letter written Aug 20.
The letter you tell me of, as having given to Arnott to post, I never rec'd.- Of course he opened it.- And now I am anxious that you should tell me of the contents. Please do. in your next.- Sandy's letter I will answer this week.- I have since rec'd one of his written to Tom - and which he sent me lately from Madison.- You will be surprised, perhaps that

I have been to Cayman - I did not care about going and did not intend to but for Mrs Merriman's sake, I went to get a girl for her. - Mary Trayner promised to come and did so - is here now, working for Mrs Merriman - I found the people in Cayman same as usual. I see no change except in Grandmother Bertie. Her mind is gone entirely - She is quite silly - and at the same time weak of body - She remains in bed all the time - and is now unable to read any. - Grandmother is a sad sight to see - and they are so used to it - that they don't appreciate her condition I think either bodily or spiritual. I tell you what impressed me most of anything else Father, at Uncle Wm's. It was this - that they are a dreadfully hard, selfish set - all of them - and still growing more so year after year - they seem to be destitute of any real heart or affection for each other or for anyone else in the world - Grandmother has worse care than I ever saw her have, Poor old body; She cannot possibly survive this winter I think. - The talk she had with me depressed, and saddens me, every time I think of it. - She is, so far as she senses, or appreciates anything, terribly weary and unhappy as regards her past life. - And the trouble is I am afraid she disbelieves everything. She seems to have no faith no hope - nothing to bear her spirit up. We were alone and she said to me a great many times "When I'm my lone here, and bringin' up the past I'm greatly troubled with despair" and then she would say looking back in mind - "There were some things I couldn't get past, and now they trouble me". and then again "But if they were to be, they

mam' be." - I could do nothing but sit and cry - I said what I could to help her but - I nothing that - anyone says to her now, makes the slightest - impression - She doesn't - notice what you say. but - goes on talking to herself, or to you about - something quite - irrelevant. - Helen is busying herself in laying traps for Rover or one of the Millers at the same time preparing for Teacher's Examination - and looking out for a school. Maggie is housekeeper and general drudge for the whole establishment and receives $1.50 per week, for her labor early and late - whereas she is worth good $2.50 and they know it - Poor Grandfather still makes wood continually - carries wood and swill, faithfully, and looks very unfit - for doing anything - with his thin pale face and white hair. — Grandmother's state wears upon him, I could see by his actions - although he says nothing as silent as ever - But - it - was touching to see his extreme kindness and tenderness towards her, and how he

bore with her. Cousin Will (although judging from his letter lately thinks he has improved) is the most outrageously selfish person I have ever seen or known. He is a great stout jail-bird fellow that gets all he can, and puts himself not a hair's breadth out of his way to serve his own father.

You know Father, this is my birth-day and it is now late in the evening that I am writing, and just now Mrs Merriman came up to my room with a birth-day present for me. a beautiful little Prayer Book of the Episcopal church. I didn't know that anyone here knew of it being my birthday, but she had learned it up since last spring. one time we were talking, I told her. She had a bad heart-burn last night and today, so she couldn't go down town, but this evening she got better of it and had the Doctor take her down to get the Book for me. But to return. My cousin Will did not get a school to suit him near home

there was just a little talk of his going to Winn. which may account for his answering Sandy's last spring's letter at this time - that is his style - I suppose you think I am too hard and unchangeable, but I am only trying to let you see things up there as they impressed me. Poor Uncle Wm I shall say nothing against him I think, for after all his crooks I like him better than I do either of the other two - and most of all because he is your brother, and his dear old bald pate, makes me think of yours. - Perhaps you will think I am getting silly - so I will say "Good night" and go to bed. -

Wed. Eve. Sep 27. 1871.

My Dear Father. As I have time again, I will write. I went up to Chyman on the 19th of Aug. which was Saturday and returned on the next ~~Thurs.~~ ~~the~~ Wed. the 30th. I stayed a day and night at Uncle William's the same at Aunt Jessie's also at Uncle Tom's. the rest of the few days at Cousin Jessie's in Lowell. I did not have time to go to the old farm, but rode by on the road one day. It looks exactly the same - and there were some men or boys by the "old red granary" as we went by, and I could imagine they were Dave and Sandy. I felt some sad that you were really away from the old familiar places. but I do thank God that you are all out of Chyman, and above all that you were away before Dave felt called upon to choose a wife. - Chyman has become the most miserable, wretched, low place, the sun ever shone on. Everything and everybody going down hill fast. - A miserable, ignorant, inefficient Catholic teacher in old No 1. School every term. - All the young men of the place drunk at the

station half the time - Jim Walsh among the rest. - I called at Gibbs saw old Mrs Ramsay there who is very thin and failed looking - Gibbs all as usual with the exception of Mrs Gibbs, who has had much ill-health and is looking badly. - Jessie and Jim are getting on happily - he has a law office there and does considerable business. Lowell is another low hole. - Everyone that I met in Clyman inquired about you and Mother, and the boys. - Dr Benson is Co. Supt. of schools and keeps a drug-store in Lowell - he seemed very glad to see me - also Mrs Benson - they wanted me to spend some days with them, but of course, I could not -

I left Lowell on the 30th 21 years from the day Mother died and arrived in Madison at 4.30 - came that way to see Tom - he had written for me. Found him in his rooms in the large middle University building (a beautiful building it is). He was looking well and hearty - He does not have to over-work himself - and now that

his prospects for the future as regards a wife are finally settled - perhaps he will not be inclined to dissipate in other ways other than in sitting up to write her 16 page letters. By the way, he intends to marry next year I believe - and that is all right I suppose - he has the promise of a Professorship by remaining two years, and he will do it. I spent the evening with Tom and Mrs Carson, who was a teacher in the High School here, and is now Lady Prin. of Ladies' Dept. of University. I slept with her that night. She had 57 young ladies in the building under her charge at that time, and more coming in all the time. Tom went to Depot with me in the morning, at 7. and I arrived in Beloit at 9. A. M. & thus the 31. Aug. School began the following Mon. and we opened the first day in one room with 85. Last week Miss Mary Adams returned who has been gone for 2½ terms. I have had her place as Prin. of that room.

She was away taking care of a sister who was dying with Consumption in Michigan — After her sister's death lately, she wrote to our Supt. applying for her old place in School — She was one of their best teachers (I think her the best in the city — a model teacher) and they could not afford to lose her. — So she is to come in to her old place and I go on as her assistant — altho' my salary is $8. per week instead of $10. I am pleased with the arrangement for the present — as I do not feel as strong, or as able this term. I find and I shall now have so much less responsibility, and it will be much easier for me — I could not have kept on as Prin. I fear — for want of strength. — I would have kept them up to the mark, but it would have broken me down. — I am glad that it is, as it is — I would not with any other Prin. though, I think, but from Miss Adams I can learn so much. — The Supt. said he was very sorry that he couldn't do better by me, but I told him I was entirely satisfied with the arrangement, and that I felt it was much better for me. — My lungs have troubled me some already — I took a most dreadful cold last week, accompanied by fever — I was obliged to stay out of school last Friday, and also Monday. I was in bed from Friday forenoon (when I came home from school) until Mon. last — just before dinner. I was threatened with Typhoid and also with Congestion of the lungs. — I went into School Tuesday morning but am not well yet. My throat and lungs remain sore and painful. I am feeling exceedingly troubled about Dave. I feel as if I ought to be there to see and know how he is — and yet I know he is seen

to and taken care of by all of you. — He must be kept very comfortable this winter — You will see that all is closed up tight in their room and around the windows and door, so there will be no draught on him — There is nothing worse for him than a draught of air. Even when so small as to be hardly perceptible. — And if Mother had any old rag carpet to put down on their floor and put strawmeter it — to keep the air from below. — If we want to keep our Benjamin with us Father, he must have care — and care all the time. In every little thing it must be seen to, that he is not exposed to cold — he must not go out Evenings, ~~and~~ nor sit up late at home, he must be dressed warmly, especially about the chest. Eat early, light suppers and all his meals regular. — I will send you off a Homeopathic Medical Book on Saturday — the "Family Medicine" — and some Medicine with it for yourself and Dave — The Doctor

says from your Symptoms, he would say that the most of your troubles arise from what he would term Organic Neuralgia. I will post a note with the book.—

I sent you yesterday, a book for your birth-day. I bought it on Mon. afternoon last the Doctor took me down to get it, on my birth day I bought it, my 27th birth-day and sent it so I calculated you would get it on Tri, your birthday the thought gave me a great deal of pleasure — If I can remember rightly, it is the first book I have bought since coming to Beloit, and I couldn't resist the temptation to do this. — I know you will be pleased with the northern freshness and simplicity of Hans Christian Andersen.

Annie school closed two weeks ago, and she has not yet engaged for the winter — She is well, and

looking well. - She is a thoroughly good faithful girl - Everyone here likes her. -
Dr Merriman's family have moved from 4th street on the west side to College Street on the East side - to the cottage I think that we used to live in - It seems delightful to me to get back to it, it is a pretty place and just across the street from the beautiful grounds of the College. -
The family at present consists of Dr and Mrs Merriman - with their three boys - George in the Junior Class, Charlie in the High School, and Chester in our room. Mr Millett studying law, rooms and boards, also Prof. Hendrickson, a graduate of the College, and Prof. of Modern Languages. He is a Norwegian - After graduating here, studied in the European Universities two years. - Sandy knows him, he tells me he taught Sandy Grammar here, and thought him remarkably apt at picking it up - Annie is also there at present and Mary Rayner does the work, all but the washing - pile $2. per week. - Write soon again. Give my love to Sandy - to Mother - to Emma and Dave and my best for you - Affectionately - Sarah. -

Madison, Sept. 27, 1871.

My Dear Sister:

I drew $86.00 today, being payment of salary from 23rd Aug. to the present. Shall not receive any more until January. I send you P. O. Order for $25.00 which I wish you to pay out as follows — Dr. M. $4.00 (balance on board.) Mr. Sherman $10.50. Mr. Finch his charges for drayage & two boxes — about $2.50 Mr. Whiting — balance on pictures — $2.50. Horatio North, Manchester — $4.50.

This is all I can do at this time besides paying board & other things here. I have not forgotten George Sutton, but can do nothing for him until Jan.

I must write to Mr. Larrany to say the same in reference to the balance I owe him. They will all be paid in time, but they must have patience with me.

In regard to the

money due Uncle David, I must repeat what I said before — that I can do nothing about it, and that I shall sign no more notes, nor make myself responsible to any more people. I am personally responsible already for as much as I can pay in two years, and have determined to stop when I am. So I shall not write to Uncle. You and Uncle Thomas must do the best you can to get another year, I suppose. — I can do nothing in that direction.

I am doing here as well as I could wish, in the way of my regular work. Do not go out in society at all: My whole week is mapped out, and every hour has its duty. I have three recitations per day, and I give five hours to preparation of lessons — so that my regular work occupies eight hours per day. Besides this I give on three days two hours, and on others one, to separate studies — so that I am doing something every week in Homer, Ex. Test. History of Greece, — Grote, & Curtius — Latin and Geology. I never had such facilities for study, and I am trying to improve them. Bush Time

Have rec'd one class letter, and a letter yesterday from John — who is in Union Seminary — N. Y. City. A. J. and Ds. are both in Chicago Sem. Ed is doing nothing as yet. Fred is going into Chicago to study Law. I wrote to day & sent to Karl in Cheyenne.

Letters from Learmdite twice a week; I sent her the other day father's photograph and a picture of you I had in my album. She wrote me, the dear girl, that she had kissed them both, in anticipation of the time when my father and sister would be hers.

I shall go straight down there when vacation comes — 24th Nov. and return in time to spend a day or two in Beloit before next Term begins, L. says she cannot accept Mrs. M's kind offer this winter, as she is doing all the work of the household at home & cannot be spared. I hear nothing from father, but expect a letter soon in answer to one I sent two weeks ago.

I should be glad to see any letters you get from Minnesota.

Give my kind regards to Mrs. M. and the Doctor, I am thankful to the Dr. for his help in starting my things up to me. Remember me kindly to Daniel, and to Annie. I have rec'd my letter of dismission from our Church in Beloit, and am to join the Church here Nov. 1.

Went out to Lyons a week ago, and made arrangements for a Sabbath School. The house is building — I can begin in Nov. The place is 5 miles south of M. and they want help very much.

Please write me on receipt of this, & tell me how the new term is going on. Have you seen Mr. Eastman yet, & how is he doing?

I remain

Your affectionate Bro.

Thos. D. Christie.

P.S. I make the Order $28. that I owe me may pay Mr. Sims the Independent Subscription $3.50. He is agt. Tell him to stop the paper.

To the School District Clerks of 3d Commissioner District,

Of Blue Earth County, Minnesota.

You are hereby notified that I will conduct a Public Examination of the Teachers of the Third Commissioner District==said District comprising the towns of South Bend, Judson, Butternut Valley, Cambria and Rapidan==at the School House in School District No. 75, in the town of Judson, in said Commissioner District, on the 28 day of Sept, 1871, commencing at 10 o'clock A. M.

H. S. GOFF,

Superintendent Common Schools.

Beloit, Wis. -
Sunday Afternoon. Oct. 8. 11.

My Dear Brother - [Alexander]

Your long letter I found awaiting me here on my return, from Clyman, Lowell and Madison - Aug. 31st. - I have very little time to write, and another reason that I had not written, that I keep putting off until I feel like writing a good letter - that is, feel strong enough - And that time never comes - And finally after long delay I have to sit down and write the very kind of letter I wished to avoid - a letter devoid of thought made up of a few facts perhaps, and they stated rather inelegantly - My brain is continually on the strain, and I can think closely, or write, but a short time without causing rush of blood to the head and great nervous excitement - I am learning to be afraid of it - of my brain. I think, of all his

children, that I am the one who has inherited the most perfectly Father's peculiar temperament — I can now fully appreciate all that he has suffered in the years that are gone. Both in himself, and in the care for those placed in his charge —

The only thing for me, after school hours is perfect quiet and rest and to be alone — If I only spend one hour in the evening down in the sitting room with the family and there is conversation and laughter as there always is I am in such a peculiar state nervously, that sleep is absolutely impossible until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning — And I can imagine nothing so exquisite in its torture — Lying awake all night, without the power to control the brain. Keeping up a continual throbbing and pounding and seething. The imagination especially taking the reins into its own hands. I sometimes hardly know whether I am in the body or out of the body. For although I am perfectly awful peculiarly wide-awake and can feel all the suffering, yet it appears to me sometimes as if I were more the spectator than the actor — When I have these nights it is usually about 3, or between 3 and 4 that I fall asleep. — I inclined to have devoted all day yesterday (Saturday) to writing to you but unfortunately (Or perhaps fortunately for you) Friday night I lay awake until after 5 o'clock struck — and was up at a quarter to 7 o'clock. — So on Saturday I was totally unfitted for anything in the way of writing. — Tom was partly to blame for my not sleeping. — About 1.30 A.M. I heard someone ring at the door-bell. Prof Hendrickson, whose sleeping room is across the hall from mine went down and I heard him talking and laughing with some-one, whose voice sounded like Tom's. — After they had entered ~~their~~ his room and closed the door, I arose and cautiously opened mine. That I might know if it were Tom's voice — I complained — be mistaken in that peculiar "Reid laugh" so I called "Tom". Sure enough he came out and we had a talk for awhile, which

sufficed to keep my brain active until 5. in the morning. When he was first engaged to "Carmelite" they were to be married in 3 years. After he had visited there the 2d time. they shortened the time ~~[illegible]~~ two years. He wrote to me lately he thought upon the whole it would be as well to marry in a year from now. Well. So far, so good. That was all right and agreed upon. And now down he comes from Madison on his way to Boston to make arrangements for marriage in his first vacation, commencing the 24th Nov. Exciting time there in which we live. John drew $86. of his salary lately. and it would burn a hole in his pocket if he did not spend some of it in travel. Plenty in the stock. but "Pot must not call kettle black". He left yesterday at 11. A.M. for Amboy and he turns to Madison Monday passing through Beloit at 9. P.M. I am to meet him at depot to hear news of his success. However I am heartily glad that he is to be married He will be happy I know. and that is something in this life, although not the first thing. And he will be settled. She will be with him all the time and so will not be necessary.

2d Sheet

to write four letters a week each "as they have been doing" - he I told him yesterday, "a great waste of time to say nothing of paper". - I have felt from the first that she was the one he was to marry. I have heard him a hundred times before in as great raptures over "Mary" (Miss Dutcher.) and "Louise" to say nothing of "Minnie". So his talk and raptures are not to be minded although I do think that "Carmelite" is the superior of all the rest unless it be perhaps "Louise". I liked her and do now, and feel sad that she ever met him - I cannot say I liked Miss Dutcher particularly but now I pity her. She looked (notwithstanding her really pretty face almost beautiful) haggard and in trouble - She is going to New York City on a year or two visit. She refused him at the first - and after this engagement was broken and he was engaged to "Carmelite" he refused Miss Dutcher.

This world is a strange place - There is another in Manchester besides Louise has a sore heart now that he is gone - Carrie Cutter - And so nearly all of the Class have left some one or two to mourn while they with light-hearts and clear

conscience go abroad in the world seeking new faces and new "congenialities" You know all of the Fennimore were "First-Class men" and must "look about" each one, for a "Superior woman" as life companion. That is all right in itself perhaps only when their looking about involves the happiness of some half dozen young women at a time - making love to them, keeping close company for a year or so, becoming engaged, and when they begin to think they can "do better", getting cool by degrees - and just before their departure breaking the engagement showing them off to make room for someone with a prettier face or having more of the thing they call "culture". Pledges and promises are easily broken - it is all the very refinement of selfishness. -

I have seen no more of "Carmelita" than her picture and I have read her letters - I heartily approve of Tom's choice and feel that he could hardly have done better. You need not have told me to "caution him about wearing his heart upon his sleeve" - it's no use - I have done so times without number - He feels on one of his lofty airs and little as I do not understand him - that he stands alone in the family and has to seek elsewhere for congenialities &c. He is hot-headed and impulsive but good, after all. He was in Beloit yesterday from 1.30 A.M. to 11 A.M. and during that time managed to tell several people - three that I know of all about his private affairs - and even read some of Carmelita's letters to them. I don't think she would relish it much if she knew. There is a weak streak in all of us somewhere I believe, and that is Tom's I suppose. - There is one thing I don't like much Sandy and it is this. Father wrote as though Dave didn't see Carmelita's picture or read Tom's letter about her - I don't like it - if all the Stratons in creation were gossips. Dave is one of us. and must not be excluded from any of the family affairs - Emma is Dave's wife and the sooner she is made to feel that she is also one of us the better, and the sooner she will become so. - When I read

that part of Father's letter I felt just like sitting down and telling him and Emma also, all about Tom and added thereto all the other family gossip I am acquainted with. That was not so weighty a matter that it should not be told to Dave, or indeed to anyone. Tom makes no secret of it himself. So if Mrs Pratton has any desire to publish, let her do so. It goes terribly against my grain to think that you and Father talk things over and don't tell Dave. I won't stand it. So just unburden your soul to him, or I will open his eyes wider than you've ever have been. I intended to scold Father about that, when I wrote but forgot. Poor Dave. I have to think of him now, with his shoulders up, and his head down, wheezing and coughing. That is a great affliction sent to us Sandy. I cannot bear to think of Dave in that way. The great strong armed broad-chested fellow. So healthy. It makes my heart sore. I know you will see to it Sandy. That he is right taken care of. And help Emma along, Sandy, all you can. A helpful, kind talk, suggestive of progress, and

of sewing, and also house-work - Annie is so prettily thorough in all she does - At the same time so quiet and prim and faithful - If she could get a school about there, and again next summer, then she would be there when I went up and that I would enjoy and like. - What do you think of it? Speak candidly and write soon - Annie knows nothing of my writing this, so say anything you please in reply. I always feel like sharing everything with her - and so could enjoy the woods and prairies more if she was there also to talk things over. - Where are you to teach? If you are coming to College Sandy don't start in the Spring. You would be only one term ahead anyway, and I want you there when I go home, and then come down with me in the fall - Another thing I wished to speak of - of course I do not wish it remembered to Tom by you or father - I fear if you make up your mind to go to Madison that it will be a bad thing - If Tom's marriage does not change him very much, I am afraid constituted as you both are, that you would not agree together. - Now these fears may all be groundless but - if you did get to disputing and disagreeing it would be bad indeed. Boys get over such things, but with Tom it is harder. - It would be well for you to think over these things before deciding. -

Thurs. Morn. Oct 12. 1871.

Dear Brother.

I can say but a word this morning - I saw Tom on Monday night. He did not succeed down in Amboy. They will not be married until the Spring vacation. That is the time set - between the 15th and 27th of March. - The fire in Chicago has created such a commotion here that there is nothing else thought of - Nearly everyone here had either friends or property there. And all have suffered more or less - They are collecting and sending contributions every day from here to the sufferers - The children of our room alone with their pennies purchased and sent off yesterday 100 loaves of bread - Dr Ritchie's probably

in Chicago - which was their means of income. is all consumed - and so with many here. - No more Write soon - Love to all.

Your Affectionate Sister
L. J. Christie.

improvement would do her much good, from you - I cannot help liking her and the very fact that she loves Dave so entirely as she does should make us very kinder and helpful towards her. - It cost me $40. to stay here this vacation and it wouldn't have cost me that to go home and back - so if I live and can teach until that time here, I am going up next summer soon as the term here closes. I pay $4.00 per week all the time for board and washing - and that is considered very reasonable - I furnish my own room. The Professor pays $3. without washing but he has a study besides his sleeping-room. And Mr Millett pays $4.50 without washing and furnishes his own room. - Annie is sewing and assisting Mrs M. to pay for her board and at the same time preparing for examination - She has not found a winter school yet. but will soon I hope. I have often entertained the thought this fall that I would like her to go up there near or at Father's District to teach for a season if you would get her a school. - Could you do it? She could be of very great assistance to Emma in the way of letting her understand in a quiet way how to do different kinds

Beaver Dam Oct 8th 1871

My dear Sarah

Your favor of the 4th inst. received was glad to hear from you. did not know whether you was going to teach again at Belvidere or not. have heard nothing of you or Tom since vacation only by a Madison paper Tom sent me in which I saw the notice of his appointment I have seen none of the Olympian folks since last Spring - although we have heard from them by the way of others - I believe Will is going to teach at Oak Grove this Winter and rather expect to see him before he commences. I was pleased to see that Tom had got a position at Madison and I hope he will do well. I had a letter from Sandy from Minnesota a few weeks ago. they were all in their usual health. and their Crops turning out better than they expected.

We are all quite well at present and I hope we will not be afflicted this next year as we were the two last past. You can send me the interest as you propose on the 28th inst. and I will endorse it on the note when you write to Tom. tell him to write to me. all send regards to you and believe me yours truly D S Bartin

New York Oct 9th 1871.

Oh, you wild, crazy eccentric, dear Old Tom,

What a fellow upon my word! Can a man trust his senses? Now truly that is more of a question than it used to be. Is Hamilton right? Truly Sir William could never have had such a thorough test of the question as I! Let me look once more. Page four, almost at the bottom "I shall probably be a Benedict at the end of next month" A Benedict!! Where's my Webster? Page 125 at the bottom "Having mild and salutrious qualities" Ah! but that's (obs.). Look again; Benedict – Tom Shakespeare "Much Ado about Nothing" that's it; let me read "A man newly-married" Oh, my head, my head! Some body hold me, I shall go crazy! Am a fit subject now for Blackwell's Island. "A newly married man". O, now Sir William, you go hang! Whose going to believe after this in the trustworthy-ness of his five senses!

Tom Christie a dominie – no. I'm altogether confused; that wouldn't be so strange, – but a Benedict – a what do you call it, a married man, no, no, now you're fooling me. But the paper reads so. Yes, page

four, three lines from the bottom. And Tom never used to lie: true— ne joco quidem. And Tom wrote the letter: yes, his name's at the bottom, and it's his writing, and beside there's the old spirit in it: yes, I'm sure Tom wrote it. But was it April Fool? No, 'twas dated, 'Oct. 6. 1871.' Then Tom was crazy!!! No again, for he is a College Prof. Then sure this is a strange world to live in. Ah true,—true! A very strange world to live in. Thou reasonest well. And Tom is really to be married? 'Tis even so.

Then in all this day of life, both when the sun ascends the eastern slope or beats down 'mid the heat and dust and earnest strife of noonday, or sinks in peace to rest beneath the darkening shades of evening, may the freshness and purity of his love urge him onward in the busy hours of morning, may its depth and fullness cheer him as he bears the burdens of the day, and may its richness and sacredness purify all the work of life, and make sweet the time of mellow age, till the shadows are fallen, and the day has gone.

Then in that morning which shall never end, two souls whom God on earth hath joined as one, shall rest forever from the cares and toils, which make the earnestness of life— and their works shall follow them.

Excuse, my dear fellow, such unwonted exhalation; I rarely have so much cause for fermentation. But in sobriety, I stretch across the thousand intervening miles the warm hand of sincere congratulation and well wishing. You are always doing such things, and now having capped the climax, you must settle down into the sober, every day routine of life, which you are to make romantic in your hours of ease and grand in your hours of work. You will find housekeeping much more expensive than you imagine, so be economical, for economy is a better ornament of married life than increasing debt, and if you choose to make it so, there is after all much truth in the romance of "Love in a cottage."

So, Tom, at the beginning of your career you have my blessing. I only wish I was nearer Illinois than I am.

Now, Tom, after you get settled, some of those frequently recurring hours in which your programme read "write to Miss B—" you may use in sending off epistles. Your letters always do me just so much good. They bring back the old thoughts and feelings, and the old memories we all hold so dear. You are the only "B boy" I've heard of here.

I wish I might make such a glorious programme for myself as you have, but I find that here, if one

would improve his course as he ought he must apply himself exclusively to his studies. I know these things you speak of, are absolutely necessary, and I mean to study them thoroughly, but I am convinced, that one does entirely wrong to take any other reading in a theological course than that — and there is, oh, so much of it — which is in immediate connection with his studies. This reading if omitted cripples the course, and can never be atoned for, though I know that many do not agree with me or at most do not practice my rule. I do not myself as closely as I mean to. I like the course here exceedingly.

Bob is very pleasantly situated, and is quite in love with everything. I see him quite frequently. A luxury I assure you. Sue reached here by boat last Friday morning. Another luxury. She goes up the Hudson to stay a week probably on Thursday, but after that will stay in Jersey & Newark over a month. Everything is fine here, except as I am on my own financial basis, and cannot draw from home I have to be economical. You forgot to send the Class letter in right order, I'm sorry to say. Dreadful rumors have been afloat all day of the fearful Chicago fires.

Let me hear from you, Dear, as soon as you can write.

In love Your old Friend and Classmate John P. Hale

9 University Place.

My Dear Father

This last week I sent you the Vade Mecum and also some Medicine - three vials of pellets - I wrote you a short letter telling you how it should be taken - but I am afraid I did not post the letter - I mislaid it I think, in some way, and I couldn't find it to post - or it may be I posted it with other letters and didn't know - However I will give you directions again - The "Bell" and "Nux" are for you use - The "Phos" for Dave -

He is to take it three times a day six pellets at a time - and continue at it till it is exhausted - If it does him good, (as I know it will, although he may not be entirely conscious of it) I will send him more - You are to take the "Nux" twice each day, about: middle of forenoon - ditto afternoon and two doses of "Bell" each day - in Evening say at 7. and 9 o'clock P.M. and continue for two weeks till you see what effect

it has - If it is to do you good, you will be conscious of it within a couple of weeks after stopping the medicine - If you think it helps you - take a few doses whenever you feel you need. There is nothing violent in the working of Homepathic Medicine as in Allopathic doses - There is no breaking down of the constitution and general health, in order to eradicate some particular disease, and thus laying the system open to be taken hold of by any and every disease - The regularity in Homepathic practice above all others, are patience and Skill. Of course in case of emergency their practice is to meet the occasion.

They most heartily disapprove of all those cathartics that are so commonly taken by people - And I think that your health has been very much injured by them. - You also are to take six pellets at a time -

I suppose you have heard by this time of the terrible Chicago calamity and also of the fearful sufferings in the northern part of this State from fire - I will send tomorrow morning with this - a Daily Sentinel and the Beloit paper - as it is possible they may give you later news than you have. You will see that the "Advance" is burned out - Beloit is crowded with Chicago people - I have seen many who have lost all, and who slept out on the prairie or lake shore for a couple of nights - There are fearful stories here of the sufferings of some - But none than all I think are the northern fire.

The Beloit people are able and they have generous hearts - They are contributing largely - Everything was for Chicago a few days ago - but now the tide of sympathy is turned towards the northern - Mr Bushnell's sermon and all the services related to it - and a contribution was taken up for the relief of those who suffered by the fire - It must have been a large one for I think nearly every man, woman, and child in the large congregation gave something -

PS hope this will find you all well - I am feeling better now than since the term began, I think -

Please remember to tell me the heads of the subjects you discussed in the letter which Jimmie got - And tell me also how he is getting on - You can tell him

that his cousin Miss Foster is at the east on a visit has been gone four weeks and Mr Foster told me yesterday that she was to remain four weeks longer.

I was very sorry to hear of the loss of Morg and of Dick's being stifled. What are you to do for the present? Will it be necessary for you to buy another horse this fall? I am glad to hear of the large crop. How we as a family are being blessed. All through war-time and ever since. All the unhappiness that has ever been has been caused by ourselves individually. I know it has been so in my case. We have been wonderfully blessed. We have many reasons to be grateful to God. Although my labor every day here is exhausting both to mind and body yet I live every day in the midst of luxury compared with the way you are living there. And I was thinking of it today in church listening to the grand $5000. organ and to the very fine choir of trained singers and looking round upon the large congregation of richly dressed, cultivated people. I was wondering which was the better way, yours or theirs, and I couldn't decide, for there are evils in all ways. No perfection. The ~~trail~~ "trail of the serpent" everywhere. Yes I have represented myself almost as being happier lately at the

Continued from top of 1st page of 1st sheet

the way you live up there, and this - I feel all the time as if, when you cannot enjoy this with me, that - I ought to be sharing the lot of the family, and live as you live - I cannot do that - here I cannot hire my board for less than I do, and elsewhere or at least in most families, I could not have the privileges that I have here - or the very best society that I now enjoy. - I could board myself cheaper but my health would not stand it long - it would be a terrible drag on me - I would lose heart altogether - Still, I would have attempted it, if it hadn't been for Annie. - I am going to send you the Photo of two of the best young men I ever knew - I keep them "Pro's a bit" in my album. - they are both so noble, and so good - One is "Dan" Millett - who boards here, and the other is Charlie Morgan of Tom's class. I send you also the picture of Abbie Tiske who was my assistant - but - who is now engaged to Prof. Eaton. - Please send them all back, for I couldn't spare them - Morgan and Millett are my favorites in the album - that is, among the

pictures of my present acquaintances.— You must not think, from what I say that I am what is vulgarly called "in love" with either of them, or with anyone else. I admire them very much, their character, and feel glad to have ever known them and always will be.— But I have become sort of hardened. I am not as "susceptible" as I once was.— I think most people get that way, as the years go by.— I don't care for anyone in this world now, half as much as I do for Annie, and you folks up there.

Father I think it will end by my going to the Sisters of Charity. I feel more and more like it each year.— What do you say? I feel as if my soul would be satisfied.— I wish Sandy would come here to College instead of to Madison. I want him to help me in learning.— I will never be ~~mar~~ married, and there are those two ways for me. A Sister, or to become a Student. There are so many things I wish to know to read up on, and to study. And Sandy could help me. He is the only one who could besides yourself.— My intuition of things go beyond Tom. If I were with Sandy, or yourself, I wouldn't be a "Sister," but ~~stumped~~ I must. But no more tonight.— Return Receipt.— With Love.— Fanale.

Madison, Oct. 23. 1871.

My Dear Sister:

I do not like to write you at this time because my matters relative to marriage are not yet settled.

I shall get a letter in a day or two which will say say definitely whether we are to be married in vacation or in the Spring. The fact is, L. is not very happy at home; they do not understand her or her wants, and keep her at work in which she has little interest. She is a great lover of books and study, but has no time at home for reading; they do not realize what a difference the Seminary made with her, or what new and higher desires she has now.

So that her life is very prosaic and unsatisfactory. And then I do not want her to teach there. The District is full of people who are insensible to every

I claim to be remembered kindly to Mary. Are one of you have daughters from home. Write a page & oblige

appeal except that having reference to money. She with her fine and sensitive organization would throw herself away in the effort to make better things in them. I am protesting against the plan continually, and wrote on Friday a rather sharp letter to her father — I hope not too sharp, urging a speedy marriage for C's sake — My former appeal had reference more to myself.

I am told by C that her ring has not yet come from you. She is lonesome, she says, without it, & so I trust you will send her a letter as soon as you can. She is very sensitive as to the opinion you and father have of my choice, so I trust you will send a good sisterly letter. As to father's conduct — I know not what to make of it; and I have had to invent all kinds of hypotheses to satisfy C in reference to it. When I was made a corporal at La Grange I rec'd. ten times ~~so much~~ more of affectionate congratulation than the whole family — except you — have given me, on this, the happiest event of my life next to my becoming a Christian.

Please ask Prof. Hendrickson — who is Librarian I believe — if he has any duplicates in the library of Patent office Reports, or Coast Surveys &c.

We have some such things here & would be glad to exchange in such way as to get full sets. Prof. Allen, our Librarian, asked me to write in reference to the matter. I should like to know as soon as possible.

Mrs. Carson told me she saw you & that you were looking well. I am glad to hear it, and hope the long walk will not be too much for you.

Give my kind regards to Dr. & Mrs. M. to Mr. Millette and to Annie.

Tell me whether Annie has yet obtained a school. I have not much news to write. Am very happy in my

work & in my hopes. Am to have a large advanced Latin Class next term. - which Prof. Allen has been teaching himself. I consider it quite an honor that he should select me to take it. Am engaged to prepare Prof. Pickard's son for Yale, in Virgil. Hear him four nights in the week after tea, he is very bright, and is to read all the twelve books - which will give me eight books more than Dread in College. Enjoying it very much. Am also taking Julius Caesar - Who thinks of joining the Freshman Class at B. next term - through the 6th Book of Virgil. In the Rhetorical Dept. I am waking up things a little - It has been very backward here.

Prof. Carpenter told me the other day that he he saw a great improvement in the speaking of the two lower Classes since I took charge of them. In fact they speak better than the higher classes who appear with them on the U. stage. I put a great deal of work into this dept. drilling these men singly in gesture &c. Prof. C was surprised when I told him I heard every man whearse before he came on the stage - Said they had been taken so much pains before but that he saw the benefit of the practice. Your Loving Brother Tom.

Madison, Wis.
Oct. 24, 1871.

My Dear Sister:

I recd. your letter of Saturday this morning when I went to mail the one I wrote you last night.

I will get the money for George as soon as you write me about the amount. I shall have to borrow it from Prof. Allen I suppose – a thing I do not like to do; but I see they need it very much. The poor creditors of ours must be paid first, and those who can must wait until they can be paid. It will all come about in time, for I am resolved if my life is spared, to spend if need be, five years that things may be straightened and we made honest again.

I feel tempted to scold

you for writing me in pencil. Your handwriting is good, — that is, it is much improved. But do you not know that it is a mark of disrespect to write letters in pencil?

You ought to be careful about these things; for all these things go to make up the impression you are making upon your friends, and the record of your life. I do not like to think, as I am compelled to think, that my sister's letters in my preserved correspondence are of all ~~others~~ written the most hastily and the most carelessly. Such faults speak more significantly as regards a lady than they do in the case of a gentleman. Why not try to do your best every time in reference to such matters. You have left the middle initial out of my name in the superscription also, and have crowded the superscription all into the lower right hand corner, when it should be on the middle line of the envelope — that is, the name should, with about an equal space left at each end. The name should thus be in the middle of the envelope. Now these are little things, but they all have their meaning. A half hour spent in looking up these matters in any one of the dozens of books that treat of them would do away with the plea of ignorance, which is the only reason for these faults. You know I am teaching Rhetoric now — so I give you the benefit of this professional lecture for nothing. — But really, my dear Sister, these things are not trifles.

I am sorry, also, that you wrote only a "note" to Learnulite. She is very quick to interpret things; and I had hoped that at the beginning of an acquaintance that is to last through life, you would have taken some

pains to show how cordial your affection is for me and for her. How do you suppose I can feel toward you as I wish to throughout all my career, if you take so little pains to prove your affection to me and mine? Let continual improvement be our aim; let us break away from bad habits and form good ones; let us make ourselves powers for good, — for good wishes or intentions are worth nothing without power of personal character behind them, with which to enforce them; let us feel that this life of ours is glorious and desirable only as we make it a constant striving after higher and better things. Such a spirit in us will lift us over all disadvantages in the way of past habits and lack of opportunity heretofore.

Mrs. C. alluded to the Rhetorical Exercises of the Preparatory & Ladies' Dept. which Pres. T. is to put under my charge.

I am always your affectionate Brother and well wisher Thos. D. Christie.

Popindan Oct. 22d - 1871

My Dear Sarah. [Christie]

I would have written much sooner to you, if I had been able. I am not well troubled considerably with all my infirmities and what little strength I have is expended in necessary Labour. I have been digging potatoes with a little some 50 Bushels, and that aggravates all my troubles. Now working Corn on the Hill, there is much to do, and although not very able I cannot see things undone, as David is really useless for ploughing, and Sandy also doing all he can do

I was much pleased with your kindly thoughts of me having attained my 60th Year. I have never read any of Anderson's Stories and can form no Opinion of him as an Author. But I am not very favorably impressed with the "Story of his Life". it seems to me he made a very narrow escape from being an unmitigated fool. there is often a very small step between Genius and imbecility he seems to have made it however. yet little lines near the line which separates them. His Great Weakness and

Vanity is pitiable. It is impossible for him to miss one little item which may contain any hint as to how the Great notices Hans.

And yet Hans disclaims all vanity, is always living in humble fear. Yet it only what has appetite for adulation. He may, indeed probably is, very good. But he also is very weak. I wish you had consulted me in what you should have me.

Hans's Book is an unhealthy one. Where we see the simplicity and possibility of Genius degenerate into something akin to childishness and vanity. And yet I am much pleased with his clear recognition that the Lord had done it all for him for indeed his natural inheritance would have otherwise been. Something quite ~~[illegible]~~ different.

I presume his Women stories are but an aunt growth of his grandfathers monstrous wooden toys. Here we have a touch of the hyper natural influence can lift incipate and monstrous fancies into complete and beautifull creations. Genius is true Inspiration, and inspiration is a force from the world of spirit. The quality or character of which depends entirely upon which and how many of our natural faculties inspire the supernal fire, indeed the whole charme of Hans's Book to me is the ingenuous

Recognition and honest confession of this uplifting influence. This hereditary weakness becomes the lever by which he is elevated and it was the Lords doing. Lifted from the Gutter, he becomes the Companion of Kings and believed by the wise and great all recognizing the Divine working. Hans himself is a wonderful story of the first magnitude

and now to the little mecum. on looking over it, I conclude that it would not be worth my while to attempt correcting it as it would introduce me to too wide a field and too long study for me. On Phrenology I presume is right. I believe neuralgia is one of my troubles and hereditary also. My father while yet not 35 years of age had one form of it. Which I have heard my mother speak of often under the name of Megrim, a neuralgic pain in the brow. Yes I have found in the Book some useful hints, statements which prove to me that my own conjectures were correct in relation to my own case. Showing me what I suppose was true, in fact thus giving me a basis of certainty to act upon. instead of an unconfirmed opinion of my own. This is much. This alone is a real good you have done me in lending the book. But Medicine is unsafe in the hands of the uninstructed. It's a science which requires much thought and close and discriminating observation and long practice added to make anyone who follows it any thing more than a Quack or charlatan. At anyrate health or sickness are all in the hands of the Lord. and I believe disease is often as necessary for our spiritual good as health is. and the may just Doctor as much as we please in some cases he will be no better

Rentile it pleases God to relieve. All disease is really because of disobedience when it is against knowledge it is also sin. even where a Physician is permitted to cure or alleviate he is only the delegated instrument of the Son of man, for He alone has power on Earth to forgive sin. Hence Cure is = to the forgiveness of sin as you will see by consulting that Spiritual Vade Mecum the New Testament You may prescribe Nux. Bell. or Acon. and yet miss your mark. as if the Lord did not hold in his hands the issues of Life. There is some thing state hidden which cannot be controlled by man as man. and I presume none know this better than Physicians. Still I am not against Doctors as they are often the Almoners of Gods mercy yet the administration of medicine is a very secondary method of cure. for I know that there is a direct method and have experienced it in my own case At one time the Soul Healer and the Body healer were the same person the one acts by Spiritual forces in modifying causes. the other by material substances in modifying effects, and so as the world has acquired more and more knowledge of External powers and lost more and more faith in unseen powers Has the Bodily healer Doctor in Phenomena superseded the Man who acts on the Life itself. Nevertheless. Spite of this divorcence it seems to me that the Physician is generally as successfull in his department as is the Mokeson Healer of Souls. We up here see as many relapses amongst the subjects of the itinerant Quack Clergymen as amongst the diseased subjects of the Mass of Pillules. It is one thing to know of a panacea. But quite another to know how to apply it – I shall continue this Epistle to you next week if able. Mail Goes off noon. and I must abruptly Quit – I have many things to write of to you. But cannot get to them now. The many interruptions like a. My writing you must suffice by your own Fireside! Truly yours. Florence

Madison Wis. Oct. 29. '71.
Sunday Evening.

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

Have I offended you in some way, that you are silent so long? I am anxious to hear again from your own heart, that your feelings toward me are not changed. Will you not send me a line?

It will be impossible for me to be married before next March. Carmelite has a great deal to do in preparation; and besides, she had engaged to teach the school in this district before my proposal for an earlier marriage reached her. I am to have vacation of twelve days in March, and we will begin housekeeping at once. I trust Sandy will be with us.

Such a thought has never entered my head that you might not approve of my marrying Carmelite on account of your not being satisfied with her. Such an

idea would be too preposterous. I cannot describe to you all the nobleness of her character. All the fibers of strong principle that grew into her Puritan ancestors from the stern New England Hills among which they were born, is to be seen in her moral nature. She surprises me by the loftiness of her character. Duty is the first thing in all her thought: hers is a strong, earnest, loving soul. Yes, and she is a Poet as well. Not only in nature, but somewhat in power of expression. I sent her a long poem last week, and rec'd. next day one she had written me at the same time. But I suppose you do not care for my enthusiasms.

I am very happy here in my work. I live every day in happy communion with great souls yet speaking in their books.

I have some fifty sturdy young Wisconsin farmers in my class room three hours a day – to whom I impart instruction in History, Eng. Lang. and Rhetoric. In return for this service the State of Wisconsin pays me $800 this year, and gives me my room and fuel, and liberty to forage in the Library. So I have sometime over every day, which I devote to gathering manuscripts. Never such hard work as a student, and never in my life such good health.

I am all alone, have scarcely any companionship except those of letters and books, and am kept from the life of a monk, divided between his prayers and his manuscripts, only through the irruptions at stated times of the above mentioned young farmers into my solitude, and through my habit of walking over the surrounding hills – a habit to which the monks, I think, were too little addicted.

I have twice this term spent my Saturday in Geologizing at Devil's Lake in Company with Prof. Irving – a nephew of the great Washington I.

But – do not think, my dear father, that I am giving up my purposes in reference to the Ministry. That is still the object of all my culture. I stay in Madison only until all debts are paid,

and then shall give myself to the life-work of my choice. And stronger and stronger grows upon me the desire to work abroad: Well, the years will tell. I am very happy in my religious life: standing here where it began I have cause to thank God with unspeakable joy as I look back on the past five years. Often do I go to the old gray stone in the hazel copse where that spring I was wont to resort so often to read my Testament and send up the first faint cries of my soul to God. Carmelita and I have nearly finished learning Ephesians by heart since term began. Had a letter from Sarah this week, and hear often from her through others whom I see. She is well, and very busy. She will likely be with you next summer: and I should enjoy taking C up there, but shall have to forego the pleasure by reason of the expense. But if I am here for a year or two, I shall certainly expect you down to spend some time with me. You will meet a daughter of whom you will soon be both fond and proud.
My love to all at home. Write me one of the old time letters. Your loving Son Thomas D. Christie.

Amboy. Oct 30th 1871.

Dear Sarah. [Beloit, Wis.]

Your letter of the 21st reached me last Tuesday. Thank you for the trouble you were to in attending to the having of my ring marked. I am very glad Thomas made you promise to write to me for I was wishing for an introduction to "Sarah" of whom I have heard so much.

I know it is difficult to write to those we have never met, but I wish you would try to forget that we are strangers and think of the fact that we are friends - for such I feel we are, although we have never seen each others faces.

Ever since I first loved your brother I have loved you because you were his sister: but I am sure I shall love you for your own sake. It has been a source of anxiety to me how your family would receive me into their

circle and the assurance of love and a hearty welcome from you who are to be my sister, have been a source of much comfort to me.

Your brother's haste in the matter of this choice must have surprised you and perhaps caused you anxiety. I am sure my friends were astonished at my hasty decision. Thomas and I must have instinctively understood each other from the first of our acquaintance. I'm sure I do not feel as if I knew him as far as regards the essential elements of his character, any better today than I did the first week I spent in his society. – I do not think it possible for him to love me more than I do him or that he welcomes me more joyfully and thankfully to his heart, than do I him to my heart. Each day I am more firm in the belief that we were made for each other. As Thomas has probably told you, it is his wish that we be married the last of next month or the first of Dec. but it is not in the least probable that we shall be.

From what I know of his circumstances I do not think it best for him, and as to myself, it is quite impracticable. I have engaged a school for the winter and even if not for this, other circumstances of my life would bind me where I am for the present. – His arguments that such a course would be for my highest good, are anything over and at times I have almost admitted to myself that he was right, but never to him. It is much easier to persuade oneself that something she would like to do is for her good, than that something which is a cross will benefit her more.

I sometimes think every Christian is called upon at times, to trust God in the dark; so when He hedges in by impossibilities the way which I would otherwise choose and forces me by circumstances to walk in a way distasteful to me, I try to believe He does it all in love and infinite wisdom.

Dear Sarah, you will be much disappointed in me when you know me,

Your brother talks to me in a very extravagant manner and I have reason to fear he has talked of me in the same way. You must bear it in mind that I am only nineteen years of age. that I have just finished attending school. have had but little real experience in the trials of life, - am in fact, just a high-spirited and in many respects, thoughtless school-girl. Thomas tells me I seem older than I really am, to him but this is because he wants me to be older. He closes his eyes to facts and fancies just what he pleases in reference to me. I trust some good seed has been sown into my heart that will spring up and bear fruit in my life.

Each day I pray God to help me to grow into a pure, noble, Christian womanhood, - worthy to become the wife of the one whom He has chosen for my husband.

Your brother is in many ways, a great help and comfort to me, - I have written freely to you dear Sarah, Will you not write me again and accept the heartfelt love and interest of return for yours

Unfortunately S. Carmelite Convent was, c

United States Internal Revenue,

Deputy Collector's Office, 4th District, Wisconsin.

Beaver Dam Oct. 31st 1891

My Dr Sarah

I am in receipt by Express this Morning $15-00 from You, the Amount for Interest on Note for which I am much obliged

We are all in usual health only Rosine is complaining some of Rheumatism in her arms. all well at Clyman when last heard from

I remain very truly Yours

D J Bertie

[Uncle David]

Providence, 20th Nov. 1871

Your two letters duly received

respecting of the 24th Ult. and - of the Inst. I am not at all offended with you in any way you have either done or said. You must think that there is something about you which is inhuman. But as you say there may be something from bad or dull or gloomy state of mind from a long continuation of certain effects of certain delights. For indeed it may be so. However I fear lest which of these letters will not be lost, because it has found its mature state a strong impression to Elicit from you such strong expressions. I write in an impulsive moment of sympathy, from long consideration of the world, and long experience of self and with Good will towards you. The mutual trust of your & my Love have injured the same however. Let I am a man who has taken you the truth however ill timed and to its reviewers it may have been.

My feelings towards you are not however changed in the least. "Have confidence that I love thee" and I am glad that God has found one so congenial to your whole nature. And I trust that you will be a natural support and comfort to him and in the midst of the many these trials you will encounter. Carmelita's picture impressed me as that of an old acquaintance at the very first glance. The depth and earnestness of the dark eye & learn to me indicate an invincible irritability of character and you encourage my conviction. When you tell me that she also writes frequently while I write away both of you. It is to be regretted that the imagination and the strong time lessened from their consequences. You must take care that the stiffened state of your marriage does not inflame the jealousy between you. You must smother the fires of your mutual love a little. Entirely indifference. "An Enemy has done this", he sneered at you with poisoned arrows, our Saviour's words do not meet us so. Seize the little wretch, break his venomous arrows, insert his venom over his eyes, pluck his wings and send the naked Cupid away into repentance and tears, helpless, with his little fat hand stuck in his eyes.

When you write next to Carmelita let her know of my entire approbation of your mutual attachment and of my expectations and hope that she will find you to be as good a husband as I have found you as a son. And I pray indeed that your good fortune may not desert you. But remain. There is indeed no end to the blessings which God would shower upon us if, the world remain obedient

Giving no Cause for necessary correction, and even that
Borne in the right spirit becomes a Benediction
It is one good token of your Geologising Tastes
as it indicates a healthy state of mind and Body. Do you
really appreciate the Greatness of your Good fortune?
I who was brought up in poverty even of the absolute necessaries
of life, unless I could earn my own Bread and candles
never fringe either time or means to educate myself
aright. Hence inferior to a knowledge of these things which
you are fortunate with. But I am pleased that you
receive that which was withheld from me, and in you I
learn to pursue those Objects which in my youth I had such
an intense desire for. I read my first Geological Work, Sir Charles
Lyell's in the year 1831. 'Lanwrdie' Sir Lyell's Estate is in my native
County, and I feel to be proud that a man of such large Generalization
was born and bred a Scot of the same stock as myself, in those Days
I believed in Sectarian as the Cancel of Genius and of Talent.
Yet I never became practically acquainted with this Science
which requires a knowledge of nearly all others as a foundation
I had previously to reading Lyell read a sketch of Hutton's theory and
also Werner's. And Lyell came to shew that in a General way both
Hutton and the Plutonists were right in the main. I also learned
about that time to laugh at the Neptunists and at that impersonation
of Talent and Conceit Old Voltaire who was desirous to seek a
new explanation of the accumulations of fossil shells in bottles he saw
that they were stripped from the Hats of pilgrims to the Holy Land.
These boys ridiculed as the Nine & Nine of Peter and he whom they
despitefully use are subjects of which they are ignorant. Let us
take Werner's. I mean now to defend the Monks. You allude
to the benefits they might have received from little pedestrian Excursions in
the Country, here it might have advanced them in health and a knowledge
of Nature and of Science by implication less superstitious &c &c
Now let us remember that ever since the days of Luther, at Hic Genus
Omni it has been Laudable to defame these Men of the Cowl and this is doing
Now let us do these men justice. They knew not of this World. Consider the now
and speaking of men who were Monks in spirit and in deed? Not of these ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ Schlendatus, and Lazzaroni who swarmed into the Convents for false Objects

Their Eyes were turned towards the Supernatural and
saw the Salvation of man from sin. They kept up the pattern
of the Ancient Holy Samuel in the midst of a Benighted Paganry
To them we owe the knowledge of letters and all that they have brought
they fostered all the Fine Arts. Created almost Gothic Architecture
Brought the Fruits and flowers of the South and the East into the North
Cultivating all Smoothly fields of Thought and feeling. The dwellers
Generally in peace and peace amidst ages and Epochs of Lust
Blood and Rapine. Heroic. They conquered Odin and all the Valhalla
Thor and his Murderous Berserkers. Let us reverence the Monks
And also they, let us remember existed prior to Christianity so could be easily
demonstrated from the Scriptures independently of profane history, as indeed
the Work of those who was selected to proclaim the Coming reign of Grace
and Spiritually. Nazareth is the City of Monkery out of which Czars are
Spiritual forever. The idea that there was a product of exterior and
Christianity cannot much longer obtain. True indeed all institutions
in this earth become corrupt. Nevertheless let us Reverence the Monks
they were the Builders of the House in which Czar may dwell. Surely the Kingdom
return of the kingdoms of this World to Jesus as it is proceeded to drive
to the same Causes as your own. By the labors of these Self devoted
Men, Influenced by the Spirit of Holiness praying in Sequestrated Cloisters
by the Old Grey rock, the Mountain's Crown, the Hermit Cave, not Hermit to them
By the falling Torrents, with true Child Hearts, in such places they wrestled
with the Angel of God and the Demon of Nature, and prevailed. Do Pai
Wonder that they should halt a little upon the Thigh have that the
Sun is up? Yes, Yes the 19th century laughs at its Benefactor. But
already do I see signs of the revival of the spirit of the Cell, and before
the close of the next 50 Years, protestant Holy orders will be again
in Order. History does repeat itself in advanced forms Corresponding
to the progress of the Cycles, true. Can he no doubt has his own translation
of the Scriptures is a little Protestantic yet. turn to your Greek copy and
read where is said "in my Father's house are many mansions" and see if it is not a
little a very little turnical towards protestant notions. I find the Greek
gives, Monos a house, but Monas, a unit, is not Monee the word
in your translation, and does it not signify a little Nunnery, tell me
I think it favours strongly of the Eremite in the Original, is it not so?

I also have been reading Ephesians in which there is so much incitement to a holy and desirable life, to all that is desirable in manner and temper. It is curious that "Ephesus" is equivalent to "Desirable" and there as speaking of Zilles Luther says in his commentary to the Galatians. That Jerome thought that Paul in that Epistle had the sight of "Galatia" a Sabean word meaning "falling away", as the key note of his Epistle to them. And likewise I conjecture that the Fillers of all his Epistles will give the key note to its subject matter. Corinth considered by the Greeks as the Glory of Greece representing all Greek Character, Gentile, adulterous, Glorying in their shame, and so the tone of this Epistle accordingly, as also Thessalonica, "the Victory of God" so in the Epistle to the Thessalonians, as we see. This is set forth as having been seen in them. There is much that is highly mystical in Ephesians and yet all plain and easily understood in its Literal sense. With the exception of the 9th verse of the 4th Chapter. Can it be said literally that Christ descended into the lower parts of the Earth? I shall not obtrude my reading of this passage upon you however, it also is mystical. The whole Epistle is an Exposition of and an incitement to Love in the Highest, not excluding the lowest. Because of the reconciliation of all by the descent of the Highest into it.

Jesus because of his Just Growth of all natural things from the Spiritual that their mystical relations subsist between things apparently so widely apart. There is a true and real correspondence, the one being the Analogue of the other. That is like things natural utter a voice, a tone of the same fundamental character as their related parallels, an Octave and many Octaves higher in the Scale of Being. That is, they teach the same truth in a lower form of Life. This is not Artificial, not an invention of Man, it is the Divine Method in all things. All scripture is written in this Method, because it is the Universal, the Method of God existing incapable of being fully understood by man. For this reason an inferior person speaks that which he may not understand himself, but having sufficient Illumination to read the deeper relations, Paul confesses that he writes of a Mystery, and while he discusses the relations of Man and Wife, says that he speaks of Christ and the Church, this theme is Mysterious, as which you scent. He writes of Love and that is the Incomprehensible. I would say more in my desultory rambling way, but that is full. Assure yourself of my continued regard for your Welfare. We here are as usual. Please to tell us all about Where and how all the Noyes are. We never hear from them. Be particular for mother satisfaction. I remain Yours Always J. Christler

Madison, Nov. 20, 1871.

My Dear Sister. [Sarah Chester, Beloit, Wisc]

Your letter of yesterday rec'd. tonight. I shall be very glad to stop and see you on Wednesday evening if I can get away. But the President this morning spoke as if it would be necessary for me to remain until Friday — although I finish all my Examinations tomorrow noon.

I shall speak to him again however, quoting your letter, and perhaps I may get off on Wednesday at noon. If so I shall be in B. at 3 P.M. Do not expect me too surely, for it is just a chance if I can get away.

I had one examination today in Structure of the Eng. Lang. — and am busy tonight looking over papers.

I was in Clyman a week ago on Sunday, and saw all Aunt Jessie's and Uncle William's folks. Cousin Will began school at Oak Grove, and Helen up in Mr. Fisher's Dist. a week ago today. Will is coming

here I think in the spring – to take a course.

So far as I can see, he has given up any marriage and farm project he may have entertained – This is confidential, and I do not want a hint of it to go back to Chyman. He is vastly improved in every way by his new faith and life, and has really set his mark high: I was as less astonished than gratified to hear him talk to me as he did about his future. He is doing much good also in the Church and the little Sabbath School. I saw great change for the better in Uncle William also – he and I sat up all night until Monday morning – When I started for town: Willie Reid taking me in for the morning train to Madison. Prof. Irving and I had spent Saturday among the rocks between Baraboo and Portage, and having taken train from P. to Watertown in the Evening came into W. just five minutes too late to catch the midnight train for Madison. Next Morning, I left the Professor at Sindon's while I tramped out to C, and dropped in all unexpected upon them in the little Sabbath School: You may suppose they were astonished. Grandmother is failing fast in her mind. – She scarcely knew me. But there is great improvement in all the rest. Jamie is at Cousin Jessie's.

They all depend on your coming up at Christmas.

Carmelite told me she had written to you: I want you to show me the letter when I come down. She began school today. Father sent me one of the strangest letters I ever read, some time ago: I put it in the fire at once, and – as a sufficient answer I sent one of C's letters rec'd. by the same post, together with a piece of my mind: I am out of all patience with him for the way in which he speaks of Carmelite and of our marriage: but if he can still hold out after reading

that saintly letter - I shall groan and give him up. If I do not come down on Wednesday you may expect me on Thursday or Friday. I shall stop over a train in Beloit, - but I am very anxious to be at Lee Center - as you can well imagine, and shall not stop long on the way thither. Everything has gone well with me this term. I have three special students in Latin - Young Truesdell, young Master Pickard, and a Miss Thornton, - whose father - Col. Thornton, is one of our Madison Nabobs. He sent for me last week, and asked me to give his daughter instruction twice a week at the house: - it is near the Post Office, and so, convenient. This will be $1.50 per week all winter at least. She is quite intelligent, and well advanced.

My classes next term will be one in advanced Latin, and one in Brink's English of Shakspeare, - both of which I shall heartily enjoy. Shall try to get the money for George, and bring it down with me. I am very glad Annie has a school. Give her my best regards - also the same to the Dr. & Mrs. M. & to Daniel.

Your affectionate Brother Thomas D. Christie.

Amboy, Ills. Wednesday,
Nov 29, 1871.

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Christie]

I have been so busy and so happy since coming here that I have not yet written to anybody — you are the first to see a scratch of my pen.

I arrived on Thursday forenoon, after a whole night of sleeplessness — the morning hours spent in a cold station room at Dupont, listening to the maudlin ejaculations of a specimen of Southern Rowdy direct from New Orleans — who, if all this cursed cold country were given to him would make haste to trade off the same for a nigger and would then take out said nigger and shute him. He wore a white felt hat, broad brimmed and slouchy, striped pants, a box coat, crouched on the stove — which he affirmed with an oath he would

say the hug than the prettiest girl in all America; spit tobacco, smelt of whiskey, said he had a friend keeping saloon in a place by the name of Janesville, and another friend ditto ditto in Madison: was going to stop a few days in Janesville and Madison, — and was altogether most despicable. There is more manhood in the meanest plantation negro than in a whole billiard saloon full of such swaggering boasting nonentities.

I surprised Carmelito by going down to the schoolhouse for her at four o'clock, I having slept good part of the afternoon to make up for lost time. I need not say she was glad to see me — as was I to see her. I accompany her to and from the schoolhouse, and sometimes we have a little chat in the evening — not late; but the rest of the time she is busy at her school and I about the house and farm. The first day I helped Mr. & Mrs. B. to put up stove &c. On Monday and yesterday I was in the cornfield husking — or "picking" corn — as they call it here. I have enjoyed the new old occupation — although it has been somewhat cold. It reminds me of the work in Minnesota by which I earned my four vols. of Shakespeare.

Mr's school is not large, either in numbers, or stature — and I might add — intellectual acquirements: She has a great deal of rudimentary work to do: but she is putting in improvement very courageously — being determined to fight it out on this line if it takes all winter. Of course we talk much in reference to the Ides of March: Mr. B. has just bought a new store and has given us the former corn store — which burns wood. It is a very good one. C. wore one of her new dresses last night — a blue, my favorite color. She looks charming. Her health is very much better than when she left the seminary.

We are going to Dixon on Saturday to visit Mr. B's cousins — three sisters who are very dear friends of Carmelito. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving

and we are to have a sermon from Mr. Brewer.
I am going to work on the farm as much as
I can while here. Shall start for Beloit on
Friday of next week, going via Rockford —
so that I may not reach home before Saturday.

It is proper that I should spend as much of my
time here as I can, because I do not think I
shall come down again before I come to be mar-
ried. The book I brought down for
Miss Addie was "Piccola" — you remember reading
it in Chambers' long ago. I have just finished
it again, reading it with great delight.

We do not know how much we are indebted
to Chambers, and Douglas Jerrold, and Macaulay,
and Plutarch, for giving us in our early days
the good quality of reading we enjoyed as a
family. No wonder I love the Classics. Push
on your German and read Schiller. I shall
take up French next year I hope — under a
good teacher. C. and I visited a quarry

My Dear Father [James Christie]

Just a little note to let you know I am well as usual and very anxious to hear from home. Tom is still in Amboy. Have not heard from him since his going there. What is Sandy going to do this winter? I hope Dave is well. I would like to get a letter at least about once a month from some one of you, instead of once in 3 months. I feel the need of them more now that I am quite alone.

Sunday Eve. Dec. 3rd 1871

Belvi. We are expecting Mr. Christie and Mr. Walker to take tea with us this evening. Mr. Walker is a very nice young bachelor and I think I shall enjoy it very much. Mrs. Christie's daughter of this place is a very nice young lady. Prof. J. Kerr's same name. Miss Kerr is a very nice young lady. Mrs. Hope's sister Anna Steele daughter of Mrs. Walker's late partner Kerr. Mrs. Walker is a very nice lady. I met Miss Hope Kerr's sister-in-law Mrs. Hope Walker with her husband. Mr. Walker is a very nice young bachelor and I think I shall enjoy it very much.

Glad to hear Jennie is able to be out. Give my love to all. Write soon. Your affectionate daughter

Annie, the good faithful Annie, has gone to her school in a district west, 7 miles from here — that is another source of anxiety to me — there are many Catholics in the neighborhood — and through a servant-girl here I learn that there have been threats heard from some, of having revenge on the "burn-coal". — I heard it today, and I feel very much alarmed — but if they can be out-witted, I will do it; — I have written a letter of advice to her today, and have hired a boy to take it out home-back, in the morning. — If I could leave my school I would go out — and find out, the exact state of feeling. but I will send some one this week to reconnoitre and if there is ground to be real danger, as I think likely. I wont let her remain another day — Will

you tell me Father, if you take any papers, and which? I have subscribed for the "Christian Union" for I take none other, and if you do not see it, I will send it. When Tom was here he took the Independent and Advance. I do not know whether he taken them in Madison or not, but they have stopped here. I see them both, however, from Mrs Blaisdell. I do hope you have the Independant, it is the best of all. It grows better and better with each year. Be sure and tell me what papers you have. Tell me also about your health and Mother's. I am studying Penman again, under Prof. Hendrickson Pen

Plymouth
Dec 10th 1871

Dear Pencie [W. L. Evans]

I thought I would write this time I write so seldom that I fear I shall hardly write a passable letter though I think I can make you understand that the bureau came to Plymouth day before yesterday and in it we found some sausages, which we thank you many times and please tell the sender which we suppose to be Louisa that we thought they were very nice. By the way I will repeat a remark made by Pa he thought the woman that made them would make some one a good wife we found in the tray an envelope with a

bell in it. the fright at the house was one dollar and thirty cents. We are all going to school now I the oldest and Jay the youngest we are all enjoying usual health we have a singing school here this winter Ella Ernest & myself attend I did think of going to the State Agricultural College in the spring but think it rather doubtful now they have to be rather far advanced before they can commence there the examination we have to pass is harder than the teaching examination though I am going to study hard this winter and see what I can do. Ernest & I have been having some pictures taken lately ~~show them~~

I will send you one of each when you show them to the children do not tell them who they are and see if they will know them when you write tell us whether they know them or not. we have had some pretty cold weather this winter I believe the mercury was down to 22 once this winter Franky broke his arm about five week ago but it is nearly well again it grew together perfectly straight I haven't time to write any more this time.

From your niece

Clara Stevens

Lafayette Sept. 11th 1871

My Dear Sarah

received in due time, the last November 19th, your letter of
July. I ought to have written the Quarterly meeting, but I
change in Jefferson's respects Quite. Since I have been tryingly to write
you thank to keep warm the cold, this weather has been unusually hot.
There usual in Sept with Four years. The last the thermometer at 21 below zero
4 weeks ago. Quite the most glorious feature of this country, you know
Sand windows, trees on each side, and the evening sky is one, in all
5 great pillars of fire. Sometimes you also the Northern lights, if you are
fortunate, the effect is wonderful. Very symptomy of the blood vessels upon
comfort, the city and blood is to a high degree. I believe people
with a feeling of awe. Those are symbolical of the unspeakable glory
of the Lord. Jefferson was born, I think, in the Month of November
or October, the exact date I forget. The special attention of people at the opp
by pilgrimage and prayer was by the conflagration which occurred
the mountains. Could Sarah think the Lord of the Old was true for
Jesus? Hard. I'm sure I not forgive him, I regret the simple people
Sometimes I think that Christ's last years were contrasted at Jerusalem
Certainly, I cannot see a decrease of evil work. I feel at times the
Prophetic feeling, prevail and ministers, spirit instructs
healthy Creation of spiritual being in the Heavenly Other, the last refuge
all phenomena which are the results of the Energy of all above, Gentle Nature
leads to progressive, from accordingly to Divine Law. I believe we are instrument
Buddha's energy, will of the Infinite God. Instruct, become effective perfect
Wisdom. Man's Intellectual being, I believe, is the same, that they are
Called to be Christ's Apostles, used by the Lord. When the Day has settled
of Spirit in Spiritual power, Battle, Conflict, Death, Sorrow

[illegible]

[illegible] Baptist [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I left off this sheet yesterday
and more fond that I cannot read what I have written and I know not what
I have been saying further than the General idea which I remember. I have
you will perceive forwarded another inch to-day's mail day, Monday. and I must
finish as it is. I am [illegible] in the study of the Supernatural Calendar
and my other work of Read Over through it without much difficulty. I should
Remember that he could give less of himself to mere intellectual effort, for all
mere progress must be accomplished by the Earnest and Continued exercise of
of Both the Intellectual and Spiritual Nature, a Knowledge of pure science or of letters
has but little power to purify or Elevate the Emotive Life. There is however a
Philosophy Based upon the Knowledge of the Eternal Universe which tends
all in the right direction. But even Philosophy however true Cannot Give the
power to Obey its own dictates. The Holy Spirit is a "Love Divine More" to a true
Progress. and of a necessity Faith is the head of our present State, and a
Christian Faith is Alone capable of leading us forward to the Highest development
of our Being "to the fullness of the Stature of the perfect Man in Christ Jesus."
You should give some of your time to the study or acquirement of anything Merely for the Acquisition
of more Truth, or for pleasure. the Portion should be to enable you to be more Good to Yourself or others
But above all things study the New Testament to acquire its Spirit and Life. The Mysteries
which lie in it happen indeed are not for us Now. They will be for our study in the future
Life to which they really belong. Our real Object and Pure interest lies in Conforming as
much as may be revealed to the Spirit of its teaching, and bringing all our Likes and Faculties
into subjection to the Truths which it inculcates. To conclude to you all now I should need
to say, or all that I ought to say, would be to please my self much if I could hope that it should
be for your Benefit. [illegible] in a diminutive form. But my thoughts much more than I have
had leisure to mention. Here they are, I will attempt to write to you on Sunday. David enjoys a fair
state of health. we do see all. Nothing more than usual. Sandy sends a letter to you also
and I hope he may have [illegible] before Home together. I have neglected as not cause to believe
that you may feel as willing to do your Good in all things for which we are able. If Jane
returns your Uniform Monday take home to write to me as usual. I long to hear from you
I daily desire our prayer for your Welfare in all things. Yours. [illegible]

Madison, Monday Morning
Dec. 15. 1891.

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Christie]

I arrived safely at Midnight on Tuesday, & reported for duty next morning. Occupied Wednesday & part of Thursday in helping Prof. Kerr in examinations of new students for Preparatory Dept. Some forty were examined, of whom seven were rejected – among them the son of Mr. Ends of Watertown: young Hall, of Watertown, passed. The examinations were pretty severe – particularly in Grammar and Arithmetic: our grade is being raised.

I am to have charge of all the Rhetorical work of the Dept. & in consideration of this am to teach only one regular class besides – Crait: giving up my Latin to Mr. Anderson.

Regular work begins to-day. Prof. Irving

came on Saturday. He was engaged while in Baltimore to a young lady there. He is to room with me this term in the University, & after New Years we are both, I think, to board at Prof. Sterling's. Until that time I am in my old place. The Prof's article is coming out in the January No of Silliman's Journal.

I rec'd. a short letter from Fred on my arrival; He is not yet settled, but expects to be soon.

Rec'd. one letter from C last Wednesday, but have not heard from her since; I am afraid something is wrong.

I wish you would call at Mr. Kuler's and get the Edinburgh and Blackwoods I think I left there; send them to me as soon as possible, as I have promised them to Prof Allen for the Reading Room which opens this week. Prof. A. also wishes to know from Prof. Hendrickson if he will wait, until I come down, for the books we owe him. Also whether he has duplicates of any other than documentary works; we have some odd vols. of other miscellanies we would be glad to exchange; and we have the first vols. of the 34th Congress and Vol 1. Documentary Hist. of New York — for which we are ready to entertain proposals of exchange.

Please speak to the Professor about this. I have been so hurried as not to have time for writing to Annie, but shall do so this week. I hope you will change your quarters in vacation, I am afraid, otherwise, that something serious may occur. Seek out a real Christian family — no matter how poor they may be — Could you not get in at Mrs. Sim's? It would be well Could you be with another teacher. Esprit-de Corps is promoted by it.

I write in a very great

hurry, before breakfast. I am well, having had my regular chill.

Walked down to Sycene yesterday afternoon & back — 10 miles — to see about S. S. Find some people who have objections to using the School house — so must look in another direction. Recd. a letter from Sandy, in which he wants me to tell him when to send for Mathematical Tables &c. Sits up till 2 A.M. studying: is teaching singing school two evenings per week: does not think he can come in the Spring — (I must write him about that). I would send you the letter, but have sent it to Carmelite. You can have it on its return.

Write me in reference to your troubles there: and believe me, Your affectionate Brother

Thomas.

C. is hurting herself in the school, and nearly fainted away one day this week — so that I wanted to go down & see her — but the $10.00 Expense deterred me.

I wrote you several days ago asking that my magazines be sent up from Mr. Tailer's; please attend to it as soon as you can, & write me when you have attended to this business also. You will be in Beloit, I suppose, during vacation. Excuse brevity.

Your loving Brother
Thos. D. Christie.

I inclose 50 cts. which you will please give to Mrs. Pettibone for Norton Talcott.

Shall send it to Rockford with the Tailor's money.

University of Wisconsin,

Madison, December 22, 1871.

My Dear Sarah:

I shall put into this a Post Office order for the sum of $30.00 – which I wish you to dispose of as follows – To Prof. Whitney $2.00 – with my thanks: to Mr. Green, the Tailor, $5.50 – I think: to Mr. Laramy the rest, telling him to let the balance stand over for a month or so – when I can draw some more.

I got a letter the other day from P. & S. asking if I could send them some money – a very kind and pleasant note – which I answered yesterday – telling them I could not do anything for them this time unless Mr. L. would let me pay them

the installment I am sending to him – this he does not want to do. But I told them that their bill is to be paid this winter in part at least – I thanked them for waiting so long & promised earnest effort to satisfy all their demands.

I rec'd. $95.00 today – which goes in this way – Board at Mr. Fruch's – $30.00, Beloit – $30.00 Bal. to Prof Irving on furniture – $9.00 Books $7.00 A.S. $5.00, Janitor for care of room $5.00 Rockford to pay for White vest $6.50. So you see it is all gone. But it is a great satisfaction to pay off debts.

I shall just go on this way until everything is settled.

Was greatly tempted to go to Amboy for Christmas – could have started this noon, reached there tonight, and come back next Tuesday – as I have nothing to do before Wednesday

My dear Annie, when you receive this I shall have passed another milestone in life's journey. I shall be in the blue chamber of the Supreme Court, and with the assurance of your sympathy and kind wishes, I shall be happy.

Madison, Dec. 24, 1871.

Miss Annie Murphy, [Beloit, Wisc.]
Beloit.

"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" to you Annie — for the which you owe me a Christmas Box. I take this Christmas Eve as the first and the best time I have yet found in the which to write you the letter I promised Sarah you should have.

The Money Order for ten dollars I enclose is for Mr. Farnsworth. I owe him $18.00, but you will please tell him that I have left myself without a dime after paying other debts, and that he shall have the balance in a month, when I draw a month's pay. These debts are terrible things Annie, — but they will all come out clear with time and health.

Sarah told me of your trials while staying at Mrs. Merriman's. I honor you for the noble and courageous course you took,

Dec. Cady Stanton friend. Thomas E. Christie

and hope you will have strength given you to bear whatsoever of persecution may yet come from the same source. For I believe Mrs. M. is an unscrupulous, proud woman, — and hypocritical into the bargain; she will hate you because she has wronged you, and it becomes you to be on your guard against her. But God is able to bring you out of all troubles, if you only trust in Him, and do right, — as I fully believe you do. Do not forget, Annie, that it is not so much by little planning and attention to surface things that we truly prosper, — but by the firm set determination to live for God, to live a life of prayer, and spiritual up-building — and by God's blessing in wonderful and unanticipated ways upon such a determination. For myself — I feel that since I became a Christian I have done many foolish and sinful things, and made many wrong plans — but I can see how God has over ruled all for my highest good, because I feel conscious that at heart I have tried to love Him and do His will. And although some things in my present and prospective experience are hard to bear — yet in spite of these I enjoy an inward peace and happiness which is the very health of the soul. So, my advice to you is — not to fret or grieve over the difficulties and distresses of your situation, — but calmly and hopefully cast all your cares on Him who cares for us, and trust Him to bring everything out right in the end. I know that it is difficult, perhaps impossible, for me to put myself in your place and realize the things that harass you. If I could I might not feel so much as I ask you to be; but then, Annie, I also remember that as you look at your present and compare it with the past — there must appear to you very much to be grateful for. I am thankful that you are on the right road — though it be a rough one:

of noble souls who struggle and pray for the bettering of this contented world — must unless because sin is in it — Why should you not consent to come here for a year and learn how to use your weapons? How much of advantage it will give you, how much of timidity and mistake it will save you from, you cannot now see, as you will see in the years to come.

Take my advice my Brother; it comes from both Love and Experience. You do not tell me specifically your reasons for this newly announced change of purpose. It may be that you are thinking of marrying; Even in that case it will be altogether best for you to take a year of study first — for the sake of another's future, as well as your own.

Did I tell you that Cousin Will — who is a new man in many respects — is thinking of coming here next Spring. He is determined to take a course & prepare himself for a Teacher. Come down and join him, and join us all. No Christian should hide his light under a bushel. We are all capable of doing a great deal of good, and we should not throw away our gifts.

Madison, Dec. 24, 1871.

My Dear Brother: [Wesander]

I rec'd. your last letter on my return to M. at the close of vacation a week ago. I consulted Prof. S. in reference to the books you want, & he told me where they could be obtained, – but I have forgotten some of the information then rec'd. & so will leave this letter open until I can see him again. We have the "Mecanique Celeste", translated by Bowditch, astr. Royal at Greenwich: It is a ponderous work in three great vols. I should like to go into it had I time. An Professor of Chemistry – Dr. Davis – told me last Summer that he was working through it slowly. But Prof S. is of the same opinion with myself as to your studies: he says you ought to drop the Mathematics for a time, & give yourself to Languages, Nat. Science, and History. I am very sorry that you have given up your plans for studying here: Let me ask you to think the matter over again. You can come

Write to Prof. Sterling & tell him exactly the state of your little Latin, & what you have read, & what you want to read, & he will give you a list of books & tell you where & how to obtain them. I shall look forward to your letter.

Your loving Brother John.

and board with me for nothing – or if you will not accept that – paying me when you are able. I am to begin housekeeping in March, and my Carmelite has spoken with pleasure of the prospect of having you with us. She says, in a letter rec'd yesterday – "I am sorry your brother is not going on with his education as we had planned." During the term you can work on the U. Farm, receiving a shilling per hour, and as Saturday is all holiday, this would enable you to earn considerable. Then you could work all summer at good wages, and I could help you through another year of study. As to your studies – I could put you through Latin and Greek in three from arms – so that you would be at home in those two great Languages all your life.

Think of what value this would be to you as an Educator, as a Philanthropist, as a man. Even should your College course then come to an end, you will have gained what will give you power for a lifetime.

I agree with you that the first purpose of life is not the securing a symmetrical culture. We are put into the world to do good, to give ourselves out in all uplifting and sweetening influence as long as we live. But a man cannot give more than he has to give: he may have all good wishes, good impulses, good intentions, – and yet the world is not moved forward by these unless they are accompanied by power – power of body, power of brain, power of affection. Therefore, if we desire to live a life fruitful of good influence among our fellow men – supposing we possess all high and noble impulse – our first business is, when we are young, to obtain power. To obtain, of course, by right means; and to prove constantly all through the work of attainment the singleness of our aim, by the conscientiousness with which we use all material as fast as acquired in the forth putting of loving service and ministration. Having this purpose in your heart of casting in your lot with the little band

Christmas Morning –
Have just had a long talk with Dr. Davies our Prof. of Chemistry; who is a genius in Mathematics. He wants you to come down; says he wants just such men under him. Says you must begin to apply your Mathematics to Physics – or you will run into dry abstractions.
We are to have an Observatory here soon, of which he is to have charge & he says you could work yourself up so as to have charge of it. He is all enthusiasm over you – wants you to write him a letter.
Gauss's tables – Vega's Logarithms to 7 places. Brennecke's Ed. Get the newest. Came out last year.
Instead of La Place – who is somewhat antiquated in his methods – Watson's Theoretical Astronomy – about $10.00 – But think this would be rather difficult –

do commend Godfray's Treatise on Astronomy - an Eng. book - 12 Shillings Eng. You should read the first 3 Sections of Newton's Principia - You should study Brunnow's, or Chaurenet's Trigonometry - In Short You should come here where you can get books without expense. The Dr. has all these & many more - he has just come in again as I am writing - to speak of you - He will help you in every way, Come down in March - Your

Madison, Dec. 24, 1871.

My very Dear Father:

I greet you this Sabbath afternoon with "A Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year"! How we can all scattered who used to gather so joyously at the Christmas tide in the days gone by! Sarah alone at Beloit, Brother Will off by himself - I shall write him today - Uncle William, the same merry and kind hearted soul as ever, reading the Investigator by himself, and trying to make himself believe in nothing. - I wrote him a short time ago, and think I must do so again - if only to repeat what I read in Cousin yesterday -

"To doubt is to believe, for to doubt is to think. Does he who doubts believe that he doubts, or does he doubt that he doubts? If he doubts that he doubts, he destroys by that same act his scepticism: if he believes that he doubts, he destroys it still." I rejoice in the very thought of

Yours Loving Son & Son.

New York to Mother.

Uncle's delight in cracking this nut of French Logic. —— And you, my dear father, what are you doing today, away up there on that white prairie, and what shall I say to you? In the first place, that I, down here in my little room, cut off from all Home companionship at this Home season of the year, am thinking very much about you today. Your letter was forwarded to me from Madison to Lee Center — when I spent two weeks of the vacation — and it was so good, so like yourself, so satisfactory in every way — that I let my Carmelite read it over my shoulder, greatly to her delight and wonder. She thinks you must be the most extraordinary of all farmers, to write as you do: in fact, she is just a little afraid of you. I suggest that you write her a letter, welcoming her as your daughter to a place beside me, in your affections: it will do her a great deal of good. Sarah has written her one or two letters already — and I could wish all our family would do the same. She is teaching school this winter in the District at home, — and is doing much good. I send you the first letter I recd. from her after my return to Ill. It will show you the strength, as well as the truth of her character. Do not mention to her your having read her letters, as she knows nothing of it: these are the only ones I shall let you read — and I do it simply to let you see glimpses such as you could not otherwise obtain, of her thought and character.

Please send down the last one I forwarded you, along with this. She was teaching during the whole time I was there this last time; I went into the Cornfield and helped her father husk corn; assisted in some carpenter work about the house, and went Geologizing to the neighboring quarries in the Galena (Lower Silurian) Limestone. From these I brought up a great many fine specimens.

What time we could get or spent in reading and talking together: but this was but limited,

for we did not follow any foolish customs of "sitting up" at night. Our marriage is to take place in the middle of March, when I have twelve days' vacation. Of course it will be very quiet: I shall take Sarah down from Beloit with me to take part as Bridesmaid with the sister of Carmelite: two of my Classmates from the Seminary at Chicago will act as Groomsmen, and the ceremony will be performed by Mr. Brewer. For our wedding tour we plan to visit her friends and mine at Rockford, Beloit, & Clinton Junction, and then to Uncle William's for one day: from Clyman out to Kilbourn City to see the Dells of the Wisconsin, and thence to Madison via the new R.R. from Baraboo. I should like very much to take her to Minnesota next Summer to spend the vacation with you, but it would cost $80.00, and I could not afford it.

I might, perhaps, harness Pet to Mr. Brewer's carriage and camp out on the way: in this way we could go and come back without its costing so much as would the same time spent in Madison. But perhaps we shall have to put off to another year the visit

to Minnesota. Such a trip as I have mentioned would do her much good, and I am really very desirous that you should see her, and that she should see you.

In reference to John 14, I would say that monai, translated "mansions", is not derived from monos, meaning "alone", - but from the root mon- of the verb meno, "to abide" - our word re-main. So that the passage means - "in my Father's home are many abiding places", or dwelling places. It is the thought that Heaven is not a great homogeneous and miscellaneous assemblage, but a place of families, of homes, of social circles where shall dwell together those who have been one in heart and sympathy upon the Earth. Our spirit of love and fellowship shall reign through all - just as it does now throughout all Christian communities; but there will be circles within circles, in which there will be seclusion (in a sense) for the exercise of individual affections. This word monai thus conveys a very beautiful and suggestive meaning - it means not cells for recluses,

but dwelling places for families. The Family is the unit, not the individual. Man and wife are one, and they and their children in Christ make an organic body – This is why I believe in Infant Baptism – because the "Household" is the unit, and not any one member of it. The father and mother take their little one and consecrate it, give it to Jesus Christ, promising at that time & by the ordinance of Baptism, to give it all manner instruction and training that it may ever remain not only a member of the Earthly family, but that it may have such affections and graces as shall make it one of the higher family in Heaven.

And this association in the better world with those whom we have loved on Earth, is one of the sweetest of all objects of contemplation.

Heaven a place of families, of generations, of races, of nations – All belonging to the one great Family of God – What a glorious and suggestive thing it! We shall each seek then that which we love, that with which we have been one in spirit while upon the Earth. How important then, the words of our affection here. Oh my father, it is not simply to know things intellectually that is needful or desirable for us – it is to have in us that which is incomprehensible – Love, Spiritual Love.

How shall we obtain it, since it is the gift of God; or if we have it, how shall we increase it's power within us! – These are the practical questions for us all. By prayer, by turning continually toward God, by striving to understand His revealed will, and by making that will the impulse of our daily lives, showing forth in all conduct and conversation the fruits of the Spirit – "Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" – So shall we be prepared for the enjoyment of the universal atmosphere of Heaven, and for the eternal society of those whom our souls will claim as kindred in those blessed "mansions".

My work this term is a little different from the last: I teach the Freshmen in Craik's "English of Shakspeare" (the analysis of the Play of Julius Caesar) and have charge of all the Rhetorical work in the Preparatory Dept, besides the Rhetoric of the Sophomore & Freshman classes.

So that looking over compositions and hearing declamations is to be my chief employment this winter. Besides this, I have my two private pupils - separately - in Latin, going on through Virgil with one of them, at the rate of 100 lines a day - these will bring me $2.50 per week all the year. Am pushing on my Geological studies, and have already formed quite a cabinet of Lower Silurian fossils - all determined & labelled. So do this, I have given particular attention to Palaeontology - especially the Mollusca, and have some very fine shells. (You are on the St. Peter's Sandstone up there, by the Reports - which lies below the Trenton Limestone; perhaps your surface rock is the Trenton. Save for me any fossils you hear of.) Am much delighted this term with Cousin's History of Modern Philosophy - which I am reading by snatches.

So you see I am busy, and trying to grow. Have also a class in our Sunday School, and am to take one for the winter in the Soldiers' Orphans' Home. This comes at 3 P.M. & will not interfere with the other. I have thought of starting a country School 5 miles north of

here; but on go in, then last Sabbath I found that some of the people objected to having the house used for the purpose. - they were Catholics, and some man not a Christian - who objected.

I have drawn $287.00 from the State Treasury since coming here, and have devoted it all to the payment of debt - so that I have not now a dime with which to buy a Christmas present for any one. But it rejoices me to see justice being done. Two years' work will clear off everything, if my health is spared, - and I seem much heartier than I am now.

I am to board with Prof. Sterling after New Years; $3.50 per week. This will be a pleasant change for me. You must have been seeing some very severe weather up there; we have had the Thermometer down to 16 below during the past week - and now there is more than a foot of snow on the ground - from the storm of yesterday.

The Churches are caring for more poor people than usual here, by reason of the Chicago fire & the unusually severe winter.

I spent a few days in Detroit with Sarah on my way up from Lee Center. She was teaching

them, but is having vacation now. She complains pretty of your neglect in not writing to her; I let her have your letter to me to read. She was looking well; tells me she is studying German in a class that meets once a week with Prof. Hendrickson — Sandy's former teacher in Grammar. She will go to Minnesota next summer, I think.

I hope you will not favor Sandy's giving up his plan of study here in Madison. Remember how precious his years of youth are, and make sacrifice yourself first — before you let him give up opportunities so valuable, and which neglected will never come again for him.

My heart is with you all, my dear father, and I earnestly desire your welfare. I am so busy that I cannot write so much as I could wish — for the mere manual operation is quite slow and laborious for me. But you know I love you just the same as of old. Write me as much as you can, and send me anything that puzzles you in the Greek. But pray do not think that because galatia means something or other, therefore there was no Galatia, or no Churches there. And by the way — although the meaning of Ephesus is Desire,

Madison, Thursday Morning
Dec. 28. '71.

My Dear Sarah: [T. Christie, Beloit, Wis]

I sent you $30.00 several days ago, and sent Annie $10.00 for Mr. Farnsworth a few days after.

I have heard from none of this money – Please write at once to tell me of its safe arrival.

In Haste.

Yours Affectionately
Thos. D. Christie.

Rapidan, Dec 31st 71.

My Dear Brother;

If you are alive, write us a line, that we may have something more substantial than a dream to assure us of your welfare. We do actually fear that you are in troubles of some kind, and do not wish to write till you can say something cheerful to us about your own affairs. This is such a strange world that we know not what may suddenly become stubborn fact, fact that shall cast a shadow o'er our whole after life. For though our joys are seldom abiding, our sorrows often are. May the New Year bring you a contented mind and lofty aspirations!

We are as usual; - we have little to boast of in our own conduct and

much to be thankful for. To speak for myself, I pretend to no sanctity or special illumination, but just go on doing my duty each day, sometimes thoroughly, often rebelliously, but generally very insufficiently. I have ceased to hope for that day when I could live according to my ideal of life, for all experience teaches me that it eludes me like the phantoms of a dream; like the horizon it is ever remote and unapproachable. I am becoming less and less of a dreamer, am trying to face the storms and bear the grievous burdens of life like a man. X In spite of all care, sorrow, disappointment, I look forward to a new year with confidence, with renewed determination to act well my part as an immortal soul; expecting to meet new difficulties, to vanquish some, be overcome by others,

"The future hides in it
Good hap and sorrow;
Yet press still thorow;
Naught that abides in it
Daunting us, — onward."

Father received a letter from Uncle Wm, of recent date. He says that Grandmother is very low, and may drop away at any time. I wish I could see her again, for she was always good to me in the years that are now as a dream. May the future be to her a happier reality than ever life has been!

Uncle Wm appears to be in a poor way in several respects. — getting behind financially, but worse still, with no one to care for him. With his children around he is alone. They carp of religion all the day long, but I dare say their father will

sit as high as any of them in that shadowy land.

If I understand the New Testament the doctrines of Christ are not favorable to selfishness in any form, and they would better look well to their own condition and say less.

Nothing from Sarah for a long time. What do you think she should do? What scheme of life have you for her? Is not the schoolroom destructive to her health and happiness? Let us exchange thoughts in relation to her future; and as you are best acquainted with her present condition and plans, you may speak first. Cam is enjoying really good health, is getting logs to the mill, etc. We paid off the residue of Culver's mortgage, — $163 — Small Pox within a few miles of us and some dying. Hoping that tomorrow will be to you a "Happy New Year" I will close. Yours

Sandy.