James C. Christie and Family Papers

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Version 3
August 20, 2018

Beloit Sept 14th 1872

J. D. Eaton

Dear Sir please pay
to Miss S. J. Christie two dollars the
amt for services 10th & 11th July last for which
you enquired by letter - Obliged truly yours

L Merriman MD

United States Internal Revenue,

Collector's Office, 4th District, Wis.

Beaver Dam, Wis. Sept 3d 1872

My Dear Sister; [Sarah Christie]

The 328. dolls. are evidently what you have been running through since 1870 or 71. I despair of your ever doing better; but I am willing to trust once more. That from Sept 3d 1872 you will at least make your salary pay your way. I cannot send any money this morning, and you must depend on Tom for expenses to Lancaster. I will work on your debts till they are paid. Assure your creditors of that, 'tis all I can do. Within a day or two, Uncle will get hold of perhaps $50 for me, and inside of a month, I will get $100 more. and give mortgage for this and note of $150 by Uncle Tom. The mails are closing so no more.

Sandy.

No. .....

J. J. WILLIAMS,

Collector of Internal Revenue,

4th DISTRICT OF WIS.

Beaver Dam, ... *18*

IN RELATION TO

No. of Enclosures, ...

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

United States Internal Revenue,

Collector's Office, 4th District, Wis.

Beaver Dam, Wis. Sept 3rd 1874

My Dear Brother; [Dave Christie]

I wish to write to you confidentially, and in the hope that you will keep to yourself whatever I underline in this, in order not to vex father, or indeed burden anyone else with a knowledge of distressing facts — shameful facts. Sarah is the most dreadful spendthrift, the most mysterious spendthrift I ever knew. I am taking measures to stop it for the future; and if I fail, she must be abandoned, to suffer all the consequences of her own acts. If I can find and stop the leak, I will go on pumping water from the hold, though it take ten years to finish it; but if I cannot find and stop the leak, I and we all must let her go down. Last Sat. night when I returned from the Rolling Prairie, letters made to me the astounding revelation that Sarah's liabilities with the interest amount to ~~to~~ say $2000. in round numbers, probably something more. If we can stop the leak, Tom and I can

pay it off in the course of years. I can save $300. or something less during the year, and I will not go deeper than that at present. There is no use of my contracting debts I cannot pay, to pay them. Uncle D. will do this for me. He will give me $120 in cash and Uncle Tom's note of $150 with $15 int. = $165. for a new note, for $285. to run for 1 or 2, years secured by mortgage. I will agree to do nothing I cannot perform. Is not this safe? Don't you see that I can pay $285 and interest in a little over a year? But I will take the ~~note~~ thing on two years time, in order to be sure. I can then get Father's note of Uncle Tom and give it to him. Now Dave, won't you for me either prevail on Father and Mother to give a mortgage for $285 till I can raise the money ~~to~~ in my school, or you and Emma do it for me yourselves? I hate to ask a mortgage of either, but circumstances are such that I must have the money to save the name from disgrace. I might write more earnestly, but believe me, the money must be had; and you can depend on me, that I will go into no mad scheme.

Can you pay the other note of 200 and int this year? If you cannot, Uncle says he will let you put the 220 in with the 285 and so give you 1 or 2 years more on it; but if you wish to pay it this year, (and Dave you should, if you can) he will let it run till spring, or until you can sell wheat to the best advantage, and you pay him the int on the $20 of int. due tommorrow. That is, it will be a loan of 220 after tomorrow.

My dear Brother; you must not think our interests are not the same because I am not helping to pay the debts of the place at home. This terrible state of affairs in Beloit demands my every effort, and I am forced to ask you to mortgage a part of the farm, a thing as hateful to me as to you. If I live, it shall not be paid out of the farm. I have promised Uncle David that I will give the mortgage, in the belief that either Father and Mother, or you and Emma will let me have it. If you all go back on me, I am in a fix. Don't worry yourself about affairs in Beloit. There is no use. Tom and I will work away till everything is set right, and his salary is now $1000, and mine will be greater than it now is. Write at once to me in Clyman, telling me what you can do for me; and how money matters stand with you, and what you wish to do about the 200 dollar note. Your Brother Sandy.

Office of Internal Revenue,
4th DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN.
JAMES S. WILLIAMS,
DEPUTY COLLECTOR.

No. of Enclosures, ...

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

Cayuga. Sept. 5th 72.

My Dear Sister:

You should go to Lancaster and commence school, and state to your creditors that you must have more time. I sent $10. from Rice a letter to Tom to pay your expenses to L. it was all I could get them. But sometime soon, Uncle D. will let me have $110 more in cash. all that I can raise this year, for I have agreed to pay the old note. I intend paying Gen. Sutton out of this, it with interest and $10 which I owe in Madison. The rest I will send to you to pay off the worst debts with. And now a plain word. Your statements

financial is not satisfactory.
The $328 are debts no doubt
contracted since 71; if not,
where? And if so, what shall
we say? Is the leak (and a
big one it must be — say $20 per mo)
still unstopped? If you have
not reduced your outgoes so as to
bring them within your income,
there is no hope for you, — the
crew will be forced to aban-
don the pumps and take to
the boats. For God's sake
let me know whether you
can pay your way at Lowell
#45. If you can I can
pay your debts in a few years,
otherwise no use of trying.
Promise me you will borrow
no money in future.
The debts are all "shameful," and
you must bear the shame for a
year or two. Take measures to insure
their payment. Write to Lowell.
Your Brother Sandy.

Clymer Pa. Sept 8th 1872.

My dear Sister; [Sarah Christie]

Yours of 6th just rec'd. I am glad you are in High School dept.; also you must write me whether you are to teach any subject which is new to you.

I only maintain that if the $328 have not been spent during the last 18 mos., you should have told me. It looks very mysterious at least, and puts me wholly out of humor with the economic measures of to day, and for this reason:— I have understood that you were struggling during this 18 mos. or two years to pay debt, not to contract it. Besides, your narrative

gives me no light on this subject, as it deals ~~off~~ with affairs of an earlier date; so you need not accuse me of not believing what you have said. I maintain simply this;— you have not tried enough.

Tell me about what time you began to pay your way on the salary you have been receiving, and I will be satisfied. For as it stands, I am a little hopeless.

Let me know whether you have told Tom all you have told me; an important matter, since I wrote him what measures I have taken to raise money, in the belief that you had been driven to divulge all to him ere you could leave Beloit, and that he was in a fix to face the music.

I enclosed $10. to him to pay your way to L.; and he, under date of 4th, informs me he has sent 5 to you and given 5 to Annie to reach Edg. with; and that he is driven to the wall until Oct. payment, etc. That he will work on these affairs till they are all paid off, etc. which makes me think he knows all about it.

My dreams inform me of the state of feeling between you and Carrie; and I hope soon to know the result of our endeavor, for each night adds something. In the meantime, look out in Dancaster; for you are in danger there; of what kind I know not.

If you save the excess of your present wages over your former, you will be doing well. Write me at Lowell.

Yours Affectionately, Sandy.

No word from Uncle D., who is to write me so soon as he gets his hands on the money.
I expect a letter every day.

Shall I assure Mrs. Walsh (Mc. J.) of payment so soon as possible?
Is she unfriendly?

Left Grand Rapids Sunday Evening
Sept 1st 1872
Grand Rapids Mich - Sept 5th 1872

[James Christie]

Left Detroit on Friday last - The 4th and 5th for this place in company with Mr Joseph Chamberlin of Detroit - who graduated this summer and come here as Principal of the High School and Superintendent of the other graded schools. We got to Madison about 5 o'clock P.M. changed to the Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien road and traveling ~~most~~ most or nearly so I think - arrived at Boscobel at 8 in the evening - stayed all night and took stage in the morning for Lancaster - after a drive of 25 miles in a southern direction we arrived here at noon, on Thursday - Stopped at the Phelps House until next day, and now I am boarding with a widow lady, a

Dear Shumway I am engaged as Assistant to Mr Chamberlin in the High School - Salary $30.00 per month. School begins tomorrow - and I ~~will begin to teach~~ things I have never studied myself - I have no fears however. I was engaged to come and have place either as Assistant in High School or as Prin. of Prary. Dept. - $1 - by between ~~a Teacher - and myself - the one~~ to be Assistant in High School - both were Teachers - and the Board would not assign me over respective places until they had seen and talked with both of me. - I knew I would get it - for I dreamed it out all right - at Beloit - Miss Morgan graduate last year from the State Normal school at Platteville I was last year - many years and had dreamed dreams - normale - but I had not a single thing to show - receiving a very fine letter - like I rec'd from Mr Roffe in Beloit - (the Episcopal Minister and Clerk of the City School Board) in answer to my letter of resignation - which letter I had still - them positively. - Am I not fortunate in this? I will have to work very hard but the position is everything - and the pay good. - it is a position that - not one in a hundred of Rockford or Mount Holyoke graduates can command. - All my good friends in Beloit are rejoicing at my good fortune - I also refused the place of Assistant in High School at Janesville - after accepting here - same salary. - Write to me soon. All of you and address Lancaster Grant Co. Wis. - This is a beautiful town - the county seat - a very stirring enterprising place - this paper just established - about 20 miles from the Mississippi River by road. - I will have so much to do for a few weeks that I can only write hurried notes - love to all - will write to Dare and Emma soon - Sarah

Lowell Mission
Friday Eve. Sept. 18th 72.

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Christie]

Yours of 10th rec'd last Evening.

I am not one to insist on a point when it will do us good. Though it will remain a mystery until better explained, how you managed, how you dared expend so many hundreds of dollars during two years of 12 mos each; I am willing to say "quits," and trouble you no more about it after you have read this letter.

I am troubled about two things:—

1st. Your hints for immediate assistance to the impossible time of $328. seem to indicate that there is some hold on you of greater urgency than the payment of money borrowed. If it be money borrowed, there is no necessity for so great fuss: just put me in correspondence with the creditors, and I will cool their zeal.

If not money, why not tell me the whole story?

3d. I am troubled about your language, in fear lest you are in earnest.

I assure you, there is no need of dying about a few dollars: if that is all, take the thing cool, tell the straight truth to everyone, save what money you can, and it will be right yet. Go on with your teaching as if you owed no one, and in time you won't owe.

You cannot sink, unless you are determined to go down in spite of everybody.

If I were satisfied on these two points; if I knew you would do nothing desperate, and quit all your useless fretting, etc. I would get along better myself. I was never crazy, and so don't know how men feel who are verging on insanity; but I think if I had not dismissed the subject last night, I would have been insane before morning. You must do as I say. Don't borrow a damned dollar of anyone. If you cannot break up that habit, we're gone. Say plainly in answer to dunns — "I don't have it; I am earning it; and two brothers are helping me; I will pay you compound interest; that is all I can do." And if they insist, let me talk to them. Isn't that the straight way of doing business, the way I have always done and successfully?

Avoid this cursed French way of talking: — borrow Townsend's Analysis of the Constitution (Civil Govt.) and go on calmly with your classes. Look forward of your Arith. Classes; and you can send me problems and get answers in 4 or 5 days. One week ahead, and you are as safe as Prof. Loomis.

I am at Jessie's studying like sixty, with the intention of taking one of the best Cls. in this part of the State.

I am sure of getting that money soon, and will express to Lancaster.
I only said to Tom. "I don't know whether Sarah has told you as much about her financial distresses as she has to me; but in any event, I can do this much,"

— detailing my arrangement at Burton.

and resolve to work at these things

5 years if necessary. I was very cautious, and he appears to have understood me as referring to the affairs to him known. Be cool, Be of Good heart, and I will say no more about the past.

Yours Affectionately

Sandy.

Read as we walk

Stapleton, Septr 12th 1872

and he can secret pile for
Heart of Time alone
please let us know if this
would do for Uncle Davie,

Alex. S. Schuyler

Receive your letter to me and Daisy last Saturday, as you make our usual mail day. I of course read Davie's letter and know all the astonishing revelations. Dear this is almost extraordinary mystery. There's a great mystery of hidden crime underneath all this & a most infatuated delusion of some kind. Since ever the first discovery at home where I became the friends in my keeping, it has been my most powerful burden. But I never have been able to guess in what manner they could have been expended. Now merely this might be found out. Can't not be told by learning from home, and for what this debt has been piled up. Was it paid to her in money, or in goods, and of what kind. Her liabilities are immense indeed. The knowledge of them bows me to the ground, often receiving your letters I could find no help. But next day the burden lifted itself off me. How I know not. Whether that my soul refused to carry it, or that it is carried by another I cannot tell. Get more joyful as if bearing her indeed.

I would fain believe that all this money seems has been given away in a criminal benevolence to relieve others in a kind of Papistical desire of good works, in a blasphemous attempt to serve God and humanity by the help of the Devil. This however miserable, seems to me the most to be tolerated and the easiest to be forgiven. Now else indeed could such an amount have been squandered, & besides a continual salary much more than sufficient to support her. I cannot bear to think (if this is not the task you ask for) of the profound hypocrisy and dreadful deceit, of so many apparently charitable objects that has spoken of to me. My poor Sandy. There's a heavy cross to us all. And where she awakes what must it be to her? God help her. I pity her with a pity I cannot express.

I pray God that she may come to a knowledge of the truth that He may enlighten her eyes to the folly, the dreadful folly and actual crime of this conduct.

Your request will certainly be granted

Davie Will pay the 200 $ from this money. Give him a little allowance out to Mrs. Mitchell. Alex

But we are in many difficulties which render this being done before Monday our mail. I can only get this sent to you to assure you that I am as possible early next week I will (God willing) go to Town and cancel you the Mortgage objection as you quite merit to be.

The difficulties are, we have been threshing for a week now, and have had many rains, and of course wet grain there has been also all around here in every farmer's Cheese a prominent Barnes two little Boys have been carried off by it, Mr Perrotts little son, and many others a little further off. Our Child also has been and indeed many is affected by it. He is strong and nearly well. But not yet out of danger. We have yet 4 stacks of wheat to thresh and had yesterday a deluge of rain. Roads nearly impossible. Rivers up. But consider this thing settled. I shall not as yet give Gone and acknowledge that David's down up in your name. Now mow I shall make out this Mortgage to the Western & C. to David. S. Porter, and will not mind the Deed now, at least for a while.

My Dear Son The World all do much to ward off a bad name. But how much would the most do if the could ward off the Cause of a bad name. How can the heal this disease which afflicts Sarah? I am afraid, I am sure, she cannot. She needs a constant Supervision which I cannot give her there is none but God, to help us.

I write this morning almost sick of thinking of this. and yet how can I help it? Do not let your mind or heart be filled with angry feelings or thoughts at Sarah. She is only in fact responsible for these things. I would like to write to Tom to see if he could give me any idea of the Cause of these things, and for what these debts were contracted. I wish you would talk this to write to me.

David had to go twice to Town for Coffins for Barnes Children, through rain and snow, and we have had a terrible time of it. Many troubles, sorrows and not much strength to bear them, and yet we do not despair. do not feel at all inclined to take the advice of Job's Wife, feel hopefull, and would feel almost happy if the cause of all this were in Sarah's power.

Write soon, Your affectionate Father

Lowell. Friday Eve. Sept. 19th 72.

I packed out of the Cheerful nests, the second and final time five weeks ago. Oh! Lyman on Gentle creek: back the creek Brightly, the redremarked, and cordially replied by Fanny & Jamie, I have in so doing. Our hope & delicious weather

My Dear Father, — [JAMES CHRISTIE, CASTLE GARDENS, MANNI] I have packed about and worked around since school was out at Affadison last June; and really I enjoy sitting still all day studying-up for the Examinations of 22d. 23d. and 24th at Lake Ave.; where I intend doing something wonderful.

Uncle & Mrs. insisted always on my staying there till school opened; but there was another who made me both angry and sorry occasionally: — angry to think of the way I was forced to slight Uncle & Mrs's hospitality; and sorry to see human nature so perverted. She sometimes took occasion to differ from some opinion I expressed in conversation with some of the others, and would attack it with actual ferocity, I being often obliged to pay no attention to her, but go on talking

to the others. She has no reason for going to down on me, and it angers me to think that wisdom, charity, manliness, all say "keep cool." I often felt like giving her a lecturing. And then again, I often saw she was doing the best she could. But I am away now; and you must not breathe of these things to Uncle Sam. when you see him, which will be very soon.

He will write when he will arrive at Mankato, and if you get the letter soon enough, Dave should go in and meet him. He will start from Nat. at 4.20 P.M. and reach Mankato in about 24 hours. Have things as cheery as possible, keep the best side out, (for his sake.), keep family troubles to yourself, don't talk religion, (common-sense views of things are better), don't wear yourself out either in walking or talking, keep my financial arrangement with Uncle Dave to yourself, have a good time, keep him with you at least a month, and thank him for treating Sam, Sarah, and myself so well.

I hope you are in good health and taking reasonable views of the perplexing questions that are continually presenting themselves to us. Really, Father, there is much in having a good digestive apparatus; and I know that I can wish you nothing much better than a desire for food and the ability to properly assimilate the life-sustaining properties of it to your physical organism, and through that to your mental and spiritual organisms. Get beef, and use a little mustard every meal: give up tea and drink a little first-quality coffee: trust in God and rest; and if you go out election day, vote for Frank.

Be good to Dave and Emma, for truly they do their part. And lose no interest in their little boy, who is one of us, and will yet have to bear the burdens of life, when we are together in "the other side." The lines

Enjoyable Fall weather is beginning — make the most of it, enjoy it. Read a little and think less; look in and see the neighbors, — its neighborly, cheery, and healthful. Give my regards to those who ask of me, and tell them I'm doing bravely.

Grandmother Reid is with "Robert" & Helen, and as usual. Uncle Tom told me she smoked on the sly and set the house on fire twice, and he could stand it no longer, etc. etc. Jean and she quarreled, etc. etc. Don't know too much to believe of his story. He is quite deeply in debt, but will wriggle through. Willie at $13 per mo. Robert at $14 for 8 mos. and Jimmy at $10. for Elec Ramsay; he will get through that way, if no other.

But the house and the folks are truly Scan dinavian fresh as if there was not a well nor a saloon known in the land. Poets have no business there. I do feel anxious about the things; how the grain has done, and whether you will give Uncle D. a mortgage on work. I'll begin to think the world is a queer place if you all turn your backs on me and run for only good reason. However, I shall look hopefully for your letter. I hope Mother is in good health and spirits; that she will sign a mortgage for $285. but no deed for any man; that she doesn't forget that fine shirt some Post Master is wearing to Meetings; nor have to get up to build the fire and cook breakfast before 3 o'clock in the morning.

Yours, Anxiously, Hopefully, Studiously, The Bailie.

Madison Sept 17th 1872.

Miss Christie.

My dear friend.

I had the pleasure last night of again being the recipient of your kindness and thoughtfulness in the form of a well filled sewing paper - for which receive many thanks. And at this moment it is in its place beside the glass ready for use. And if it will give you any pleasure I will tell you that I used it this morning and pronounce it a perfect machine. The only way that I can account for

much the same as ever. If I was there I would write a letter to think that Cousin Radbert's pleasantness can get along without me—in fact I believe as my absence represents my presence with a certain degree of sweetness the world seems to run smoother without me.

Everything is so far in good order in Madison. I have a pleasant board and pleasant rooms. They remind me of your room at the Capitol. And if you remember the Church is close by Capitol Square. How and Hand. And both being close at hand. And both being close at hand. I thought the Methodist Church to be the most fashionable church but also the Baptist Church. So you see I can have a choice at the Church. Sunday in the forenoon I attend the Baptist Church but in the afternoon I go to the Methodist church. It is all voluntary. The day of the

your hearing it is that I must have left it hanging in my room at the doctor's.

I was glad to see by the letter by the paper that you sent me that you were assistant teacher in the High School. And I am the more pleased because that is the place or situation I believe that you preferred to all others in the School. You can not say but what we sometimes get our just dues. "The mills of the Gods grind slowly" but though slowly are we not finally ground in to the niche that we were destined for.

Through a letter from Yusel I find that everything is going on at Beloit

There are some twenty young men in the Law class - and about half of them graduates - mostly Wisconsin men and doubt think there is a man under twenty-two.

In regard to Madison I shall have to admit that it is a much finer city than Beloit. Have been up to the University once - did not call and so did not see Mrs Cason - The last I saw of your brother Thomas was at the gate of Dr. Spaldings — You know I never give up a subject when once interested in it - So I asked Dr. Spalding what the "teachings of the Church" was in regard to the "gift of tongues" and he said that it was - that those who possessed the gift held it during their natural lives so that they could preach in whole tongues whenever occasion required - This is the "vox Ecclesiasticus" - not the "vox populi" or the "vox hominis" — With the best wishes for your welfare

I am Yours truly D. C. Millett.

I have to Rolle Down with this from the 3 Hawkes one Blowing in Hoste

Clyman 18th/72 Sept.

Dear Brother [James Christie]

I write you a few lines to let you know that we are all Pretty well at Present Hoping this will find you all the same - and that I am Coming out to see you all once more it must be so for I am begining to feel like a fungas and must go some where for a Change there is no doubt But I am failing in Bodily But my Mind is as active as ever and wants to be up and Going so I think it will be Better for me to start soon here, I have been Hankering after Scotland so if I Come up it will Perhaps Cure me of that Notion - I will leave here on Mun-Day the 23rd in the afternoon from Watertown Sandy says I will be in Mankato on Tuesday afternoon I make bile D.V. to Come in on Wednesday Morning and state me out, I do not wish him to Come on Tuesday because we would have to Come home at Night in the Cold air, you know I do not want to leave Mankato like a thief in the night, and next Day I would feel as fresh as a lark when I meet you I want to be able to jump over 5 feet fence - the Night would be Chloroform But the Morning Would be Laughing Gas. If Dawid is able to Come he is Coming for his Uncle William, or I not for Stranger. if there is any trouble to stop you Drop a line to the Post Office and I will get it and Come out I will be at the Mankato House - yours in faith Mr Christie

Lowell Mass. Wed. Eve. Sept. 18/72.

I shall look anxiously for your return
Sunday. Give Mr. Johnson a hearty
invitation to spend Sunday with us.
And now for St. Louis Theodore?

My Dear Father:- [James Christie]
Town of 12th inst.

I am truly thankful that you are
to send the mortgage, and if you get
this in time, date it and note about
Sept. 25th. I hope to hear soon of Jimmy
being better, for it troubles me to hear
of his being sick and so many dying
of the same complaint. That is more
serious trouble than this in Mass: for
I doubt not this is but a question of
dollars. I had hoped to keep the
affair from your knowledge till
everything was squared up: but
you would see all, and you did.
How or when or why she spent so
much money I do not know: for
I have no faith whatever in her

incoherent accounts. I think she must have been deeply in debt before she went into the millinery scheme: as I now remember she gave as a reason for that step, "the absolute necessity for making money, no good can be done without money, I must have money" etc. etc.

I think that theory more probable than that she has been recklessly spending money during the last 2½ years; for two years ago last harvest, you told me she (and of course he also) had been driven to dreadful straits, having even had the sheriff in the house to levy on portable property, etc. It is almost impossible that she should have been doing anything further in the reckless line since. If she has, she is either non compos or a knave. And that she sunk so many hundreds in the tailor affair is by no means credible.

I am somewhat afraid that there is a phase to it we don't know anything about: that some one has a hold on her, and she dare not refuse demands for money. This is only a thought of mine; but I have intimated as much to her, and may know more of it. Let us, however, adopt the more hopeful theory: — that she was three or four hundred dollars in debt before going to Mrs. Parker's to learn dress-making, that her reckless conduct in Detroit, keeping open house, and a full house, wanting for nothing (I understand that was the way), swelled it to, say, $1000, and ~~interest~~ that shaves on sums borrowed to meet old scores has swelled it still further. There is no use of sending you a list of these debts, as I can send you nothing very reliable yet. But I will be able

to do it before she gets any money.
Sarah gives many evidences of a
desire to get out of debt; it actually
seems to be wearing on her; and
she is now in so desperate a fix that
if she gets out, she will surely
never do the same folly again.
I will not permit a child to be lewd
on the home place to pay her
debts. There must be a comfort-
able home there; and you all have
a hard enough life of it as it is.
I will see to it that she pays so much
per mo. out of her salary; if she
discovers her in an attempt to
borrow and so deceive me, she
may go to Flinders. If I see her
in purgatory, I'll do another
stroke for her. I will work
at it myself; and I will be abler
from year to year. Now as to Jim.
He knows of about $1500. of debt,
part of which is his own, and his
note is given for perhaps $700.
He assures me he will work at it
till all is paid (means $1500.)

But if he finds out the whole amount it may discourage him and prevent him from paying more than his own debts. And between you and me Father, Cardulite stands in utter fear and dread of Sarah's will-power, and horror at her spendthrift ways; and furthermore, she is stirred up whenever she perceives Sarah's intellectual ability, etc.

Christians are Christians; and as a general thing, they love the world more than their Master did. If You know all about it without being sworn to secrecy, be aide tele C. and if I mistake not, it will be a bone of contention between them. Pledges are terrible things to settle into rifts. Don't write to Tom; I will manage that part of it; and not to Sarah, for she might throw herself into Niagara.

But, Father, there is, on the whole, no great reason to fret about it. It will be cleared off in two years; and she will be reclaimed from her spendthrift ways. Even Mr. Sutton bore up under a shock like this: Can not we? It, with our disregard of property for its own sake, our philosophies of Life and Life to Come? I will take steps to put everything right; but I will not lose one hour of sleep, not one. Nor must you. I nearly went crazy over it at first; but there would be no sense in that; and henceforth I go merrily about my business, saving all the money I can and paying off this incubus. Isn't that the way? Let us do our several duties well; but when meal time comes, let us "eat, drink, and be merry." The true philosophy. Tomorrow we do die; and why should we forego the innocent pleasure of a laugh? Yours hopefully Sandy.

Lowell Wis. Friday Eve Sept 20
72

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Christie]
Have just rec.
Uncle D's of 19th in response to mine
of 18th. He informs me he will
be here tomorrow (Sat.) Evening, and
will bring the money, ~~$74.~~ 110. taking
my note till I get the mortgage
from Minn. which latter I ex-
pect daily.
I have written to Bookstore in Madison,
and may not have to take the $9 worth
of books I sent for (though I much
need them), but I must retain $10 to
cover that and their exp. chs. if I must
take them. I owe Uncle 2 Mos $3.75
recently borrowed, which I must pay, and
it will do no harm to have 1.25 on
me. Geo. Sutton's bill amounts to $14.

Lowell is pretty dreary.
I think I shall be homesick to see you
I see we have lost our

since compound int. is just, and is promised too. I will retain $15. for that, and after I hear from him I will either send it, or let you send it, though the latter won't do any good that I see.

Therefore, on Monday 23d, (if Uncle comes to time) I will express $80. to you at Lancaster, prepaying charges. If he is not here Sat. eve, I will go to Beaver Dam and express same amount from there on Monday.

I shall insist on your sending (in registered letter) me the Express receipts, to look at you know the money has been rec. in Beloit: or if there is no expressing to be done, the receipts of the individuals receiving the money. Send no money by letter to anyone.

You need not be surprised at my insisting on knowing every movement. I will run no risks of being fooled by anyone: everything must be above board. I object to your borrowing a cent of anyone; but if you do, you must let me know the amount, the date, the conditions, and the person (so that the other items may be verified if necessary) If I discover any underhand work going on, I'll say "quits" with emphasis.

Needn't be terrified or driven desperate by what I'm saying: — secrecy, duplicity, and reckless expenditure of means, have got you into a bad fix: if you don't abandon all three, I'll not answer for your future abode; but by adopting the plan I advocate, the plan every true friend, every brother, your father, and your own good judgment advocate, you can get out of the fix faster than you got in, a great deal. I expect "Blank" is

"Hargwood" writ short, and that the $75. is the identical sum I suppose paid 2 years ago or more. I begin to lose all faith in everybody but Father, Dave, and myself. Tom told me that 75 was paid; and if it is not, I'll know why.

I'm not meaning to say that you cannot be trusted; but though I think you are doing, and intend to do, the right thing, yet time only can prove it; and in a matter of importance (for we must win our battles for several years or lose our cause) I don't trust to anyone's honesty. Besides, I see at a glance, that you don't have the faintest idea of certain fundamental principles in finance; in such matters I would not trust to Tom, much less to you. Neither of you have learned the a.b.c. of the science, nor the first letter of the art. ~~Use~~ Distribute this pittance judiciously, telling no untruths to anyone. Be open and fair with all: Do nothing for appearances: and "work within and God overhead," you are sure to win.

Yours in Truth, Alexander.

Lowell Station
4 P.M.

Have expressed the
#80. and prepaid charges.

Tell me how you get
along in school, and
among the people of
Lancaster.
I think I wrote you that
Dan's little boy was sick
the last I heard.

Sam

Lowell Wis.
P.M. Monday Sept 25th 72

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Chapin]
Today I
send $80. by Exp from
Lowell Station 6 pm at
Lancaster. Write me of
its reception, and as
soon as is practicable
send me receipts (Exp.)
showing how you have dis-
posed of it. Don't not
strike a single blow in
the dark.
I will see Uncle Mm. as
he goes Minnesota-ward
at Reisville.
Tomorrow I go on Exam.
at Oak Grove.
Next Monday I open School
for the Winter. Wrote last Sunday.

[Sept 22, 1872]

Lowell Mass.
2 P.M. Sept 22d 72.

My Dear Arthur; [James Christie] parted from Uncle a few hours ago at his own house, but it occurring to me that I have business at Lowell Station today, I am going down there now, and will send this by him.
I was down at the old place yesterday and got two bushels off mother's tree, which Uncle has. There was nothing on yours or Jon's or mine; and I confess I could not determine Dan's or Sarah's.
I send leaves from the three first; and on my way back I did not forget to get two lit-tle mementos for Mother,—a

leaf of clover from her Brother's and a ~~leaf~~ strawberry leaf from her Father's grave. The monument is leaning against a tree, having never been set up; but the graves are in good shape. I think I am not mistaken which is which; but the clover leaf is from the furthest South.

I hope nothing has gone wrong with you; but I am impatient for a letter. Be cheerful and pleasant, make the time pass joyously while Uncle is with you; and make him say a good while—there is nothing demanding his presence here. He has been so very kind and good to me, and is really so kind-hearted and good to everybody, that he deserves love and honor from everyone wherever he goes. Men of his stamp are scarce.

Don't talk yourself to death the first day. Cast aside all gloom on Beloit affairs; it is nothing to be gloomy over and will be all set right in good time.

"Away dull care".

Affectionately,

Sunday.

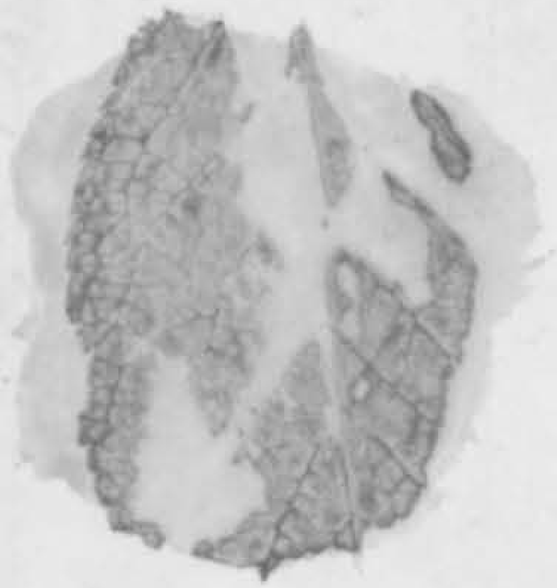
Sophie

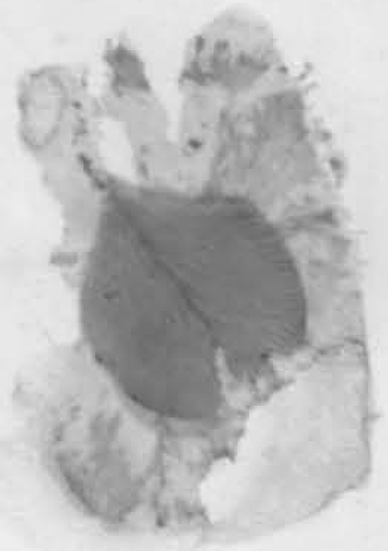
"

"

William Lee

Sarah's Plum tree





Sept. 25th [1872]

Rapidan.

My Dear Sarah

After trying to get this sent you until for days, I write it at last.

to day I said I was to go to town for Uncle William and this was not need to be postponed any longer.

Mother and I went to Mr Ayres yesterday and had the papers made out. And to carry off and fight that the Bore going in debt and falling behind in the world. I took Money that you intended to help a Relative and had put on the line for this purpose. But you might get money to accomplish your object. I write while Jennie is getting out the horses. and to my sorrow.

I will write to you more in full soon.

Daniel takes in the Mortgage to day to get registered and will call first again. tomorrow and write post to you in Lowell. I send the note to day.

If the papers do not suit your Uncle (which I hope they will.) I cannot help it. I have done the best I could in the Circumstances

Write immediately on the receipt of these papers.

Yours in haste and always in all attempts towards right. James Christie

Little James is all right

Lancaster - Pa. -

Sunday Eve. Sept - 29th - 1872.

My Dear Father, [James Christie]

This is your birth-day, and I cannot - let - it - pass without - dropping you a line to let - you know I have not - forgotten it - - I can say but - a word or two for I have just - got - back to my room from Church and it is late and I have to rise early to study - Alex. write me that - at - latest - advice from home our dear baby Jennie was very ill, and I am exceedingly anxious to hear from some of you about - him - please write me a line at - once - just - to say how he is - - I had a note from Jim yesterday and a nice letter from Lannie which I will answer tomorrow Evening. I

I can take him from study. – They are both well and happy – Tom working hard as usual. – Alex. writes me that Uncle Wm is going to see you – I am glad of it – it will do both you and him good. –

Dear Father, I wish I had never been separated from you – It is a hard thing this for a woman, being out in the world among strangers – all kinds of people – facing everything alone – I don't like it at all, and when I look backward at my long course of folly and willful blind wrong-doing. I am like to give up in despair but – I have hope yet: and I am thankful I came to Lancaster. – The change and the hard brain-work that I have here in the High School, is what I needed. – I believe I would have become insane if I had stayed much longer in Beloit: I like our School very much – Mr Chamberlin (our Prin.) graduated last year from Beloit, and has had no experience in graded schools, so that he depends on me for most things in the way of organizing – and in regard to the general order and discipline throughout the buildings – It is exceedingly gratifying to me – for I have an ideal of my own as to what a model school should be, and here I have the moulding of the whole concern I might say. – I am taking more pride and pleasure in the work of teaching than I ever did before. – Mr Chamberlin relieves me one half hour in the day from the High School in which to visit the other rooms and teachers – helping them by advice and by practical lessons of putting their pupils through short drills of different kinds. – It is a splendid thing for me, in letting me feel the power within, and practice in applying them – I am really astonished at myself. – I prepare my drills or lessons or talks previously I connect – and now the scholars in the different rooms when I open the door and go in seem to manifest as much joy almost as if I were Santa Claus – It is really the case – I am astonished at my success. – Several cases already the teachers having an unusually disturbed class to deal with always send for me to talk to him and sometimes just a word or two from me to him sets it all right: there is not a boy already in any of the departments but what seems anxious to serve or obey me in the smallest particulars. –

I have a class of our High School boys in Sunday School - smart - splendid boys they are - and Mr Chamberlin has a class of young men he has gathered up about the town. - The people are exceedingly kind to me - Twenty-six different ladies of the place have called on me already - There are a good many Scotch here and more English. all of the more intelligent - better educated class - One old Scotch lady - Mrs Rossie - I think a perfect - jewel - She lives all alone - has read nearly everything and knows the Bible by heart - nearly - I heard of her and went alone to visit her - told her who I was, and that - I wanted to know her - and she seemed to take me in as she would an own child - I will tell you more about her afterwards - She and I are the best of friends - She is ~~one~~ the most placid - serene - beautiful old woman I ever saw - She is quite old and speaks with the Scotch accent somewhat. Give my love to Dave and Emma - and Mother - and Father, please do not talk in a censuring way of me to Mrs Wm or to anybody - Never mind what you think - If you cannot speak well of me say nothing - If you could see or know the bitter disgust I am in at times, you wouldn't think I needed the censure of anyone, for any fault - Jills. - Remember whatever you say to him will go back of Clyman and he talked over there as something you have said - How is Arnott, is he well? Write to me - With love - Sarah.

Lowell Wis.
Monday Oct. 7th 72.

My Dear Father; [James Christie]
Uncle got home
Friday, and I saw him here
Sat. He brought me hopeful
accounts of everything in Blue
Earth and Winona Counties,
and Mother's present of a fine shirt,
two prs. drawers, and two prs. socks.
It really makes me feel good to
think I am still an object of
her care — one of the "boys"; and
I prize these far more than twice
as much out of the store. And
besides, I needed them.

My school has been running
successfully for this day over a
wk., growing in number and
I trust, in grace daily.
They are now 43; and 41 down
stairs under Miss Morse; and the

cry is "Still they come!"
Noisy and lazy, but showing
signs of reformation.
My examination at Oak Grove
lasted 8 days, from which I came
off more than conqueror through
my love for sitting up nights,
and carrying books to threshings.
My first grade marks thusly;

Penmanship	8.	Physiology	8.
U.S. History	9.	Theory & Practice	9.
Mental Arith.	9.	Written Arith.	9.
Orthography	10.	Orthoëpy	10.
Reading	10.	Eng. Gram.	10.
Constitution U.S.	10.	Const. Wis	10.
Polit. & Math. Geog.	10.	Physical Geog.	10
Higher Algebra	10.	Geometry	10.
Natural Philosophy	10.		

Mine is No. 3. So you can judge
how many are out. Of 15
teachers, I was the only one who
got anything better than 3d
Grade.

The mortgage and note are
rec'd. and Sat. I will exchange
papers with Uncle David.
I thank you most heartily for
backing me in this. I think
great good will come of it.

The Spiritualists are
quite strong here; should
I investigate it, or let it
severely alone? A firmer
basis for belief in an after
life would be an inestima-
ble boon to me. As it is,
I often doubt even that, and
am very miserable, quite
unnerved, ready to give up
every undertaking, sit down
and ask "Cui bono?" for what good?

I have met none of them
who know much about the
subject beyond the seeing of
a ghost or the tipping of a
table; and when it comes to

talking about it, I can hold my own.

I have among my scholars, Dr. Benson's two girls of 10 & 12, and his boy Fremont about 16. The latter is well along in his studies, Algebra, Rays & Higher Arith, Gram. etc; is a smart, gentlemanly fellow, and I am doing all I can for him. Also Capt. John Webb's children.

I have no more time to write now. Am reading the Cosmos — great book. What have you to read? Write all about the amount of crop. Uncle says one 900 this yr. My best wishes for all about the home hearth, and special thanks to Mother —

Your Son Alexander.

Beloit College.
Oct. 8. 1872.

My Dear Sandy:

Refer with us when you read these figures —

		$	cts
Note to Hobart — 1 yr. 9 mos old, paid in full		51.	95
Indorsed on Simeon's note	"	20.	""
" " Reitler's "		20.	""
Note to Prof. Sterling in full		20.	""
Lent Goldenberger on Boat		10.	""
" Patrick — University — washing		1.	50
" H. H. Curtis Geneva		8.	00
" Dr. Adams, Union Grove		4.	50
" Mr. Imely, St. Anthy — borrowed 3 yrs. ago — with Int.		12.	""
" Jn. Ford Cyr's Int. & Com. Int.		10.	30
" Mr. Foster " "		10.	""
" Prof. Pettibone, Borrowed money		5.	""
" Mrs. Tuttle — Rent & wood		10.	""
" Various small bills		7.	10
		$190.	35

other Bills unpaid, but to be paid today or tomorrow, to amount to ten dollars;

This with all Expenses of moving from Madison & Changing once there, of our travel &c. during the summer, and our living since coming to J.J. We have opened no credit account at the stores, and do not intend to. So you see, of the old debt, we have paid about $125.00 & have lifted altogether $200, from our shoulders. C. and I are rightfully jubilant, & carry heads an inch higher. This year will clear off all debts in Beloit we hope;

All well & happy: Send this to Sarah. Your letter rec'd. glad to hear of yr. success, Bell singing

In Haste,

Your loving Brother
& Sister J.D. & S.C.C.

I am sorry. His natural faculties are losing their strength. He has become a mere philosopher and because there is dirt in his eye he sees nothing else. When the most critical he is the most foolish. I say all these things with sorrow. William would have been a tolerable bright man if he had not merged into this death and darkness of a material philosophy. That is the soul killing time. His children and his home have very little common heart sympathy. Their affection for their father has been as great zero. It is Helen's duty to give her father more love than she has hitherto done. He is nearing three years when the wheel at the fountain turns faster, and the lamp in the temple burns less bright. Then age and feeble faculties need to be sustained by love and careful consideration. I pity my brother. He is not insensible to his lonely condition. And this is the bitterness that has entered his soul. My dear son, we have many troubles but ours are bearable because they have love in them. Our souls are not dead to mutual love. With all our errors the flame of affection still burns up its blessed light. Which needs only to be tended until it is transmuted into the light of the eternal. Let us thank God and take courage.

Let us be faithful, looking up in hope, working and believing. When you see your family tell them that those two Scots whom he sent to me. Have I to believe they went away with the impression that I was a fool. I talked 3 hours to them by the clock, apparently able men in their way, seeking light willing to receive it. But I scarce think I can be able to visit them in Stirling. I shall tell you of them in another letter I trust. I look hopefully for tomorrow to hear of your first week's teaching in Lowell. That all is right.

I have received a letter from Tom, one also from Lorate. And this morning I feel if God shall give me strength I must write to Each. They all need to hear from me. I believe I can get do all of them good. I am now thinking the chance of Annie is well. But his mother will before many months be again on his feet to take care of him my while she attends to his successor. I must away to Bishops, it is nine o'clock. Good bye. Go on writing me weekly. J. Smith

Rapidan Oct 4th 1872

Dear Son. [Aleq]

I trust you are in health Body and Soul. your Uncle left this on Wednesday to visit William before going home. I was in my usual health when he came. He conducted himself in a moderate way and did not open the flood gates of outrageous venality upon me. I was pleased to see him and I think he was pleased with me and our proceedings. I did not introduce him to any of the neighbors. Humanity is the same here as elsewhere, almost. But I took him down one in the Bottoms and he viewed and admired himself with Nature. He will not soon forget our scenery. I was glad when he came, and glad when he left. Because of my being daily worn out. He will tell you his impressions when you see him.

I sent the note in one letter and David after according mortgage Rent is in Lenthen. I trust you, are this have received both. and we look for a letter tomorrow. David will write to you just as soon as he can find time. What with threshing and general hurry he can not find time now. Wheat is Beautiful and Wheat is a dollar. our Piece of grain has been good and we have good reason to be grateful. I have not seen your Uncle for four years now, and after this last week's company with him. I think less and less of his miserable and misanthropic philosophy. That seems to me to have minimized his sensities. He moves in a very small circle of Friends. and his affections are dying for want of sympathy and fellowship. I am satisfied that the loss of Faith is the greatest loss of humanity. to have one's Eyes put out is a terrible loss. But to have the spiritual Eyes raised up to the Glories of the visible and invisible Universe is the first step in the Death of the spiritual man. And no one can get near him. No Manes or Guard at Every avenue to keep out the first ray that would illuminate his darkened mind. And like the Gallic Esquimaux he think the land he dwells in is the Land. and of them. He the man.

Rapidan Oct. 11th 1872

Dear Sarah, [Christie],

Yours all received. I should have written sooner to you if I had been quite well. I am much pleased that you have received so high a position in your profession, and that you like Lancaster, that you feel as if you had already secured the good will of your pupils and may hope to do them good. That you may keep your health is my anxious hope. I trust you will take care not to exceed in exercise of the mind so as to reduce your usefulness, and make you say miserable and unhappy. You know I cannot write to you without speaking to you of the necessity you lie under of being careful of your means, and so recover that peace of mind you so much stand in need of. My Dear Sarah I know all your difficulties and sympathize with you in them. They cause me many an anxious and sleepless night. And so now for the Love you bear to me, for righteousness sake be prudent, and make up the loss we may in the voyage of your life. Your brothers will lend you a helping hand, and stick by you until you recover an upright position and retrieve that secret peace which flows from a satisfied conscience.

I know that you have long been miserable because of the entangled state of your affairs. take hope in your heart and trust that God will assist you, as he will, as he always does all those who seek to recover the lost path. You will succeed if you try in earnest by patient care and persistent prudence. Because of generosity, and consider when you feel to be benevolent to others, that until you have made all straight, your means are not your own. The spirit of Love seeks first to give to everyone their own.

David is in ordinary health and Emma is well and again likely to increase David's responsibilities. "Our pet" is quite well trying to stand without help, has two teeth and loves his grandfather with an interested love, and pulls his hair to get what he wishes, 7 months four days ago. I write a little word or two to you only. Until I get more able and have more time

Write to me regularly, and continue always to think that your cares are mine also. and that my love for you is unabated if you take Rochester paper state please send it to us. or any other good one

I shake hands with you and say fear not. J. Christie

Rapidan, Oct. 13. 1872

Dear Son [Alexander]

Your of the 7th inst. received. I am quite glad you have written to us so fully. What more particularly has your Uncle Thellein to say of your present appearance, and of the country we are in? We and I had not much talk on speculative subjects. I think his mind is in a very chaotic state. He seems to have accepted no more date for a positive philosophy than we had had him before. Any man who shall ignore one half the facts must necessarily make a very incorrect deduction. We should of course go to the natural philosopher for the facts of nature and if not content with the philosophy which he has built up upon them we may try that for ourselves. But his laborious collection and classification of them we may accept. The Author also, if we desire to learn the knowledge of invisible things, to have recourse to those who have observed and recorded the outcomings of phenomena. If we will not take the deductions they have made, let us wait until the Coming make our own. But to deny their facts is unreasonable until we have examined and tested them. Their are many witnesses of spiritual things. Many books full of evidence, resting upon the same observative faculties as are used in the perception of outward natural phenomena. Spiritual evidence must appeal to our senses just as much as outward natural evidence or we can take no certain cognizance of them, by the external & intellectual faculties. When many wise and good men testify to certain facts of which they are cognizant we ought to believe them just as much as we do those who testify to any other class of facts. How readily the Chemist is accepted of the evidence who declares he has discovered protoplasm or any other plasm. It is unreasonable to deny the evidence of so many witnesses. If all varieties of character to deny the accumulative knowledge of mankind in relation to the unseen world is absurd, and all because we cannot or have not had it ourselves. Have we any right to deny let us say the occultations of the planets because we have not been in the circumstances to see them? Shall we deny the existence of the moons of Jupiter because we have often gazed into the heavens and they did not cross the path of vision? So is it with the things of that unseen world. To know of them we must be in the necessary conditions. There are always prerequisites to be given in all cases

The American Aloe Blooms only once it is said in a Century. Shall a Man who has had only the opportunities to see it Continually say for ten Years, Be entitled to negative the Evidence of Others Who have seen it in Blossom. When he says he has watched it for ten Years and he knows that it never Blossoms? You see the Analogy Or Shall he who is Endowed with Spiritual Sight, and who therefore sees What the Man with only Natural Sight does not see, doubt the Evidence of the senses which he has, and believe only the Evidence of the Man Who is not Qualified to draw any Conclusions in the premises? for the reason that he has not the requisite, necessary? The Whole position of the Materialistic Philosopher is untenable. Because it violates right reason. It is an attempt to construct a Theory of the Universe upon too small a basis of fact. They have no rest in their position. Because facts Neither there nor without them are Continually protruding themselves which great Reverence with their Conclusions. And so to have some rest they shut their Eyes Wilfully and say, But there is a Philosophy in Accordance With All the facts. and if we do not accept the Faith we must patiently wait until the Gain sufficient knowledge. The faith again has a Philosophy, although it in itself is not a philosophy But it gives the data for one if we will believe them.

What a miserable Negation is this Materialism! If which rises no higher than the dirt and its inherent Law. How preposterous is it! An Intelligent Spiritual ness originating in and inherent in Matter — developing into Man and all his Glorious faculties and then to stop short and terminate in dirt, one would naturally think, having Gone so far it might have gone further and Elementated something permanent! it reminds me of nothing so much as a Dog chasing his tail, and endless course and Work for no result. it is really a disease of the reason Brought on by the Earth Sense its proximity to the Spiritual Eye being Blown into it. the Dandy of Egypt having produced Opthalmia

It is a Great Misfortune to have received no Religious Education, to have been Ignorant of that Faith which is the Truth because it is the true interpretation of all Visible things, and necessarily must be representative of all Invisible things. But what a miserable Cicerone is Unbelief to take one's hand and introduce us into this Living World. it is like trusting ourselves to be led around the World by a Blind Man. Who himself is led by a Dog. Who again depends on his Nose in Contact With the Dirt of the Earth. it is really a dependence upon sense instead of reason. And in universal Nature the Senses always at fault. Because things are not what they seem.

You ask if you should Enquire into this Christian? I say no most decidedly No. There are many perils in that path of investigation In the first place the Wise and the Good have forbidden it. let us Reverence and Obey their Law. they Wisely that door Closed them to keep out Man Because of the dangers Within. This is in Violation of the Established order of Nature. a Wall has been Erected between Natural and Supernatural Being and he who would dig it down must do so at his own peril. and it is Great I do not think that your Ordinary Table Tippers have done this. But it is the Characteristic of Your race to Go too far. and if you touched this Thing You might Get more than You Could Well or Easily Carry. Why assume burdens You are not required to? We have enough to bear in our Natural State. Without adding those of another Condition of Being. The knowledge of the Unseen Life are not for us. Let us wait until We have passed the initiatory portal of Death. Besides whatever is acquired in this way is Stolen and Cannot be used. This is the true Sorcerie, and you bring All the Sacred Orders of the Heavens upon You. And there is no Order of Men so Cruel Because they Guard the Ark, which Unholy and profane Eyes must not see It cannot be done without terrible punishment. Jesus said "All they ever Came before me were Thieves and Robbers" for the reason I have shown You. He came out from that World to teach us All that is necessary to attend to the Highest Conditions of Spiritual welfare. to Organize a Society on Earth not founded upon knowledge in them. But upon Faith in Him. He knew all and did not choose to impart it. This ought to be sufficient reason to us that such knowledge is not in our present Condition Good for us. and I know that to be the fact. There is danger in letting down with these Spirit-teachers at their Table. Because All their Idiosyncrasies and Spiritual Condition may be imparted to you. their Vital Magnetism. that is the Emanations from their Nervous System Circulates through You, and you thus become partakers of their Spiritual disease. but I cannot Go on to enumerate all the reasons for not meddling with this Thing.

This Thing has nothing to teach which has not already been revealed to Love the Oracles do speak truth they Confirm What we already know. and a Lie is no truer Because it has been asserted by Hades.

Indeed the Fountain from which this new Gospel draws its Water is not in the Mountains, But rather in the deep Gorge and by the Bitter Waters of the Sea of Death. There are no Waters of Life which flow there It is Specious Unbelief, Satanism, delusion and Spiritual to the Taste of each of its votaries. Unbelief to a Pagan Philosophy Armed with Passional Armament. There the Lures with which Hades decoys its Victims Embrace fawns upon All who would enter But those who would Escape feel only his Teeth. If the Holy Spirit of the Gospel

did not keep in check this emanation from the Basilar region this would would be transformed into the paradise of the passions. Because pleasure is the real God of the Lower world. By their fruits ye shall know them. You may not discern such fruits in the Dupes of this Diabolic manifestation. Because in Love it sets in the Blade. in others in the Ear. But the full Corn in the Ear will finally develope itself. "Who desert Obedience to the Holy Faith once delivered to the Saints" keep clear of it. There is a fascination in it. Curiosity the itch of the Ear. the old delusion of the desire for knowledge. this the Spirit of the Earth that would aspire to the possession of the Spirit of the Heavens and because fidelity to one sight would degenerate to its own destruction. and the same voice is continually heard now as then. "You shall not surely die" this you are told is a very innocent business. what more delicious than the sweet fruits of our Philosophy? I have seen the Snake. prone, yet powerful with Guileless Lips the head just enough raised to fix at the right angle the Earth magnetism from the bright and glittering Eye. upon the susceptible and simple Brain of the Dove. The decrement flows upon his victim. it gazes, it comes nearer. it flutters in fear of the delusion, it flys away, it comes back again to gaze and to wonder. it approaches nearer. it yields to the fascination and is destroyed. I have seen all this. and it is a true symbol of the power of Perdition, its mode of allurement. But Christian Souls die out. the serpent is in its symbol of self destruction. although this book is sealed to the simple I have wrestled with this Demon and received many wounds. some of which are not yet healed. I have suffered for truth.

Christianity while not be allowed to be hurt by it, indeed cannot but many men and women souls and have been already destroyed by it let us wait patiently for the Baptism of knowledge. Seeking now the Baptism of Faith in order that we may be fitted for the reception of that Great passion which transcends and fulfills all the Emotions of Natural Love. and to become participants of that Universal Life. and recipient in our understandings of its forms which are Universal principles. If this Spiritism have to succeed in Establishing itself we should go back to the practices of the ancient Chinese. and begin to worship and erect tablets to the Spirits of our Fathers. to burn incense, and consult them in relation to the trivialities of mundane Life. forgetting the Great Objects of our Being as they in all probability dice. it is looking backward and downward the perfected philosophy of all Spiritual and Natural Wisdom. is already recorded in the Scriptures and reduced to Universal forms. let us strictly that and learn the true Wisdom of the Heavens. from which it has receded. which Expands itself in proportion to the Evolutions of our Faculties and is adapted to the Capacity of the Humblest,

5) I ought to tell you that David had 900 of wheat. 350 of oats 100 of Barley. that wheat is from 18 to $\frac{90}{100}$. David has sold at both prices and to day goes in with 2 teams more to sell jacket He brought two more ploughs and has been turning it over at the rate of 5 acres per day on the average, little more than the breaking team to Bushel. and the intention is to get early into the woods.

Our little Boy is quite well. lively. strong. and knowing as a peddler. David was elected Treasurer at school meeting I filled up the Books and the report was accepted. I expected you just to come out in your examining as you did. yet not supposing that so few others would. now seeing you have attained the mark necessary to success, there's no need for a continual excitement in this learning. see that you take plenty of bodily exercise and not become a bookworm. take up Botany as a study and ramble in the woods along the River in company with some congenial friend the joys of a true friendship are manifold and elevating. that wonderfully sweetens life and stimulates the nobler faculties. But the friend must be of an aspiring nature morally or you will reap disappointment. take an object to interest you in your search after bodily health as mere mechanical exercise is not healthy nor natural. that is exercise for exercise sake. I propose Botany because it will pay some interest you and make you wonder much in search of plants and if some should not get them. you will get health. its nomenclature and technicalities are dry. but you have mastered such things before and they will not trouble you long. write once a week to me if you find time, and give me a sketch of the characters you see. attend church at least once in seven days. and do not be too critical of the manner of the preacher. rather try to welcome the truth he presents for the guidance of life. pay to generate the man for his doctrine. Ordinary people, like paintings, look best if not looked at too closely. Be willing to take people as if they were what which they aspire to be. this is the way in which the who judges and knows the heart looks upon us all. and so will we become better ourselves by the exercise of charity. consciousness and critical scrutiny of mere motives tends all the time to our own degradation. some how we grow like to what we look upon. looking at the wooden leg all the time is the way to wither our own locomotion. so that according to this philosophy "looking to Jesus" is the way to grow like him. He alone is that friend who will never disappoint us in our estimate of his character. who as we become capable of perceiving. discloses to us new beauties of perfection

I begin to feel a Blessedness in the mere Contemplation of this Illimitable Ocean. The search After Truth is becoming less interesting to me as I search after the right Life. The right Life is the Truth in Action. Seeking to do right is seeking to place ourselves in Coincidence with the Morning of the Spheres. the Adjustment of our Revolutions to the Mighty March of the Cosmos. Seeking that God shall rule in us as He rules in the Heavens. in purpose that the Day fall into the Eternal Order. Your Humboldt I do not know. I believe he professes not to know anyth but the Bible. But if he represents that perfectly he leads the Day to the Unseen Cosmos by the simple rule of the Parallel.

I wish you to let me hear what you learn of Sarah from her letters. and please tell me the progress of the Liquidation Loan in her last letter seems to have in heart to assist. Yet does not speak openly Because I presume of her Wife. What difficulties and dangers does not this unconfessed trouble produce.!

I find much rest in relation to it in the fact that you and Tom. mean to see it out. In what manner Lonahehersolf can Bear such a burden I do not scarcely Conceive But I must dismiss it. I have had no letter from Willie since you left home. Not having anything Else I sent a present of a Book each to Helen and Willie by Uncle William. Taylor's Enthusiasm and Tafel's Swedenborg. and expect to get a recognition of my Presents by letter, soon. You ask me if I have anything to read Nothing new I have seen not even a News paper. When the Advance time run out. I had no money to renew and they ceased sending it I advised Uncle William to get "Max Muller's Chips" and the Works of — I cannot find his name just now. Sartor. Resartus &c "He that is not against us is for us" and this reputation is not against, and preaches the Glad tidings done up in a New Binding only. in such shape as is accomodated to the Intellectual Objection of Many in this present Age.

I find I must close, and away to Bed by

Full of Care for your Welfare

I remain Always
Your Father
J. Christie

Lowell, Wisconsin
Tuesday October 25. 79.

My dear Sister, [Sarah Christie]

No letter from you though you promised to write one a week ago Sunday. You may be crowded with work, as am I, and unfit to write long letters. But you have no excuse for not sending me receipts, etc, as I wished.

You must see that I cannot trust to your judgment in monetary matters, that I must have all the facts, that your financial methods must be abandoned and better ones — mine for instance — adopted.

Now can you be ignorant that I have not studied Logic, Rhetoric, Mathematics, etc, — studies requiring great analytic powers and intellectual acuteness in general — in vain.

I must know without delay what you

intend doing in response to my request for vouchers.

You see honesty, honor, dishonesty, dishonor, and many other things with their opposites which I could mention, are susceptible of being & made more questions of Arithmetic demanding a solution at our hands. Our affairs have preeminently a mathematical aspect, have taken the form of Equations, — or rather, inequations — and, to carry the ludicrous analogy to a more ludicrous extent, we must eliminate all unknown quantities as fast as possible; solve one equations by the method known as Addition and Subtraction — id est, add to one means of revenue and subtract from our expenses. The method by Substitution, which I used at Beaver Dam on Saturday, substituting a new note for an old, will never advance ~~our~~ us a step — will never give us the value of x.

I am pushing my studies steadily, and will get better pay next year, and the year after, etc, besides eventually gathering enough power to be "somebody" among the learned. We Christies will be heard of yet, and all our struggles recounted to stimulate stupid youth to aspire, etc, etc, etc.

My school is a growing success, — 43 up-stairs, 41 below, and order driving chaos distracted from the field. In few words, —

The scholars are backward in their studies, have no idea of study, think order a novelty; but are not, by any means, disposed to resist good measures. I am full of life, light, and exultant hope.

Don't waste your energies writing long letters.

All well here and in Chipman.

Your Brother

Alexander.

Lowell Wis. Oct. 15th 72.

Mr. Joshua C. Hein Lancaster, Wis.

My dear Father; [James Christie]
I was at Beaver Dam Saturday, and at Uncle Tom's Sunday, and saw to all monetary matters.
Tommy Reid is gone to the North end of the Chicago & N.W. R.R. to help on its extension at $2.50 per day, $4.00 off for board. He is now about one Dave's size; and perhaps it is as well that he shall have his first brush with the world within a day's ride of home.
So Uncle's old debt force are all away working for even Jimmy is getting $10. with Alex. Ramsay.
Jimmy Gibb is at home, sick with a fever caught at Prairie du C.

but so soon as able he goes to Oshkosh to the Business College to finish learning in Book-keeping, etc.

This is all the Foreign News of importance; — and now of Home affairs. My school is a growing success; — 43 enlisted and more anxious to be sworn in and at. I am establishing a regime in which the citizens rejoice; for the old order, or rather disorder of things was far from satisfactory to them; — and, as I am carrying the scholars with me in the reform, my success is assured.

Am getting Webster's Academic Dictionary, price $2.00, introduced; and the pupils are learning to regard words as representative of ideas — a thing they never dreamed of before. The whole school, nearly, write daily after Spencerian Copies; and a class in Composition will recite Friday's. Am putting everything in order and infusing life into the whole concern.

My own principal studies are Humboldt's Cosmos and Whately's Rhetoric, both of which I am learning through at high pressure. My ability to pack away the facts and principles of a book is on the increase. This year will see me far advanced; and next year will bring "better" pecuniary compensation" — a secondary but an important consideration.

I am in most excellent health and spirits; have nothing to complain of but that the days are only 24 hours long. I hope all in Lapidan can say as much. Do not expect long

letters from me; for I must husband my time and energies. Now would I ask you to write at length either. We wish to hear from each other often; as to the subject matter of our thoughts we know that both are plodding on steadily.

Be cheerful. Our troubles are not things to be troubled at, — at least ~~by~~ not by such philosophers and citizens of all worlds as we are. Your bow shall abide in strength, despite these slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

Tell me whether Sam's picture was rec'd., for I would be sorry if it were lost.

Your Affectionate Son.

Alexander.

Lowell Oct. 30. 72.

Please send, Sir, and entitle
& plead accordingly
to the sum claimed. I feel
the pleasing prospect of getting
this matter settled.

57 scholars. 55 Thing about
my will. Good Night
and God bless you.

My Dear Sarah; [Christie]

Yours and inclosures rec'd. I think you have done wisely in this. You probably feared Mrs. M. more than any other. In regard to the threats of any, I do not know what can be said to them. Would it not be well ~~for~~ to give them certain assurance that ~~we~~ more than yourself are endeavoring to pay? Most people can and will wait, if receiving int. and pretty certain of getting principal.

It will be necessary to state plainly our inability to do anything for them immediately; but at the same time, a brother's

assurance of their ultimately being paid, might stop their mouths in most cases.

If your outgoes are within your income, there is no use of fretting about it. That won't pay a cent of debt. Take it cool; - there is no use of making a bad job worse. I think it would be wise to put me in correspondence with that most persistent duns.

How shall I do with Tom? Shall I state that I have sent you money? How can I avoid doing so?

I send you a letter rec'd some time ago. I did not notice till yesterday his request to forward to you.

The contents are cheering. I think Tom will stand by you till every cent is paid.

I wish I could help you tomorrow and next day. I will be with you in spirit at least. I hope you will be able to get a first grade; but if you do not, and even have to give up your school, think not that you are beaten.

Here is a plan:-

Let us offer joint notes to your debtors, drawn at proper intervals of time to make payment possible, and at reasonable interest. If they will not take these, let them wait, or go to flinders. It seems an honest method; and they will see it. It would take the care off you wonderfully. I may be able to raise the wind a little in some other way than teaching, or the year be out.

In any event, take things

perfectly cool. Read their letters and put them in your pocket, paying no further attention to them. Horse will not be apt to come. People hesitate long, and well they may, ere publishing the insolvency of a lady in good society, and one formerly their friend. Perhaps they consider consequences to themselves from exasperated friends of their victim. Never fear their doing this. – They dare not. Do not study too hard. After Ex. is over, take it easy.

Drop me a line, to let me know how you have come out of Ex.

Never mind sending receipts: – I will trust you fully.

Away with Care. Do the best you can for your creditors, and let them whistle. Setting all things right is merely a question of time. It appears terrible now – to did the War. – When we look back on that now.