James C. Christie and Family Papers

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Lowell Wisconsin Nov 9th 1872.

My dear Father [James Christie]

Yours of 13th Oct rec.

I agree with you in all that you say of the general character of the phenomena of spiritism; they are bursting forth from the lower world, and should be avoided, or viewed from a safe distance, like the eruptions of volcanoes. That tampering with these unseen agencies involves disturbances of the sub-the forces of mind & physical constitution, is apparent in the strange, wild looks of the spiritists themselves, especially the mediums. Mrs Severance of Milwaukee, who has delivered two lectures here, and will probably continue them once a month, claims to be able, not only to heal magnetically, but to read, when in her natural state, the conditions mental ~~and~~ moral and physical of persons not even present. She disgusted me with her bold unsupported assertions; her masculine voice and carriage, her "artful dodging" of questions asked (at her request), and most of all, (for I have the gift of reading character as well as herself,) by the evident attempt to keep up the delusion among her followers, a part of the delusion being her $15 per day's lecturing.

After reading 3 vols. of the Cosmos, I may say, that it has added less to my knowledge of facts, than it has given me an insight into the ~~time and~~ sequence of their discovery. For Humboldt aims to show, not only wherein the "Beautiful Order" consists, but the history of the development of the idea of Cosmic order in the human mind, the awaking of man to a sense of the true and orderly state of things. Some parts of the work are extremely dry to the general reader; though to a professional Astronomer or Geologist, they would be interesting. He pays a just tribute to mathematics, when he says; "Intellectual labor shows itself in all its exalted grandeur when, instead of requiring external material means, it derives its light exclusively from the sources found to pure abstraction by the mathematical development of thought. There dwells an irresistible charm, venerated by all antiquity, in the contemplation of

mathematical truths, — in the everlasting revolutions of time and space, as they reveal themselves in tones, in numbers, and in lines." The mathematics are so replete with the beautifully perfect, the unchanging as-it-should-be, that one turns regretfully from their contemplation to that of the mutable and sadly disjointed affairs of men. And yet these relations of tones and numbers and lines are almost too perfect and everlasting to give us unalloyed pleasure. There is nothing human in their perfect symmetry and unerring righteousness: the temple is beautiful above all, man's workmanship, but it is empty — not a footfall, not a human tone to greet the anxious seer. There is no priest, no altar, no remission of sins. It is the temple of the Fates!

You ask of Uncle Tom's opinions and reports. He expresses himself much in favor of the ~~the~~ Country; and thinks we did extraordinarily well in getting that place. He likes the way you all seem to get along like one family — a marked contrast to his home. You two Uncle misses the sympathy of his own children more than anything else. His accounts of you and Jimmy are so good and cheering. As to his seemingly chaotic state of mind, that was partly owing to his determination, (to which I urged him) not to discuss speculative subjects. In discussing such questions, I find him quite illogical at times; and especially ignorant of the meanings of the words which he uses, or others have used. True, his position is strong; he seldom affirms, and when he does, his affirms a negation. The burden of proof rests with his opponent; and he makes proving no easy task, by calling in question the validity of everything advanced. To make you fail in your endeavor, he will ~~ignore~~ deny all that ever transpired in time; 2d all that now exists in space; 3d. your being; 4th his own. If you say that, of his being, he at least must be absolutely certain, he will reply, that you are not. And when you confidently assert your own existence, he will defy you to prove it to him. And there you stand, facing each other, two isolated facts, or falsehoods, you cannot tell which; whereupon he invites you to share his dinner, lends you a V. and sends you on your way rejoicing, resolved that if you can prove nothing else, you will prove honest.

The position of the sceptic par excellence is unpregnable. A child can defend it. Defense consists in simply denying. But having resisted every attempt to drive him from it, he is only too willing to leave the desolate spot. The fact is, he was defending himself, not it. I find no other position impregnable; but rather than spend my days on the forbidding herbless crag, I would take the chances of battle in the fertile vale.

In relation to the payment of debt. You has paid off about $200. of debt, partly his own, partly Sarah's, with the first quarter's installment of his salary. I sent Sarah $80. in cash about the 23d Sept. She paid a debt of $47.30 in Beloit and sent me the receipt of her creditor, $4.93 of freight on her boxes to Lancaster, also sent me R.R. & Stage receipt. Paid her board-bill in Lancaster $21. and will send the residue to Beloit on debt. $60. which I sent You earlier, paid Sarah's ticket to L. and Anne Murphy's to Edgerton. We confounded that set of poverty-stricken, creditor-hunted pseudo-philanthropists I ever heard of. You was reckless and uncalculating; but he is a jewel of honesty and truth beside some others. And I believe he will prove as self-sacrificing as he dare be under his present circumstances.

The indebtedness has actually begun to melt away; and so let us not be troubled.

The characters I meet with here are so like those we find in all other places, that it would not be worth our while to discuss them at length. Fond mothers vain of their daughters, fathers proud of their sons, ignorant bigots, drunken sceptics, hypocrites, knaves, fools; all bedecking themselves in feathers and bright colors even as God has prospered each in obtaining eagles' tails and pigment. Amid all this and these, some goodness of heart, some childish priggishness and innocence, some sterling principle, and much good intention. People generally living so-so; no higher aspirations than to "get along," make an "appearance" in the little world around them, and "do" for their children. Well, what more can be expected in these dull times, when there are neither prophets nor apostles, devils incarnate nor wonder-working exorcists? I dismiss this and kindred subjects, or I would go crazy thinking about them.

Election went off quietly. Lodge Democratic by

a large majority. Had I voted, my voice had been for Grant, much as I deprecate the corruption of our office-holders, and the errors of this administration.
One is loth to leave his native land for a once feared, detested, hostile shore. Our Leonidas may be dead, our Miltiades disgraced and dead, our Themistocles at the Court of Artaxerxes, but the glorious Conservation of Thermopylae, of Marathon and of Salamis, rests upon our mountains and our sea.
The news of the general result seems to go hard against Greeley's hopes; but even should he be elected, neither place nor profit will make him happy among his new friends: and dying, he will wish that his ashes may rest in his own Attica.
I hope I may get my next school nearer Blue Earth Co. I shall keep a sharp look-out, and if I can descry a good haven there, I will make for it. Before next fall I will get examined, (even if I go to Madison, therefor.) in Trigonometry, Analytical Geom. The Calculus, Astronomy, Surveying and Navigation; and if good matter in those will not secure me a place as teacher of mathematics, I will feel disappointed. I think my best plan would be to go to Madison at close of College year, and be examined with the classes. I am studying as hard as ever, 7 hours per day. My health is good. I drank tea and coffee from 4th of July until recently, but find that it is not good for me. Opens the pores, and I catch cold. Cannot depend on myself as when I use no stimulants. Hope I will never need to make the experiment again.
There is no use of fretting about my studying too hard, for I never go beyond my strength. And study I must. I must lift myself out of these district schools into a College as soon as I can. I believe it possible for me even to gain a professorial chair. And as Tutor, I may figure in no distant future. I will lay the foundation of my fame for mathematics by means of the State Teachers Monthly this coming winter. My name shall be familiar to them, and through them, to Educators.
Why does not Dave write? My love to all our household,

Alexander.

Rapidan, Nov. 10th 1872

[To S. J. Christie
Lancaster, Wis.]

Daughter Sarah,

I write this morning hoping you are in health. Yet doubting. Your long silence troubles me, neither do I get any letter from Thomas or Alex which also causes me to think something is wrong.

If this little sheet should find you able, please, out of your love to me; write at least a few lines. You are never long out of my thoughts and you are daily remembered in my broken prayers. May the Lord Guide and keep you, and give you strength of soul to help you. We here are in our usual way, and gloomy November, the forerunner of winter is upon us with cloudy skies and depressing power. I have been busy for sometime putting on a new coat of boards and siding on our little house in the endeavor to turn aside the cold blasts of this North West. I would have written before this if not so engaged. The Child is in good health, a very fine and rough Boy. Yet physically of an excitable temperament as is also indicated by his Hair. which is like silk in fineness.

I get no newspaper now, and your Christian Union come seldom, if you continue to take it state, please send it weekly, and it will seem as if it were a newspaper, besides comes directly from your hand. Weekly it truly will be as intelligence from yourself. It must be trying to you to be in a city where you know no one. This is being when one needs to lean on that unseen friend, who can guide us and keep us from harm. without whom indeed there is no safety anywhere. But when in the midst of friends and acquaintances we are apt to forget. In whom a perfect and abiding faith and trust is the deepest necessity of our present conditions. My Dear Sarah. You should not look towards the praise of the world. Seek for the approbation of Him who only awards praise according to the motives of our hearts. The praise of men is evanescent and uncertain and often wrongly bestowed. But to hear in the secret chambers of consciousness the echoes of "Well done thou good and faithful servant. is the highest summons to enter into the joy of

Our Lord. All else is mere vanity, the fruitful source of many vexations. I had a visit from your Uncle William my Brother lately. He stayed a week. Was well satisfied with our place and position here. Told me all about my mother death, complaining much of the selfishness of his children. Yet assured me that Helen began to have, or at least to show more sympathy with him. He is still the same man, as not having any faith in the unseen. Yet may seems to perceive that the Spirit of Christianity is Love. This is quite a long step in advance of his old position. Brother William is endowed with good common sense and a natural good heart. But like myself was cursed in early youth with the spirit of Doubt and Unbelief the greatest loss that could have befallen us, as I see it. to be born in the midst of poverty and vicious surroundings, is nothing to the deprivation of Faith. Because with that is lost the lever of Elevation, and closed are all the avenues of the Life from above the while not secure unto the morning of Eternity has dawned upon us. How great a loss that was. I am happy for your sake that you have never been insensible to the proximity of the Invisible that surrounds us. and that God has assumed all our sins in Jesus Christ if we will but believe this. and at least obey in our hearts. seeking to do the Will of him who so freely gives us Justification upon these conditions.

Keep up my Dear Sarah that precious Faith which is so necessary to us struggling with enemies within and without, all other Hope is delusion. Be hopeful in the midst of all your Errors and difficulties. hopeful that God will not lay to our charge those things which we had not ability to do. in the circumstances in which we were placed, with the hereditary taint with which we were endowed. But will freely forgive us all things in Christ Jesus. I long to hear from you because there is a certain fear of Evil hanging around somewhere, it is with me a good deal of the time, and the silence of you all leaves too much room for sorrowful brooding, which I can not get rid of. Write immediately and assure me of your welfare. or at least let me know how all is with you whether good or bad. This little sheet conveys to you my unceasing Love for you. Always hoping for Grace to you

Your Father J. Christie

Rapidan, 13 Nov. 1872

My Dear Son [Alexander]

It is now quite a long time since I had any letter from you. Are you dissatisfied at any thing I have written? or is it that you have so much trouble to find either time or peace to write letters?

I get no letters from Sarah, nor from Tom, and now you fail me. I am doubly alone without some conversation with you. I saw in your letter to David that the school begins to need some looking after. Lowell has never been famed for its decency and good order, and the sons of that nursery must necessarily be knotty and scraggy some. When I heard of your taking that position, I did not think you had lain down on a bed of roses at least without a full allowance of thorns. Yet if you roll over them sufficiently you will turn all their points I have no fear.

Lewis has all but finished his plowing and backsetting. But this morning it snows and blows from the north and I judge the ploughs must share their resting for a year.

Little Jamie is stout and noisy, having lately passed out of the Genus Rodentia. He now sports six incisors, and leaves their marks very visibly in an apple or raw potatoe, fruits and roots are no longer impervious to him. Nor yet are prizes if you will try, to serious and excitable specimens of humanity who know also when he is well used, and who takes most care of him, quite a pleasure and quite a burden to me, and the source of endless musings and pitying emotions, the mystery of mysteries an innocent child, without sin and yet innocently full of all possibilities of it, sojourns carrying a burden of undeveloped sorrow as happily as if it were perfectly innocuous. Ignorance is bliss in their case surely. But he begins to learn that there are things to be shunned already in this wonderful world. He fears to touch the stove, and what a study it is to see him because forbidden, attempt to do it, have he will not be deterred and will approach his finger and then draw back aware of danger. I could that he should ever do so, and to escape that I would lie in wait for him

now that daylight is here. I see the snow go by horizontally direct impetus, as having a mission and doing it.

This fair week I have check mated the North West with a Crata Mor of rich Boards on our Chant and over all a cluster of Riding Cases the heinous outside. Banked up with Straw and Bind and now we feel as if we could see it out. "Snug as Gophers." Without, the storm may roar and rustle. Neither fear its fuss or Bustle" and await the long winter undisturbed. That was a stitch in time that has at least saved two, if not nine. Grant Elected. and poor Greeley lost his Companion in the midst of political defeat. I am sorry for him. I think the defeated man the most respectable and most Forable of the two. Yet I turned out to vote Grant in. Because this is an Evil World and he the Ablest to Cope with it. Grant could exterminate in Silence and Calm. That which Horace would unfurrow while it Got the upper hand. I have no doubt Greeley thinks of it as I do. and himself will righteously defeat Grant. I Get no newspaper now and only hear of things second handed. Some have neglected to pay up the Arrearage at the proper time and they stopt short at once. This has Gentle merely on their part. I have no reading whatever those is new. and am thrown Back on all accumulations. And Rumination. Your Uncle visit looks like a dream to me already! My deepest impression from it is that Wellington is a Good hearted man of Great Common Sense. Who finds his Intellectual House too room. Thinking so much of it he has walled himself in and has neither sufficient room nor Light. All he needs is a Cupola in the roof to Bring all right even Yet. But he despises the prescriptions of the Best Architects and sits style in darkness. But I find that the Wisest intellectually have at the Best Gropest there way. This alone Faith which opens the way to the Marvellous Light which is shed down upon us.

Now Carefully take me of your troubles not that I have any Misgivings myself further than the belief that All is ordered for Good and therefore we should bear in patience and wait hopefully for Emancipation. trusting and doing what we can in our own Strength. and looking for and putting Help. where it is to be found. the Strong, the Comforting. the Conquering hence passed before. and Lo the helping hand is held out to draw us up invisible to the sense, Yet openly visible to reason and to faith. as the vapors insensibly ascend from Earth to Heaven to become Clouds refreshing the Earth with Showers and fructifying Showers. by the power of the Sun. So certain is it that an analogous influence is forever working for the Exaltation of Humanity from its Earthly Conditions into those which are Heavenly. this is Effected by the Exaltation of individuals as well as by those institutions which Carry forward Society Generally. there is proof Enough of this my position besides that which is derived from Analogy. But from the Preponderance of the Correspondential faculty in my intellectual Make up. I can most Clearly perceive the truth when I Get astride of a Correspondence and pursue the truth a Horseback. But in You the inductive faculty is strong. and if You will Collect the facts. You will Come to the Same Conclusions by direct inductions which I do by riding it down. Your Conclusions will also be more worthy of dependence than mine as ~~dependence~~ being Based upon a Clear Ratiocination. Collect the facts, make a true deductions and reach the truth. I pray you, and be no more Unbelieving Your Stupid Uncle! Be look Continually upon those words which God has spoken in his Works and never see their significance! Beholding the letter alone!

Nov. 14th Morning. The Storm still rages all yesterday, all last night. the air full of obscure Voice necessary to be always prepared! For it must needs be that such shall come. And woe to those who have not prepared themselves Aright to Avert the Consequences, Who have no Certain dwelling place impervious to the war of the Elemental forces. this turmoil is to Build us up in Virtue, the solid strength as the fruit of the war. which is its prime Object. and this World the School of our training the Wrestle with the Angel of the Storm and gain power. This power Being transferred to us. Our Conquest Converts the wrath into Blessing. there is nothing like a strong hold on the Source of Evil, a summoning of the Energies. and the take the spoils, Like Jacob, it is really the Breaking of the day with us all, when we have put down our Adversary by making a friend of him By Conquest, Conquered, he is in our Power. Vision Hears the Wile of the Lion not Ostentatiously like a Braggart Bully in Vanity. But only in symbolical that the Strength of his Enemy is now transferred to himself, the Skin of all things is the Appearance they take, and we know that there is illusory. There is nothing terrible to Virtue But the Wicked of Earth when no man pursueth.

Your Uncle was telling me of his speaking against the doctrines of your Lowell Spiritualists in their Meetings. I presume he attends Lowell on Sundays often. Do not in any way interfere, nor be tempted to give your Opinions to them Folks. Do not commit yourself to either party. There is very little knowledge on either side. Keep strictly the character of an Observer. Look at all things, just as close as you like. only do not touch. It is the eating of Sour Grapes that has set the teeth of this Generation so much on edge, and from the same cause the anticipated derangement of Bowels, too much Heave work, Sandy. and so, disorder Hearts. This ancient sour Wine, anyway is no palatum for the Affections. Better to wait and drink it new in the Kingdoms of Heaven. There is nothing to be found in this Old Tomb Where so many Generations have been Buried But Dead Mens Bones. in this Age We do not desire to see the resurrection of Ancient Morals. they stink of that Charnel House of Injurity into which so many ~~Ancient~~ Nations sank to rise no more. You may believe that We can hold Communications With them, But you Cannot handle Coal Without Blackening your Hands. "Touch not. Taste not. Handle not."

I believe you are Weary of my interminable talk on this Topic. When you have a little money please send me a Book of some Kind I will keep it for you. only do not let it be Mathematical - 15th - the same Storms still continues and we await With impatience for its end. the thermometer is not low however. being 26 above. Only the reeds and Weeds Shake in the Wind so, and the Swan hurries past at such a rate as if they also should go and Escape the Evil to Come from this Country. Every thing Migrates that is not rooted and rooted fast too. The Cows stand with hair and Eyes and Keep in the Shelters such as it is. they I think pay hence their purgatory here on Earth. and they shew the Effect in Humility and Endurance. poor Creatures I pity them. and shall do my best to make the next Storm more tolerable for them. Sabiel has swopped off his steer Calves and 10$ for a Colt to mate Old Rider's Colt., and so there are 6 horses in the Stable. The United States have died out here as a distinct Body. No preaching. No Nothing. This is a dead corpse of the Vine Yard. I have no doubt it Merely pleases the Devil and the Baptists. And now after this terrible Affirmation, Good Morning
Give my Respects to Uncle William. J. Corwin

and also Wrote of a Young Woman Poor, Weak

Where in the Wetters, we are Dead and Dwelling in the Shadow of Death Darkness, not Comprehended in Heaven

[To James Christie, Castle Garden, Penna]

Lancaster Pa.
Saturday Afternoon.-
Nov. 16th 1850.

My Very Dear Father;

At last I have taken time to write to you - I never was so O. very busy as since my coming to Lancaster - I felt quite unwell for a long time after my arrival here but now that I am well into the harness, and know my work and the people I am doing well. - For the last three weeks indeed I think I can say with truth that I have not felt as well for years - I am kept so constantly busy with my duties that I have no time to think even, of past troubles or cares - and my present work is delightful - I cannot imagine how I could be more plea-

antly situated - somehow I always find so many people wherever I go who are so admirable, and whom I learn to love. - and everyone seems to be so kind to me. - If my letter seems rambling do not mind, for there are so many things I want to say to you, and to tell you, and I will first jot them down as they enter my mind - Your letter of the 11th of Oct. I rec'd some time ago and not - because I was neglectful, or did not care that I have not written to you sooner. - I cannot begin to tell you all that has occupied me. - I was so glad to know that the baby was well - dear blue-eyed little Jimmie. I long to see him next summer if we live. Although I have seen more of you for so long, and I write little, still my heart is with you all there, more than ever now. it would be impossible for me ever to grow away, or become estranged or careless - The longer I stay away, and the more I see of the world the more dear to me is the old home and my own people. - I wonder if I ever told you how I happened to get this place? - Last summer vacation at Commencement of Rockford Sem. Tom & Carrie went down from Madison. and, because they were to be there I wanted to go, and Miss Merriam a teacher in the High School at Beloit (and an intimate friend of mine) wanted to go to see a lady friend who taught in the Sem. a Miss Ashmun - Prof. Hendrickson and Prof. Eaton also wished to go down so we all went together in a carriage that is. They took me - and we stayed over Sunday - and while there discovered that Miss Ashmun was from Waupaca Co. and a friend of my old room-mate "Dan Home" of Fox Lake memory - learned that she was married to a former School Supt of Waupaca Co. a Scotchman, by name McGregor. and that he was Principal of Lancaster High School - So when on the look-out for a good situation wrote to him and rec'd kind letters from both himself and wife. - "Dan" was delighted to hear of me, and we have corresponded ever since - After the Clerk had offered me a place and I had accepted

Mr McBryer resigned on account of ill-health - and is at present on a farm taken for a year in Franpacia Co - Jim Jr Ryland the Lawyer here, and Clerk, offered the place through me to our Jim - and finally to Mr Chamberlin, the present Prin. whom I asked. He didn't know I was to come here neither did I know he was coming until a few days before we started - But I am glad now that Mr McBryer resigned. He was a very slack disciplinarian and it would have fretted me to death to ~~teach~~ hang together with him - I will always be grateful to Mr Chamberlin for his kindness to me - a brother could not be more considerate - He never does anything in connection with our school-work without consulting me - and he *might* do very much differently as the majority of Principals do - all that is of course gratifying and then he tries to make my place pleasant as possible for me - relieving me of all he possibly can. He is thoughtful, kind, and good as he can be - He is a quiet man - has little to say, unassuming - almost diffident in his manner - is over six feet - in height - a little bit awkward looking, a quite plain unhandsome face - I *suppose* he is about twenty six or seven but looks older - He was brought up on a farm near Beloit - took the "Salutatory" when he graduated last summer (that is the *second* class honor) He is deep and earnest - a sincere Christian man -

Mr McGregor was not - that is another reason why I am glad it is Mr G - instead - Mr Ryland - the clerk here is a perfect gentleman - one of the finest men I ever knew - he is very wealthy - a banker and lives in a fine large house - filled with everything beautiful - his wife is also as near perfection as woman can be - they have no children - he attends to his banking business and she is an Artist - has a great passion for painting - and employs all her time mainly in that way - they both like me very much - for at least they tell me so and by their conduct prove it - and I know anyway that they are sincere - The Examination for teachers came off here last week and I have been studying to take a 1st Grade certificate but felt after all unprepared in Geometry and Philosophy - I spoke to Mr Ryland about it - and he told me not to trouble myself about it - he would make it all right with the Superintendent - and I could be examined next Spring - It was a very great kindness to me for it is expected that High School teachers will take 1st Grade - and I might not have passed and that would have ~~bented~~ been a terrible thing - That troubled me in accepting the situation - for I knew that when the Examination came off I would have to be examined for a 1st Grade. But finally I made up my mind - and felt I would trust for the rest - and I got over it easily and with honor - for Mr Chamberlin was absent for two whole days being examined - and I had charge of the whole building during the time and carried on the High School

our Dept. of 75 pupils - and heard all of Mr C's classes and some of my own. Of course I worked hard preparing the nights before - and Mr C. helped me to prepare for the Latin classes and the Geometry - but I did it - and so far as Government was concerned he was not missed in the building - The roughest boys we have or the most boyishness girls will obey immediately a look or word or motion of the hand from me, soon as from him. - and now having all winter in which to prepare I can be examined and pass well. - We have a beautiful school-building, and our room is decorated with green hanging-baskets in each window - and geraniums, rose bushes, and other plants in pots in the window-sills of each window also. - We have one geranium in bloom that is five feet in height - and all branched out round in proportion - We have a nice black-walnut desk or large table rather, ~~covered~~ on castors up on the platform - covered with green broadcloth glued on in some way - and we each have a large arm-chair behind it - Up high on the wall above our heads and facing the school is a ~~lag~~ large Evergreen arch - within it - a cross in Evergreen - and beneath within the arch also the words my Evergreen - For God is our first. - Mr C. got the Evergreens and helped me some but had other things to do and I made nearly the whole myself - It took us two whole Saturdays from morning till night, besides nights after school to get our room fixed up to suit us. - I have seven pictures on the walls and the scholars brought five others, so that we have twelve in all in our school-room. - I could not resist the temptation to hang my dearly loved pictures there for the sake of our boys and girls - our room is a gem to look at - it is the admiration of the townspeople and all visitors. - I gave every picture I had excepting yours and Tom's and one I left with Tom and Carrie (one that Tom liked - his class - I wish you could see our school-room - it is our pride. - But I must cut short my discourse - I am talking very conceitedly to you always, but I would not, you know, to anyone else. - Mrs Morgan (the teacher of the Gram. School) and myself have been boarding ourselves for the last four weeks - have hired rooms of the old Scotch lady Mrs Rossie - We both enjoy it very much - We find that wood, lights and board

per week cost us but $1.50 apiece. — We live mainly on bread, potatoes, and sometimes meat — usually however, once a day the meat. — Also tea & coffee. — We have most wonderful appetites and can always eat heartily of our simple fare — I don't know when I felt as well. — I never have a bad taste in my mouth mornings now — I feel happy almost all the time, and cheerful — My lungs are not troubling me in the least just now and I take all precautions to increase in health and preserve what I have. — I almost invariably lately go to bed at 9 and rise at 6. — I never enjoyed teaching as I do with Mr C — But it is not that alone — everything combines to make it pleasant for me. — Every Friday Evening — our choicest young ladies and High School boys come to sort of study English Literature with me. — To one room the last time Mr C. met with us also and is to continue I believe — We are reading Milton — Walter Scott and Jean Ingelow. We read and talk — It commenced by two of the girls coming to me to ask if they might come and spend the next evening with me — they wanted me to help them understand something they were reading. — And so it commenced and now there is quite a choice class of them — some of the finest minds among them I have ever met — I love all of them dearly and they know it and reciprocate. — I have a class too of our oldest High School boys in Sunday School — and preparing the lessons takes about 3 hours of my time

two every week.—(Mr Champlin has a class in S. School of the young men of the town, clerks &c)—So you will begin to understand how my time is occupied to say nothing of housework prayer-meeting and S. School Teachers meeting on Wed. Eve—and then the entertaining of company. So we have many callers.—I have a large class of boys and girls in Natural Hist and every thur evening nearly one or two, or a troop of them will come in with old birds nests shells &c for me to look at.—So many of the boys remind me of our boys and cousin Will at their age—especially Dave that I just like hugging them all the time—Miss Morgan is formerly from Maine a graduate of Plattsville State Normal School—is an "old maid" of 32 yrs—shrewd and practical has taught for many years—I like her, and we get on nicely together.— There are quite a goodly number of "great-lights" in Lancaster.—P.L. is the home of Ex-Governor Dennison & wife—they have no children—also several Captains and Colonels—one General Collins, the name one member of the State Legislature—Mr Cline and a member of Congress—the Hon. Allen Barber.— The place is well represented in Beloit College—also at the State University One Cong. Minister Rev. Mr Eaton is one of the Trustees of Beloit College—have had two sons graduate there—one last year—taking the Valedictory—and one the year previous to the time Tom graduated, he also James Eaton took the Valedictory—They are a noble family—Mr & Mrs Eaton go to Beloit every year at Commencement—and I had met them both there previous to coming here at Prof. Emerson's.—They do all they can

to make it pleasant for me here. They have a niece (Miss Otis) who boards with them and has charge of the Intermediate Dept. of our School. She is inexperienced and I assist her a great deal. Mr & Mrs Eaton tell me every time they see me, how grateful they are to me for the assistance I give her. and I feel glad to have some way in which I can do them any kindness. He is a graduate of Yale and as a preacher of the Gospel both by word, and in his life stands on an equal footing with the best of the Beloit Professors. So you will see by all these things what privileges I enjoy in every way, and how grateful I ought to be to God, for having led me in this way. — I do not write any letters once in a long while, a short note to Tom or Sandy. I take no papers now which will account for you not getting any from me, but I intend to begin taking a couple, at least, with the beginning of the New year. This is like living in the dark without them, and for a teacher it will not do. — As soon as I begin taking any you and Dave will have them. Tell me what ticket you and Dave voted and your reasons for it. With respect to politics I have been "on the fence" Mr C. also, and in consequence he did not vote at all. Give me your views as soon as possible please for I feel deeply interested in the subject. I cannot bear the idea however, of Grely having been supported by those who were "Copperheads" (hated word during wartime, and yet I cannot get over loving Grely and admiring him more than I do Grant. He is the greater man of the two both in goodness and in so far as intellect is concerned. — Tell me about your health

I hope you will take good care of yourself during the winter. I have your picture framed (a copy of the one taken in Watertown) and hung on the wall. it gives me great comfort. and under it I have Jonie framed. I send you one of mine taken about a month ago here, before I was feeling as well as I am now. It was taken as I was coming home from school one night. Several of the teachers went in, we were accompanied with the artist and he took for a price for each of us, at half price. 40 cents and that is one of them. I want you to tell me truly how it impresses you. and if you see any changes and what they are. — Tell me how Mother is. and Emma. Also tell me all about James Arnott. I want to hear about him very much. Poor Jimmie, I wish I could be his wife, and try to make his life happy. I wish I could. That is I wish I could feel it would be right, for his sake. Be sure and tell me all about him if there be any change going on in his life and what way it is tending. somehow I have a great deal of faith in him. I feel as if God loved him so much that he would not let him go. I believe there is heaven there, whether it be commenced to work on not. It is mother has a strong hold on him too. — Tell me about Dear Dave. God bless him, and give him Grace to lead his boy. Tell me if little Jimmie is baptized yet. and give me your views on Infant Baptism. — Please dont forget. Just sit down immediately, and devote a whole day or two if necessary to writing me a long letter. If you are unable write me one

of any kind - you cannot think how I hunger and thirst to hear from you again - If Dave's asthma - tell me if it trouble him, and if he has any remedy. Do you use the "Vade Mecum" I sent you? If not - would you mail it - to me? I have a case of medicines, and I take some necessarily at times myself, and I give to others once in a while - but have no book for reference - and need one. If you do not use that - please lend it - to me for awhile - If it is of any use to you keep it - and now I must stop - Please do not forget if you are able to say something about "Politics" and "Infant Baptism". - I will look for a letter from you every night - anxiously and eagerly until it comes. -
My dear Father, your sympathy and your love and care is dearer to me than all the world beside. - My love to Dave and Emma, Mother and yourself - Kiss Jimmie for me - and Good night -

Affectionately -

Sarah. -

Address Box 111. Lancaster, Grant-Co Wis. -

Rapidan. Nov. 28th 1872.

My Dear Sarah. [Christe]

Your very

Long letter received. I am pleased to learn that your position in Lancaster is so pleasant to you. and that it seems you have many good and friendly people around you who take an interest in your welfare. It is very fortunate for you that you and the principal, Mr Chamberlin ~~and~~ you are on so amicable terms. Your description of the school rooms shows them to be very tastefully dressed up. Something such should all such places be. Were these flowers in pots gifts of the Town people, or the school authorities from the common fund? or were they purchased at the expense of Mr Chamberlin and you?

My Dear Sarah permit me here to caution you in regard to your personal expenses. Consider your financial situation, it is really awfule. And it should be with you a religious duty to save every part of your wages that is not absolutely necessary to your life and health, for the liquidation of your debts. There is no other honest way in which to cancel all the obligations you are under. Let it be my Dear Sarah your persistent effort to recover independence honourably and wholly. by a little sacrifice. No blessing will rest upon you unless you do so. Nor untill you do so. Discard from your mind all attempts at worldly approbation which will need to be secured by the violation of this object. Seek rather the approbation of God in a pure conscience. Enlightenen in regard to past error. Let the green roots at your back remind you that it must be carried in your heart, the sweet smelling flowers. The blooming roses and geraniums are not so grateful to the sense. as is the sacrifice of the heart the sacrifice of those which we love. for the sake of virtue. in the sight of the Saviour. Thus you break your box of alabaster and its odor fills all the house. it fills with its sweet smell

the Temple in Heaven, and is Acceptable, and returns as your own head in Gods Blessing. These My Dear Sarah are not far fetched metaphors. They are the simple Statement of Facts, if you could discern them by the spiritual Eye

You must listen to me with patience, for you stand on a very dangerous place, if you do not do now as I bern you to do. You will assuredly fall to where you cannot be helped My Dear Sarah. My Grief for you is Great, and that cause me still to reiterate the warning. Consider also of your brother. Alas! if you shall fail in earnestness of effort you will still pain. He gives up all his private personal objects in order to succor you. He offers a Great sacrifice in your behalf. I cannot say more. I pray for you daily. But I am unworthy. Seek to Get yourself My Dear Child, for strength and help to overcome. Your welfare is of Great importance to me. May God keep you in peace

You speak to me of Politics. I am no politician and cannot scarcely protest scarcely of what transpires. I votee for Grant he being in my Opinion preferable to Greeley as a president. I however have a Greater liking for Horace as a man. He is of a larger heart, more intellectual altogether more Capable than Grant. Yet I could not vote for him. Although I owed him much, for my own enlightenment politically. But his accession to the Presidential Chair would also have been the accession to power of a Class who under the name of Liberalism and Democracy seek to Establish the rule of the ~~true~~ aristocrat. Greeley could not have controlled the party who would have placed him in power. I look upon the Democratic force of this Country as representative of the vicious aspect of the nation. That is the form of Belief of American politics carries the Controle of the Largest portion of the Ignorance and Vice of the Country, is Disintegrating in its nature. Anti progressive in true progress, the instrument of the most selfish and least noble of American politicians, the Tool also of Parkinism and priest-craft. They put up Greeley to Get hold of power. His success would have been the wedge that would have split it in pieces

Grant in my Estimate of him has more common sense than Greeley, is more Cool, more firm, less tender of humanity could do terrible things if necessary, and put down Evil which would appal Horace, and do it without fuss, while Horace would be wringing his hands and tearing his white coat or his hair. We need such a stern Executive in this half finished Country and Society, for truly this United States is but half Organized, a little loose and shaky Yet. There are some of my reasons for voting Grant, they have my determining motives. I do not think however that President Grant or the Republican party are anywise near being immaculate or infallible. But they are better than the worst, and I cannot do other than vote that Ticket, and they have been again ordained as the powers that be. I trust they will improve upon themselves.

And you also ask of Infant Baptism. I am no authority in such matters. Yet I will tell you what I think and I will be able to shew what I think of infant Baptism more correctly by trying first to answer a preliminary Question. "What is Baptism" The Greek word I believe means Immersion in water for the purpose of Cleansing. That its literal import points its object the initiatory rite which gives admittance into the Visible Church A Symbol or sign of something else. Now what is that which it represents? We shall follow an analogy to discover its significance. Natural Birth then is the representation on the natural plane of Spiritual Birth. All the language applied to that change in Scripture is borrowed from the Natural Correspondence. "Ye must be Born again" Effected through faith. The moment of the separation of the Umbilical Cord disconnects the infant from its Mother ~~but~~ its own Lungs must now be the instruments for the purification of its Blood. So in the instance of the new Birth. We are cut off from drawing the purification of our Spiritual Life from the ~~earthly~~ inspiration of the selfish and Earthly Loves. And must henceforth seek purification for our Life in a heavenly Breathing this being the proof that we are Born Again. Not the mere inspire the Holy Spirit. By this means then do we henceforth live the new Life. But before a new born Babe is placed in the Lap of its Mother

It must be purified from the stains of its Old state of life
to Also in a true Conversion are all the stains of the Life of Sin
washed away as preliminary to our introduction into the new
Scenes and Society into which we have been born, as introductory
to being received into the Arms of the Church on Earth, which
is the Mother of all who are born into the Kingdom of Heaven
The external rite of Baptism then, shadows forth, symbolizes this
purification. So that you see, Faith is necessary on the part of all
to enable them to be born again. An infant Child cannot exercise this
duty. it cannot then be born again. therefore cannot enter
the Church by these means. the Mother cannot receive the Child
purified into her Arms untill born. But, as all of
our Salvation is founded upon vicarious suffering by
another. Why may not also a vicarious faith procure
admission into that Kingdom which was in the first
place established by vicarious actions? And why
if in the ancient Church, Members might be vicariously
Baptised for the dead. might they not also be Baptised
for the incapable Infant? It may then be that
in some by the exercise of a strong faith by parents for
their Children, that Children may be born again, and therefore
they receive Baptism in the external rite as an earnest
that they will in the future receive the spiritual Baptism
also after their spiritual
birth. This is Baptism before birth, or rather Born
to faith, as many things are possible. Yet in the Scripture
we have no direct instances on record of proper Baptism
then the record is always of the more tardy and perfect
Church, first Believe then be Born. then be Baptised
But you will at once see, that in all the
scripture instances of Baptism the Apostles see there entire
whole parents there not believers, and of course the necessary
rite had to follow Belief in themselves. And therefore
we will also perceive that ~~the Children of~~ those who
have not received the necessary faith to be spiritually
Baptised themselves cannot exercise a faith upon which
to ground the Baptism of their Children, thus therefore
cut off from Baptism all the Children of Heathen parents

As to the Mode of Baptism I prefer immersion, I think immersion is the proper mode, as it necessarily follows that a Think of Sprinkling cannot do this which is requisite, forasmuch as we must think of Sprinkling a new Born Child? If must be a change in the Eternal life to properly signify the true Baptism. The full Baptism meaning, Burying. Dispute about these Eternal things, they are only the signs, not the realities. One may be Eternally immersed, and sprinkled also, and yet not have Spiritually Baptism. But if they have been spiritually Baptism they are Members of the Church on Earth, not in any fold on Earth. Many Children who have not been Born Again are Baptized by the parent mode of infant Baptism. Yet I see no objection to the Baptism of the Children of those who in our Eternal Faith for them and who go on to prove them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord Because through their faith they Bring them on the Earth and the promise is that Posterity shall Bring on Earth shall be found in their Name, I could say much more. But we are not in authority in any wise.

I must finish anyway to get this away to your and to my dear Sarah. Accept my love and interest to you in the same part of this Life, as from a Good Love for your true welfare, in hopes of that Institution to follow that we shall be all there and secure the Blessings of the Lord.

Excuse me in all respects of Stationery and Always Like to see Things be settled like

Yours in all Love,

Your Father Hollowing

[Miss S. J. Chowatie
Lawrenceburg, Wis.]

Madison
Nov. 28th 1872

"Thanksgiving"

Miss Chowatie

Dear Friend -

I have just taken your letter of Nov 17th. out of my side pocket & when I saw the date I said Tempus fugit is written on all things - If I had a valid excuse I would offer it for not answering it sooner - as it is let me thank you now for it & for it held and

just what I wanted to know. I was glad to hear that all went well with you. Mr. Chamberlin I think you will find to be a sterling man & I am glad he has so good an assistant in you.

I hear from Beloit often used - a letter from Mrs Merriman last week - all were well. Of course you heard of the trouble at the College - though I am a firm upholder of the law at all times - yet I must say - boys have rights as well as professors - It seems to me there were some hasty conclusions in that case - Did the faculty act with their usual caution?

How frail human nature & human understanding - well does Solomon say "Get wisdom get understanding" for its price is far above gold - even much fine gold.

Mother & Daisy are not coming home this winter - not till next summer. I feel a little sad - but am glad for them - have been thinking of them all day - & of the many thanksgiving days we have passed together at the old farm. Those were happy days - days fraught with many blessings - (my landlady just asked me out to take a cup of tea - a side affair) tea maketh glad those out of man. I assume - but the greatest blessing of all - was the society of hus-

Mother - my feelings toward her are something more - than the love of a son for his Mother - that love every man has - & it is no credit for a son to have it - for it is a natural instinct implanted in the human breast by God himself - The Tigers cubs have that instinct - The human instinct is only of a higher order - but when I say something more than this - I mean that natural love blended with that high veneration that a man has for his Mother as a woman - as a Christian - Either standing alone - are good - but combined they - are strong are beautiful - there is a nobility in it - — —

Mr Spalding gave us an excellent sermon today - & the services were very impressive - The singing at Grace Church is very good - & I think the congregation too.

most devout Lenten Rou-
lent we had one thing to
day (or rather one part of the
service) which done was new
that was communion - I liked
it - it made the service as well
as the thanksgiving more
perfect - for what should
we be more thankful ~~for~~
than that Jesus Christ
came in the world. Dame
all mankind - and what
would bring that great sac
rifice more vividly before
us. Then the celebration of
the Lords Supper - - - -
My brother Chas. has made
up his mind that he does
not want an education -
& so this will be his last
term at Racine - he has not
done my will of late - I shall
try to get him into some business -

The 18th of Dec. will see me at Beloit (Wis) then will be three weeks vacation - during that time I shall endeavor to go to Racine - see my Aunt Cousins &c &c - - -

All goes well at the Law School - I was in hopes to have something today in regard to our "Mooted Question" - The "Gift of Tongues" but those not had a channel to look up authorities

So it must stand for the present - but remember I do not back down the question is - Have we given them a "gift" one gifts taken back? we may not see them - but my mind not hope then half for real? - - the question is this answer - -

I suppose you will go to Beloit to spend christmas -

Hoping that this valuable piece of chirography will find you well & in peace with all mankind -

I remain

Yours Truly -

D. H. Millett

We have corresponded thus far, haven't we? Well, I have thought of you if I haven't written, and I am going to write you at this late day to let you know that I am looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to vacation and you. I have, also, inquired about you almost every time I saw your brother but I have not obtained much information, do you know why? We haven't blamed you any, but have been afraid that you are working too hard. I hope your wife is pleasant, one can do so much more without getting worn out when it is.

This is the third time I have commenced on this letter, do you think I ~~will~~ shall finish it?

I was going to tell you how often I see your brother and his wife. Generally

Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Christie:

We travelled around the rebels, the Yankees, the Indians, the Mormons, the Spaniards, the Cubans, the Porto Ricans, the Filipinos, the Hawaiians, the Samoans, the Tagalos, the Aguinaldos, the Tagalos, the Aguinaldos, the Tagalos, the Aguinaldos

once a week, I have been taking Latin lessons of him. I went there to call a few weeks after they came here and in talking about Latin, I remarked that I was forgetting it very fast when he proposed that his wife and myself should take lessons once a week, which proposition I very gladly accepted. We commenced Horace, but now I am afraid another plan will interfere, that is our reading club. Your brother will probably tell you about it, but it won't do any hurt if I do too.

The last time I went to take my lesson I found Prof. Eaton & Hendrickson there eating oysters. At first I felt rather cheap but I concluded that would do no good, so I put a brave face on the matter and sat down to my own dish, doing it full justice. After the feast was over we fell to talking of various things and among others of a reading club. We determined that what was good to talk about was better to act upon, so we five organized ourselves and voted in besides, Miss Fisk Mr. Pettibone, Mr. Eastman & Miss Hotchkiss, and several of us I think felt as if you were the only one wanting to make our number complete. What are we going to do? We propose to instruct one another, to tell what we have learned new in our lines of work or reading and to have a good time. For the first meeting Prof. H. is to instruct us upon the sagas, and I am to read something about the Alps as I have to look up some on them for school. We meet at my room tomorrow evening at seven o'clock precisely, and every one to be on his way home at ten o'clock. I wish you could be here! Don't I feel grand to have a parlor of my own to invite them to? I have taken lots of comfort here in my two little rooms. I am anticipating a great deal of pleasure in having you to stay with me some nights in vacation, you will, won't you? Miss H. has boarded here during the term, but in vacation she intends

to go across the river to the same place where Mr. E. is. School is very pleasant this year, even more so than it was last, but I am just as busy as ever and have no more time than usual for reading and letterwriting. I do feel better satisfied, though, with my work, from its being easier, I can do it more thoroughly. I don't groan over my arithmetic class this year, I have had time to put them through such a drill that I feel as if all further responsibility is their own. I have been very much interested in our S. S. lessons lately, do you have a class?

I must tell you what progress I make in forming the acquaintance of your sister, which is almost none. Your brother talks so much faster than she that we two monopolize the conversation while she keeps quiet. I feel ashamed of myself almost every time I go there and think I will keep still next time and give her a chance to talk, but it don't do any good. I am just as bad next time.

Saturday morn.

We had our meeting last evening, all were present and seemed to have a good time. Prof H. was just as funny as ever. The gentlemen chose their topics on which they would be prepared to give us some information, and afterwards Prof. H. said he thought they had discharged the most of their obligations by promising so much, and that there was not much more for them to do, the rest was to devolve upon the ladies who had not made any such promises! If such be the case I don't know but it is well for you that you cannot be a member!

I should like to write a long report of the proceedings, but your brother will do it better than I, and then I hope we can talk it over soon. The next meeting is two weeks from this evening in Bro H's room.

Shall you spend your whole vacation here? I want to go to Rockford for a few

days, but I want to see you anyway.
As this is my last playday I must go
at some other work, but I don't know
whether to sew on buttons or make out
some review questions for my astronomy
class, since both are equally desirable
and about equally pressing.

Hoping to see you soon I am

Yours with love,

Ellen E. Merriam.

Rapidan Nov. 30th 1872

My Dear Sir [Alexander]

Your kind, long and Excellent letter received and read with comfort and profit. Your remarks on the Cosmic perfection and desolation are Excellent and true. It is a Statue perfection in Every line and Lineament. But it does not Breathe. This the inherent fault of Materialism. it is an Absurdity, for that which does not Breathe does not Live. Without God all is pulseless. He the Living and throbbing Heart of the Cosmos. And a philosophy divorced from Religion is not for us. It frightens us. The turn away as from a Skeleton. The rattle of the dry Bones make us shudder as Prophetic of our Annihilation. The Man or Woman such a Philosophy is frozen to death in its Icy Arms. Such a Book as Humboldt's nevertheless is a contribution to the Accident of the Kingdom of God on Earth. It frightens and Alarms thoughtful Men. It was necessary and we have it. A Spectroscopic view of the perfect and Glorious Temple. Built of the Shekinah.

Now Dear Sir Being thus we are in the Temple let us Kneel with our faces towards the Mercy seat with fear and Reverence and Love. Not seeking to Enter Enough for us to Behold the Visible Glories.

Let us Behold the Many ten thousands Days to be Natural Eye Shall unveil. through ~~Beauty~~ ~~to~~ its Crystal Walls. Where rings file the Home Worlds Glories and Treasures Melody. Listening with Spiritual Ear. The entrals the Exhaled Calenies of Raptures and Love. With Kindred Spirits and the Body forth Winged Seraphs, flying to Minister Songs in the night to the oppressed and Worn of the Earth. to the Earnest toilers. to the disatisfied sufferers to all who seek for harmony with the Glorified dwellers

We are having a severe winter. Snow is this November 10 below zero is quite common in the morning. There is a 36 hours, round goes the wind to south, or east of it breathing humidly upon us, and we feel dreary all over.
But if we take it hard, now, we reckon to get it mild in the future to balance the accounts. This is a general principle which holds good universally. It is wise for us to bear the yoke in our youth of winter. I have no news. We are all as usual.
And the sun rises and sets upon the daily hum drum of our lives in which we consume food and fuel, wear our rags out, and waits for the morrow, to repeat the same process. It is extremely doubtful if we are in Galilee at all at all. If we make any progress it is microscopic. I have more entire confidence into my 62d year and the imperfections of my life daily grieves me and disgusts. As Lao said Confucius. "If I discovered the right way in the morning, I could walk in it before night." Happy old Chinaman. Not so with me. Well we must try again "No surrender" let us die in the harness first, for as the same old man said. "if I begins to build a mountain and have but carried a few basketfulls, little I am building a mountain" so much than for human effort at least, is the task hopeless I think not. Because the Gods help those who try to help themselves. That is the hopefull point, and with that agrees the Scripture. As it says "If ye being evil know how to give good gifts to your children. Will not &c—
Do not do you think of Ammonius Saccas? Who suggested that all religions stripped of their corruptions and literalities taught about the same things and had one object in view that would have been a big thing to do however. I think some of them having gone through that process, would have been honest. December 17th 1872. Last night our Mail came through on foot. Because of horse sickness and received yours of the 10th inst., Being short of paper I took up this fragment which struck to write to you once before, and must say something to you in it now,

And first I think you should go and see your Brother Thomas. Go. and refresh the affections. it will give you new impetus and will give you rest. It will do him much good. It will make him happy and also refresh him. take every opportunity to keep alive the heart in all love and kindly good will. It is in affections that the most become men. Our acquisitions of knowledge are of little value beside our accumulations of love power for out of the good heart comes all that can be permanent. So I entreat of you and he from and his wife. Rekindle your light at his family altar. it will warm all your house and brighten your eyes. It will also enable him to refresh his heart and give him renewed strength It will be a mutual benefit. Overcome your unkindliness in the triumph of your better nature against the less worthy objections who dwell in the least lighted chambers of the Temple. Horace Greeley had accomplished his life work in the editorship of the Tribune. These United States could not have been carried through under him as executive. His absent to that chair would have been the opening of the gates to the sons of Belial. and we have been defeated and called away in love to him and in mercy to the nations. there United States have a mission to fulfill which Greeleys Election would not have been in conformity with. I voted for Grant, because of the two evils he the lesser. I have no love to Grant I did love Greeley. I voted for Grant in the spirit of present utility. It is all well. the Lord turned away the hearts of the people from Greeley in the midst of a tide that was howling towards him and which would blindly have borne him into the seat of power and dignity. Gods providence is over all, and the powers that be receive their power from him, and are ordained of him. Those secondary causes which we see, are but the instrumentalities to accomplish the purposes of the world amongst the nations

of a Viking. True. But the Vikings were also Pirates. Pirates, generally found at Lazotus of a Vikingly daring and not of Choice. Terrible is the life of a Viking. He sails sometimes without the light of the sun, or the moon, in the dim starlight in tempestuous seas. Amidst unknown rocks and shallows. Always in danger. Yet a discoverer and the planter of Permanent Colonies. Because a wanderer in forbidden Lands. A Sailor of the unplumbed and unsounded seas. Colonel, training Christianity he becomes powerful in Great Endeavour Because his faith, too much Heroism. Untamed energy the source of his failings. The Children of the Vikings have done much useful work. Their Helmets shine in all the Battles of Progress, and from the Viking Spirit they pluck the Laurel of success. Yet lonely and daring the poor Viking commits his frail Bark to the deep roaring seas. The fatest pioneer to new Continents. Whose name shall be forgotten Gulfshell in Strange Tides. or too or striking but most wishes bring a Vision to those who take Carelessly. With horse and Pennel he wakes the idle sleeper from his red ships of War he touches the sleeping stream. the range of the Careless. the sleek Drunk is awoke from his slumber. the drunken Castellan looks from his Tyrant Tower. and Behold the Vikings in the Land. He carried away their Cattle their Women and their Maidens, and they stood on Gaurel and in fear.

The Viking has a mission. Blest to all but Him Truly You have said. I am a Viking. and but lately landed from a strange and distant Voyage I have brought away heaven Also. which I must not name. So much I must hour my frail bark Carries it. I think it is the Glorious Golden Fleece But am afraid to unroll. I must only look a bit on my Waves. I am a Viking. precursor of the Dawn. He time will come when the Lands I have travelled in.

5) will not be forbidden, and they will behold the rough stones I have set up, and try to decipher any Runes. I have been before them, and my Children will hold in tradition. shadowed memories of the strange Lands their father came in, But they ~~they~~ should Bow their necks to the Yoke, and become serviceable to the purpose of God. reaping success by Obedience. yet the necessities of the Being arose Rein from his native shore. Weened of Nothing armed the Brown rocks, he took heavily to the lea a Rover and a plunderer. Made his home in the Wine Cottage of strange lands drank of their fountains amidst Groves of Wild splendour, rejoiced in his day and in his day and is forgotten, peace to the sleep of the poor and Wandering Pilgrim, the father of many Nations. "Requiescat in Pace"

Sandy, in plain and unfigured prose I have lately made some Great discoveries, or rather it may be it has been revealed to me, which I cannot commit to paper I may in the future feel permitted to show you.
I speak in cool reason. it is in reference to Joseph Smith and speaks volumes to me, strange knowledge and not of my own seeking. a fragment it is true, a mere Cape or headland in the New Geography, which I would call "Josephness". Located symbolically in the Anatomy of Man, and also Zodiacal. I cannot keep out these things they give me no peace. But rather trouble, I cannot help it. You see I am a Wanderer and must sometimes touch new lands, although sometimes unwilling to go ashore, lest the land I have left may be obliterated I am unwilling to receive knowledge for fear of shipwreck of faith and that I may not be asked to get back to that the Legal which I should be content with. Our true interest lies in Cultivating those faculties which God has committed to our Care. which if we do shall the Gates be an Entrance to that Glorious Land of Promise, which will be literally fulfilled

and I pray you may never like me become a wanderer
Wholly, without, with ravaged property. which may God
keep from us. But I tell you of these things to lift you
up into the region of a strong and abiding faith of the
Truth Revealed. Believe! It is more than mere
Tongue cannot tell, nor can it Enter into the Heart
of Man to Conceive these things which are laid up for
those who Love God. Why should any Perils by sea
and Land go for Mothers with my Children? I have
many times come near perishing, and could do nothing but
Cast out the Anchor of Hope and faith, and wait for the day
of Deliverance. My frail Bark, I threw in my Guests.
But it had to be, the Barren rocks of Unbelief Could not
Deceive me, and I took to the sea. I went down to the Great Deep
in ships. I seized Horses and rode in pursuit. I so far
Overcame. I do not give you the Spoils. but I tell you
of them, that you may believe in those Glorious Lands
which from your present position you can have no idea
of. the Eternal City and the Great King, the Citizens
the Hosannas and Glorious Multitudes, and the Soft Harmonies
on the Shores of Peace. the Happy Land. the Silent Abodes
Given to the Crowned Conquerors. Press forward in duty
and in Love. Slack not your pace nor Weary for the
helping Hand is held out to the Worn.
May God bless you with faith, Hope and prudence
Strengthen your Heart and empower your Powers
I close in the trust that you will Change
your Mind and Go to be your Brother. It will do you
Good. Now be persuaded. If you do. give my heartfelt
Love to Carrie and Thomas. tell him if Carrie permits
I want to hear from Philo. that Dear Jew. as Mother in
Calls him. All here is apparently Well in Spring
Horses yet free. David handling wood. and I God bless
the Consuming it. I should not object your showing
your Sheet letter. they may tell him something of my present
Surroundings. Always, Lovely, with Kind regard. Your Father
James.

Lowell Wisconsin
Dec 1st 1870.

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Christie]
Not a word to tell me how you stood examination. I am in receipt of your acct. at Carpenter & Baumes' and also at Abbotts'. To think that even so late as last summer, you hesitated not to run a bill of over 25 dollars in the short space of less than 4 weeks, and permit Anna Murphy in your name to run as much more! ~~It outrages~~ There is apparently no hope for you; you are too far gone in dishonesty. In dealing with me, you may expect me to live up to what I say, so far as practicable.

And I assure you, I will do no more for you till I pay what I already owe on your acct. and not then, unless you have paid off, (not staved off) something yourself. I am going, meanly clad, without overcoat, bare handed, without underclothing

without books, without a cent for charity without the privilege of sending a gift to Father, even when he asks it; without everything and all, to pay the debts of a spend-thrift woman. Is my manhood to be wasted in such vain effort?

I cannot go to Clyman where Father lived 22 years an honest man without a sense of shame, for everyone I meet has heard that you have come the Jerry Siddlin on Widow McSiven to the tune of $70. and wherever I am I know not who may not be your defrauded creditor. Shame, Shame, that you are content to abide in such ways, to bring dishonor upon the name, sorrow to all your house, and especially to darken the last days of a departing Father! Despise the vain shows of this world: be truthful: it makes me gnash my teeth to think of one of us not bold to defy evil, not an example of honesty and truth.

Yours, in sorrow, Alex.

Continental Insurance Company of New York,

OFFICE WESTERN DEPARTMENT, CHICAGO, ILL.,

12 Eldridge Court, Dec 2 1879

M. S. Stevens Nicholls
Good Shepherd
Ulica

Dear Sir:

Inclosed please find note No. A 15935 covered by your remittance.

Yours respectfully,

R. J. TAYLOR, Supt.

Western Department, Chicago, Ill.

Received of Trustees of School District No 79

an Application for Insurance by the **CONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO.,** of New York, on property to the amount of $ 500. for the term of 3 years, subject to the approval of said Company; also, a Note or Notes for the payment of Premium as represented on the back of this Receipt; also, $ Policy and Survey Fee.

Dated at Kahnlan this 15 day of June 187[illegible]

M. M. Elliott Agent.

INSTALLMENT.

Hopedale Dec 11th 1872

My Dear Sister

Your last long and excellent letter came long ago. Was glad to hear Cousin Rachel have answered you. I was unable. We all write. The Expressed Mother have been sick. Dabie has an access to his usual Asthmatic Coughing. His usual Remedy of Smoke did no Good. But Mother perscribed Rum to his Coughing Spasms and no One Nigh it Knew how about as usual it loosened the Congestion of his Lungs, and immediately he Coughed again, Breathe a Cheerfully. He again all out his Work. Emma has had a very bad Cold. She was attacked in the throat and had Great fever, is now alse recovering. Merry Belle Little One, is Getting teeth and is troubled with Bowels Complaint it Became very bad. But he is now also overit and beginning to assume his Old look. And Cartby myself. You know I Generally have trouble with my Liver, Constipation &c. &c. But some days I fell suddenly into Diarrhea. With pains in my Back between Shoulders in my Thighs, Elbow Joints and face arms, and the prostrated with Weakness and pains in all my parts. Besides all this prostrated also in Mind. And beset by the Enemy of Souls Darkness of Spirit to be too much. I was very miserable I am now again recovering by old Cousin Mary.

So we all have suffered in this family Some at time, Sometimes all ill at the same time. Some Evil Spirit has let loose upon us. And Each thing Conquered is an Excellent Spirit I trust the Whole all be the better for our Experience and trial.

I send your Letter to Dabie, and am sorry for you. But you will Experient your self.

It is far from Dabie to be displeased at any thing you have done. He You know has no Control Over for Entering and his immediate Concern is Come to an Understand to Express that little Willie and time be her besides that

Write to Dabie & Emma & Merry & tell them that I will want to go a mile for fear of Mary's displeasure

2 Barrels of flour

Possible Instructions of Duty may be never felt like
vibrating, nor can God in none. Although he ignores that
he should and speaks of it to me, once in a while hears
that he says. Yes Uncle William, told me
in a letter I received from him last week that your
brother had been here for 200 $. Blood also told me
that when his time came he would fill some thing to
get the money for William, and this he had told him to
in a letter. William seems to be, and as if he would be always
in just such a helpless condition. Well if that be proper I
would probably take him out of all these difficulties. But
surely it is very questionable to me if I should do him good
in doing it. God's providence takes care of us all ordering
all things for his purpose. And I believe it is well not
to interfere too far. He knoweth the heart and sees behind
and before knows what is best for every one of us. and knows
it has and has to exist. and whom to use for his purpose
let us beware of going further than what God leads
and God will dictate. I trust that we let you
are going yourself to do for others will be for their good
but let me speak of it to you. take the utmost care
of pence you earn. I feel afraid that those you seek to help
have not the spirit of sincerity nor a spirit of honest
toil. You should need to in all accounts. and have
such a repentance as you cannot have to do this
thing right. in short to manage all their monetary affairs
controlling all expenditure and holding in your hands or
under your proper. It is entirely too much for you
to do on it. I have a terrible fear of insanity
in that party. and the last letter I wrote to them
I warned them. All that I could, I then tendering
him. If heedless or wilful not any blame rests
from in trouble and true. And although a little foolish
yet he is under allegiance to Christ and so
would neither wish to nor dare to do any thing
otherwise than in conformity with justice and love
to all. But it is yet very doubtful to me

whether the other has anything more than
the most superficial idea of future. and their
the principle rises no higher than natural
generosity in short I am doubtful of religious
has any lasting influence upon them.

This is a very melancholy
picture to draw of one to whom we belong to us
of one whom we both have offered so much prayer and
whom we should both do so much for. But I should
warn you to not put too much trust there. lest you
might be deceived. it will be better for you to see clearly
the defects and not to expect too much. Do what you
do do it in faith and trusting that God will make all be
for good. But do not expect much to be done in any
short time to bring them to a true sense of their
position. or make them make a due return. Well
doing for your pains and care. I wish you not
to be disappointed. therefore do not expect much.
and keep your eyes open. I am sorry it may be that
I am too hopeless. and must to be disappointed.
It is impossible to perceive the vain object of the passion
of this world. and at the same time to see righteousness
and the terrible thing is that sooner or later that
the perverse must necessarily work their deeds against
the barriers of the citadel of God. for it will
encompass in on every side. Matters of pleasure. Thus
for that thing. that no further. Thus is what calls
upon in our hearts repeate been that all such are
such are certain destruction. and none can save
but God. the thing must pray. pour out our tears
in agony. to encourage to procure remission
for there is no remission without shedding of blood
follow out this for yourself. and appreciate the fame
of various suffering.

I told you once before that Michael
received James picture. and while looking of that

I am reminded I have no picture of you. Gratify me so far as to sit for it and send me one. Sarah Ann sent me word a few weeks ago, requesting my opinion of her locks. Whether letter or house is this I receive her. It is strangely. I want your to complete my set. The image of my enemy have become evanescent, very. You will not let your own likeness by grief's it away. And a likeness is no shadow. The sun looks upon us and we are soon again by the hand of righteousness look upon us in the stone. May! While you sit for it think of the comfort your will bestow on me, and your picture will be filled with God's will. I do not wish to be the philosopher, nor the person of care, nor the self-suffering, nor the that deems the gods to send thunder bolts. But be good I say that will go out of his own path to do good to others.

December 12th. This morning we all look and feel a good deal improved. At least all they look to me. And I feel better and hear little of Annie speaking in such low tones as heretofore. He was quarrelsome a few days ago. Stands alone. Walks shuffling by a hold of my finger. I give him a little book, and he turns over the leaves pitting in his chair and waits for me. I will not learn him, but sometimes peeps for or his father. With a book and pencil, also, he imitates. A very quick and knowing, and willful child. God help the "Enfans" He has things to day and quietness lets in the air. Winter is approaching and there is not for his white mantle. We might think he was a very placid and quiet old gentleman resolved his friends. But in a few days he will tweak your hairs until the water comes from our eyes and go around the house growling in happy tones, and keep us with his fingers. Naughty for his parents. Child manner he is naturally kind to be aware of his true and innate character and be prepared for his change. You allow your imagination to conjure up some very foolish notions in reference (to the cause of the lack of joy). It must have been very sweet and strong feelings that could produce such thoughts as you fear. (I give the whole committee this to the keepers of Sorrow) I remain always dear old. Your Brother

Beloit College, Dec. 14. '72.

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

I must stop waiting for time to do anything in Philo for you, and write immediately. I send instead another installment of Plato, going on from where the last stopped. We were both delighted with your long and most interesting letter; I want to know all I can from you about our ancestors; the study is wonderfully fascinating to me. I have been engaged this term in the study of ancient Gaul for my boys in Caesar; and find much food for thought in the subject. I have given my boys notes every day on the Geography & physical features of the country - the mountains, the rivers, the great forests of oak & beech & chestnut, the morasses of the north in the islets of

which the savage tribes of that region had their retreats in time of war: the animals inhabiting Gaul in Caesar's time – the Elk, the beaver, and the savage Urus (did you not tell us once of seeing a wild Scottish Urus) the wild boar & the innumerable herds of swine that roamed the woods & whose flesh was the main article of food for the people:

The people, tall, chestnut hair, white skin, red beards, wearing the trews or Braccae, shirt & mantle – the latter often an animal's skin, ornaments in profusion of gold, silver or amber according to rank, passionate & much given to extravagant expressions of praise or blame, superstitious, generous & hospitable, living in unmoored round dwellings made of stakes & hurdles covered within & without with beaten clay & their high roofs of oaken slabs covered with thatch or chopped straw mixed with clay – the only furniture in these gloomy

Woman very strong & courageous, better at fisticuffs than the men themselves.

abodes being wooden tables at which they caroused on swine's flesh and mead or milk, & the skins which served for bed, chair & carpet; once in a while a silver vase revealing the mineral riches of the country. Offensive armor – a long iron broad-sword – for striking, not stabbing – in an iron scabbard suspended to the right side by iron or bronze chains. a spear six feet long of which the blade was 18 inches long & 9 inches wide, very sharp, light javelins, slings, bows & arrows; defensive armor – a long shield of raw bull's hide studded with nails – a poor defense, though, against the Roman pilum – a helmet of metal with a crest representing the muzzle of a wild animal or bird, on top of this ~~the~~ a horn of the elk or urus, & the whole surmounted by a bushy tuft of feathers, & a breastplate or coat of mail: Always at war with each other, & single combats frequent: cut off their

vanquished Enemy's head with loud & exultant shouts & kept it in Coffers & preserved in oil of Cedar in their houses to show with pride to their guests; had villages & walled towns to which they retired with their herds in time of war - these in the recesses of forests, on top of hills, or on the rocks of the Armorican Coast. Cultivated wheat, rye, barley & millet & kept large herds of cattle & sheep & droves of war & draught horses. There classes of Common people little better than slaves; Nobles or chieftains, who were always at war & were followed by their retainers, & the Druids: These latter the ministers of religion, the instructors of the youth, & the dispensers of justice, deciding questions of boundaries, in Criminal actions, & all cases between individuals or tribes. If a tribe or an individual did not obey their decision Excommunication followed, the sacrifices are interdicted, the offender is outlawed - had to submit, & a good thing too - These Druids would sometimes rush in between two lines when swords

were drawn & lances couched & part the combatants as one would part two enraged animals, Diodorus says. So, the old Greek remarks - "Even among the rudest Barbarians passion is subject to wisdom, and Mars stands in awe of the Muses." Druids not subject to military service or to taxation; Multitudes of youth resorted to them to be instructed. These disciples stayed sometimes twenty years; they learned an immense number of verses of poetry; no writing down of the doctrines, for two reasons; that they might not be known among the vulgar, and that the disciples might depend on memory & not on books. The doctrine came from Britain, Caesar says, and the Gauls went there for the highest instruction. Chief doctrine the immortality of the soul, it passing after death into another body; this was fitted as they thought, to inspire courage by instilling contempt of death; also reasoned much & taught, concerning astronomy, the magnitude of the universe, the nature of things, & the might & power of the Gods.

They performed sacrifices - of which human sacrifices formed a part, making sometimes a human image of colossal size, whose trunk & limbs woven of osier they filled with men - generally criminals, but if these could not be got - often innocent persons - set the image on fire & burned them all up. All the Druids subject to one head, chosen by election & holding office for life; they assembled once a year in a sacred spot in the territory of the Carnutes, between the upper Seine & Loire - & thither came all who had disputes to settle for their arbitration.

I find these things in Diodorus, Strabo, Caesar, & in a French history by M. Martin, which I translate readily with Carrie's help. It gives my boys enthusiasm for their Latin: we study Caesar most thoroughly, making maps, & plans of battle grounds &c. These things & my six other classes have kept me very busy. The term is now almost out: closing on Wednesday next, & we have a rest of two weeks. I preached my first sermon two weeks ago tomorrow, at Allen's Grove - 25 miles east, - where Carrie's father used to preach, and where she has many friends. My text was Neh. VIII. 10 - "For the joy of the Lord is your strength." I wrote it & preached from manuscript.

Do not think I am doing too much: I tell you all these things at once, but they have been doing for three months, and I never was in better health. C. is also well, and we are happy as the day is long: she goes out with me to Manchester & helps in the Sunday School there as well as in our Church in town, when we both have classes. It is nine months today since we were married, and every day has brought new joy in each other to both of us. I thank God continually for the gift of a noble wife. You shall see her next summer, I trust.

I got a long letter from Sarah lately: she is having good success in her new field, and her

health is better than when here. We have written Sandy to come down & spend Christmas with us, & rather expect him, though without answer as yet. We shall enjoy seeing him & it will do him good. Cold weather & the horse disease here for a month. You must have had a low thermometer. Our love to Mother and yourself, to David, Emma & the Baby — who must be quite a boy by this time: May the blessing of a Christian household be with my brother and his wife and child.

With the old love,

Your Son Thomas —

Monday Dec. 16th 1872.

Dear Father Christie.

Thomas is very busy with his examinations today. I have just returned from a long one in Caesar. It would have done your heart good to have heard the prompt and intelligent answers given by his boys. I am very proud of the husband I have won and join heartily with him in saying "we are happy as the day is long." Thomas is to me, everything a good husband can be.

Place reflection are your own. See Mr. Christie's letter of Sept. 20 1872 & Mr. Christie's letter of Dec. 23 1872 for more sons & daughters.

Is write use as

Lowell, Dec 15th 1872.

My dear Father: [James Christie]
Another week has come and gone and no word from home. I suppose you are drifted in and no stage running; for if you had been sick I would have been apprised thereby. Another week of school, and I take the train for Beloit, to counsel with Lou, rather than to spend my ~~two~~ two weeks' vacation. My travelling expenses will not exceed my board-bill saved, and Lou and I must get together and lay our plans for the near future. It takes a brave man to go to Beloit; but an honest meaning man may go whither he will — "the righteous are bold as a lion." Lou and I are in sympathy; and we must

work together and for one another if possible. It would suit me, and I know would be to the advantage of both, if we could get into the same institution next year; he to teach the languages and I the mathematics, and assist in the English branches.

Inside of two years, you will see us both in some good paying position together.

He and Cornie sent me a pressing invitation to come down; Tom stating that we must talk matters over; and so I go.

I do not attend church regularly as you advise me, for it would use me up. Our preacher here is a fool beside Clow, and tries to shout louder. You can hardly imagine how he perverts scripture in his ignorance; how he permits all that is scripture in it slip through his fingers.

The poorest intellects in the land are preaching in Methodist pulpits. There are men sitting in this ignorant congregation, who could say something worth listening to; but the preacher is utterly incapable. More and more do I see the great truth; that to have a loving heart, kind words, an industrious hand, an unselfish spirit, is the one thing needful. Ranting, Theorizing, Praying, Saying, are nothing compared with it.

What we shall be, we know not: this we know, that now and here we should live the life; and now after and hereafter will bring us no ill.

I actually find myself more capable of living nearer my ideal of what life ought to be; weak as I am, I find myself stronger than

herefore. And marke you this not through praying for strength, but because of right using of what little strength I have. The law which holds good in the building up of physical strength, obtains also here.

I hope you are in health and cheerful. Wherefore should any of us be cast down?

Where we have sinned, instead of being cut off in our sin and by our sin as Millions are, fortunate, we have been spared to better things. If there is trouble in our midst, it is not past remedy, nor of a heinous character. Thankfully this approach another year; hopefully look forward to the blessings with which we shall be blessed ere it depart.

Your children may be far and wide, but they love you none the less, and their best affections ever go out toward you. May you all with light hearts and clear consciences enjoy a "Merry Christmas". Affectionately

Sandy.

Saratoga Mum: Dec. 17th
1872.

You will see by the date of this, that I William L Christie, am on this the eve: of my 41st birth day, addressing you. Well how are you. I hope you will not feel weighed down by excessive old age, when you read this, yes 41 years, are nearly past since I was born, and how have they been used or abused by me, since the time it was supposed I had come to the years of discretion, do you believe me I can not say, which would be the right word for me to use, if I were asked which of the two I should say, but yet it is not for me to say, but to do the best I can, as I see, for that is all any one can do. We are all well, in bodily Health, and vigor feeling as though we were made to enjoy life, our fare is frugal, and our clothes are not of the best, and few at that, but yet we feel as though we would come out on top

keep yet.

I have looked for a letter from you for many a long day in summer, and since the winter set in, but not a word or a sign from you, or yours, in that ALL, to let us know you were yet this side Jordan. It may be you have been thinking it was my place to give you a letter, and I think it was and is, but you see, I am not in as prosperous a condition financially as I would like to be and so I have held back, lest my burdens would worry you, and that is the reason you have not heard from us, before this, not that I am any better now than then, but I could not let my birthday come and go without letting you know, how well I love and esteem you.

Grandmother has had the mystery of Death cleared up for her since I last wrote to you, and so I may say I have two mothers now in the Spirit-land,

after. God, now be it known, unto you that after somewhere near a hundred of these, which I did not read, the concluding one has it in a different way, from St Paul, but it ammounts to the same thing, (Quoting from memory) "God is in all things" and through all things, & so on, but the writer differs from Paul, in one thing, yea in many things, and puts forth the doctrine that there is no God to pray to, but there Spirits, that have dwelled long or short in the spirit World, who hears and answers prayer, and so helps man to progress, yes there are those in that Land that have been there so long, they build Worlds, and supperintend the building them.

Now maybe you will say, this is spirit-ism run into the ground, or run into seed, or something else, like that, but what are we to be doing Eternally, if not something useful, and why not build Worlds as well as raise wheat, if we have the knack of it, and the time to do it,

But do let us hear from you, so that we may know you are yet among us of the Earth, Earthy, having the ~~[illegible]~~ of this life as yet, as well as its cares, I hope mother is well, and still able, to Coddle you, give her my best love; and let her know I think of her often and that Mary does not let many days go by without speaking of you both,

How is Dave can he not write or has he not time I know it is want of time that hinders me often from penning him and you mainly a letter, I have given nearly all my wheat away at less than cost, and am not out of the toils yet, this selling in the fall is what hurts me, I hope he has not to sell in the fall,

has your horses had the Epizootic, my mules were after a load of wood yesterday, the first time they have hauled a load in nearly three weeks, they Epizootic as badly (Daisy) had as any other team, I guess so, but they are now well I had it too and no mistake, Laugh if you, will, its a fact, warning for ten three little fellows snoozing, warm in bed, Good night

Wm G Christie,

yet for I have always felt just as if she had taken my mothers place to me as long as I was with her, to the best of her love and knowledge, Uncle William stayed with us one night on his way home, and had Willie & Daisy, (that is David) up to St Charles with him and they came home each of them highly gratified, W. with a pair of Boots, and cap, D, with a pair of shoes and cap, and they are both highly pleased yet with their presents.

I believe you and mother would be highly pleased to see our three boys, they are so healthy, and stout of there age, having large brains force in the right kind and looking as though they might be at least one year older than they are they are so large, Jane name sake is the baby yet, and is likely to be for many a day to come, not that there are any foul means used to have him so, Now hoping you will answer this before or about New year, I

Close by wishing you all well,

Now I think I see some of your remarks to me in the mag can see them, in regard to some things in the testament, especialy that remark about John the Baptist, very ~~least~~ less than the least in the kingdom of Heaven, for John being always in Hell, or in other words always below the Royal arch. That is in the winter, part of the heavens, how can he be in the kingdom of heaven, that is among the seven summer months, January is John the baptist is he not, and so with a many other things all ~~astron~~ Astronomical, so you see it so, that even Mr Fell did not exist, and it may be "Jesus the Nazarene", may not have been a bona fide man, I have been looking over some numbers of the Religo Philosophical Journal a neber three miles away lent me, these long evenings, and in them I read some very strange things in regard to spiritual manifestations that are taking place constantly in a place called Moravia in York State. People see their friends in bodily form, and can see their lips move and hear them speak, and many other physical demonstrations take place, there are also in the same paper a series of articles, entitled a search

Beloit Wis. Eve. Dec. 24th '72

Jas. Scott Esquire
Dear Friend

My dear Father: [James Christie]

I left Lowell at 8-30 Sat. morning. Thermometer at 19° below, everybody but myself bundled up and complaining; walked over to Johnny Runkle's store and rode to the station with him, where I took the train at 9-40 for Watertown. Had to lie over till one o'clock at the Junction for the passenger train from the north. Employed the time studying Davis' Spherical Trigonometry. It may be interesting to you to know that the Junction Station House was burned last Fall, and temporary quarters have been erected. Reached Clinton Junction, near the Illinois line, about 4 o'clock, and here another delay of several hours occurred, owing this time to the inability of the freight train from Delavan to get through the low, hard-

packed drifts on the track. After we did get on at Clinton, we were 15 minutes in getting started, principally owing to the boiler cooling down so fast. Just as we were starting out, a freight-train from the north came in, bearing, among others, an old gentleman on crutches. "Any train going east?" he inquired of the Agent. "Not till Monday morning: you are two hours late," was the reply. "Then I'll go west, — help me on," said this Wandering Jew, — and on he got. A finer old gentleman I have never seen, — cheerful and open, with a good heart and a merry countenance. He and I talked till we reached Beloit, where he got off to visit a brother. He came to this State in 1836; — was acquainted with Solomon Juneau and the first settlers on Walker's point at Milwaukee, was through Dodge Co. in '37, and is familiar with the history of the Territory.

Tom had waited hours for me at the Depot. It was quite cold for him, and we hurried along through town, stopping only to warm and get some groceries at Simmons', who now keeps store, the man in whose house Tom and I roomed nearly six years ago. Carrie received me with hearty welcome, and I was again at home in my brother's house. I am no castaway, at any rate, even if I am homeless and anathematized in a sense; the houses of those who best know me, are open gladly to receive me. Let all others be shut forever!

They are both in excellent health, and happy in doing their duty. Economy, thrift, good taste, reign throughout their three little rooms under the shingles. Oh, a jewel is Carrie; and Tom as fine a fellow as the city boasts. He is ever cheerful and busy, and she never idle nor gloomy. You would be at home with them.

I have plunged into Caesar already, and Tom will help me while I am here. He and I went over to his recitation room and brought away Napoleon's Caesar with Maps, Moberly's Caesar, Long's Caesar, etc. and so I am up to my ears in the best of authorities, and the best of teachers at my elbow.

When he was in Cayuga last, I gave him Afgan's Map-drawing; and now his blackboards are covered with beautiful maps in colors, some modern some ancient, some by himself, some by his pupils — one very fine one by two Dakota Indians. They are the finest blackboard maps I have ever seen.

Next week I will write again. — We read that the thermometer yesterday morning was 37° at St. Paul. It was 17° here. This morning we had it 33°, and I suppose you have it 40°. I have not had a letter from home for 6 weeks. Write to Lowell. To all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours as ever,

Alex. S. Christie

The Christmas & Parcels
Editor Office for every
The world. I & persons
that are carried away
with Christ's Grandeur
& wise & wise & wise
& Christ's Grandeur
& Christ's Grandeur

My Dear Father,

Lancaster Dec 23rd 1872

I write you just a little note this evening, to let you know that I am still in Lancaster and expect to spend my vacation here - this week. - I enclose an advertisement that came to my hand the other day, and I thought it would interest you - it quite startled me, when I read it - I have written to the Publishers, about it - to know if I can get the first number, if I can, I will send it to you - for it is for you, I wrote. But the young man in the book-store here says he thinks it is sold only by book-agents, traveling. - I will let you know the result of my writing, soon as I hear. How are you all up there? You said not a word in your letter, of any individual of the family only Baby. - and I asked so many questions. - I like to have my letters answered - and not a word either of the "Vade Mecum". - However I am thankful for all that you did write. - I like your views on baptism that is the following out of the analogy between the natural and the

spiritual birth - nothing could be finer than what you said in regard to it - and yet - I believe in what the Episcopal and the Catholic Churches teach in regard to it - that there is a miraculous inward purifying and impartation of the Divine Grace (or Holy Spirit - perhaps I should say) always in baptism - be the subject - infant or adult. - The water is not a sign only, it is necessary. Of course, there may be exceptions; for all things are possible with God. — Baptism is the means appointed of God for that. - Outside in, in any other way the same is a thief and a robber - that is if he has knowledge of it. - is it not a command? a command of God - It is no mere sign - It is the natural way appointed of God by which the Holy Ghost is given to men. - And does the Gift of God depend upon the state of mind of the individual? And does the Spirit ever leave the soul? We do not see the end - Whatever the life be here we cannot read the heart and spirit and I cannot believe that with the end of life here, does the ~~growth~~ growth in grace end. However holy the life may be on Earth or great the faith may be, is it strong enough and sufficiently holy to enter into Heaven to dwell with God and the Angels. And yet we know that it is the gift of God. it is all through Christ by faith. But does any mortal ever leave Earth with faith so strong as boldly to enter the Kingdom relying alone on the righteousness of Christ? - Leave to me if the faith is not so strong as to prevent any stumbling or trembling of the poor soul at entering such a place, it is not yet fitted for it - and how many are there who are so prepared. - I cannot help thinking after all that the Roman Catholic Church has the body of the truth after all and the rest have only fragments — Now, isn't it so? Yes, I believe the Mercy of God is so great as to provide for even the children of unbelievers. Do you think He let the Innocents suffer, because of