

James C. Christie and Family Papers

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Version 3
August 20, 2018

G. I. Lidgerwood,

Dry Goods and Notions,

AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,

SIGN OF THE "RED LION."

97 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

Mankato, Minn. June 5, 1875

Miss L. J. Pratt
Northfield

Received your
of a few days since
I wished to cast no reflections
or make no insinuations in my letter to you
only that I needed the money as much as I
have been paying interest upon borrowed
money at the Bank for several month to accomodate
those who have accounts with me. We have placed
to your credit $40. The 15th of this month
we have large payments to make & if you can
possibly raise the balance of your account
it will be very acceptable any time before now
then.

Balance of Ac $17.75/100

Very Resp Yours
Geo. I. Lidgerwood

Saturday Evening
June 5th 1875

My Dear Friend, [Miss D. J. Christie]

The days work being finished, I have seated myself where the mild "Auster" breathes gently upon me through the open window at my side, prepared to do myself the pleasure of answering your most welcome "note" received this afternoon. There are so many things in my mind, each striving for the first place, that I hardly know where to begin. Perhaps you would like to hear from the grasshoppers, first. The prospect it seems to me is rather more encouraging just now. A few days ago a premium of 10 cts per quart

was offered for dead "hoppers," by the County. In the two past days ten bushels have been captured on Father's grain. This has materially lessened their numbers, & I think the grain on this place can now be saved, although considerably injured already. Others are working in the same way & I do not think it would be a wild estimate to say two hundred bushels had been caught in Garden City, yesterday & to day. This will sound large probably, still I think it not unreasonable. At this rate it does not seem as though they could last a great while.

You speak of praying in regard to the grasshoppers, & ask whether I think it "foolish." Most certainly I do not. Nothing could be more in harmony with the true spirit of prayer. Yet I do not think there would be one less of the pests, or one kernel less of grain eaten, as the direct result of such prayer. It will teach us submission to the Divine will & help us to trust that from infinite wisdom nothing can spring which will not in some way conduce to the highest interests of God's own people. And this is exactly what we all need. It is very seldom, comparatively, that even human weakness sums to us the physical & temporal necessities of man unprovided for. As yet few have realized the destructive work of the grasshoppers even in the devastated regions, & it may be that God would have the people feel more keenly that He gives, & He withholds, when it is so seems good to him. — Again I say I am decidedly of the opinion that it is not only not "foolish," but wise, indeed,

to make this
seeming calamity the subject
of prayer.

I was a little surprised to hear that Miss Murphy is so near here. I passed within a little way from her school a short time ago and might have gone nearer as well as not. Since reading your letter I have been thinking that I will before long put myself out somewhat and call on her. Do you think a call would be acceptable to her?

When at Good Thunder's a couple of weeks since, I learned enough about the school there to satisfy me that I wanyt a better place than that. There are other schools here-abouts that I should like better by far. It is yet early, and I have no fears whatever about a school. There is however one general difficulty ~~with~~ the through this & adjoining Counties.

5

The school year is too short, - usually not more than 8 months. - If you can, without trouble to yourself give me any assistance, it will be gratefully received. Although I should prefer to be near home yet if there is much difference between the adountages in different places, I shall go where I can do best.

I have a plan in my mind for next year altogether different from anything of which I have spoken, & which I shall if possible carry out. I am now waiting for light, and if it seems likely that I shall go on with this plan, I will soon tell you what it is; otherwise it were better untold. At present I have small & hope but still I cling eagerly to that.

Your letter contained the information for which I asked in my last although written before your receipt of that. (with reference to your coming home) I will now tell you why I asked to have you tell so definitely. Palmer you know lives in Mankato, and he often urges me to come & stay a day or two with him. I thought perhaps I might "kill two birds with one stone" by visiting him at the time you are to be in M. & by seeing you there. I may not be able to do this when the time comes but shall if possible.

By disregarding the advice of friends, yourself among the number, & my own better judgment, I have allowed myself to lose sleep considerably for several weeks past, & am now reaping the fruits. As yet I feel no very serious effects from this source but I

but I can see more clearly than ever before, how easy it would be to undermine my whole constitution & especially my that of my mental faculties by persistently following it out such a course. I have had an unusual amount of temptation in this direction lately. I have been unavoidably interrupted in my studying & when things go slowly with the Latin & Greek I can hardly keep from working nights to make up as much of lost time as possible. (I am now doing the very thing of which I have been writing, it being about 11 o'clock, but will stop immediately.)

Now to morrow "perhaps". Sunday. I have just noticed a few lines by Mrs. Browning, which I will enclose. They are very nice but I want to make a few criticisms upon them. Please read them before

DOCTRINE AND DEVOTION.

"BECAUSE THE WAY IS SHORT."

I think we are too ready with complaint
In this fair world of God's. Had we no hope
Indeed beyond the zenith and the slope
Of yon gray bank of sky, we might be faint
To muse upon eternity's constraint
Round our aspirant souls. But since the scope
Must widen early, is it well to droop
For a few days consumed in loss and taint?
O pusillanimous Heart, be comforted,—
And, like a cheerful traveler, take the road,
Singing beside the hedge. What if the bread
Be bitter in thine inn, and thou unshod
To meet the flints?—At least it may be said,
'Because the way is short, I thank thee, God!'

[MRS. BROWNING.

proceeding farther a
Now, though we h
~~Beyond~~ the zenith
yon gray back of s
faint" to muse upo
&c", there is but a
about our souls", however high
our aspirations. Who ever knew
of a life developed to the utmost
limit of human attainment,
or rather of human possibilities?
To the pure & noble, there are
no fetters, but rather God is ever
stretching out His merciful hand
of assistance drawing us upward
to himself. Nor is there yet need
that the "scope" should "widen", for
the days are not "consumed in loss & taint"
No child of God, however great his
inward growth can fill the room
afforded in this beautiful world.
And we are not "unshod to meet
the flints" unless it be through
our own neglect to equip ourselves

proceeding farther with this.
Now, though we had no hope "beyond
~~Beyond~~ the zenith and the slope of
yon gray back of sky", we should not
faint "to muse upon eternity's constraint
&c", Here is but slight "constraint"
about our souls, however high
our aspirations. Who ever knew
of a life developed to the utmost
limit of human attainment,
or rather of human possibilities?
To the pure & noble, there are
no fetters, but rather God is ever
stretching out His merciful hand
of assistance drawing us upward
to himself. nor is there yet need
that the "scope" should "widen", for
the days are not "consumed in toil & taint"
No child of God, however great his
inward growth can fill the room
afforded in this beautiful world.
And we go not "unshod to meet
the flints" unless it be through
our own neglect to equip ourselves

with the sandals of heavenly grace.
Might we not say, "though the
way be long & though we may be
led through darker paths & over sharper
rocks, yet will we thank Thee,
God, that Thy grace will be suf-
ficient"? — I shall never for-
get a hint which Mr. Jones gave
me. We were discussing one of the
poets (Byron, I think) whom he
criticized sharply for his de-
pairing, unhopeful view which
he takes of things in general. Mr.
J. says he likes to see a man stand
up boldly & courageously to give
battle to whatever opposes his onward
course & to grasp & use whatever
of his assistance is thrown within
his reach. Dont you think
he is right?

How is the prize debate coming off? Parker, I believe, does not enter the contest. I should like very much to witness the strife & see who is greatest upon the wordy sands. Veblen will probably come off victor, will he not? I wish Parker had worked for it; — I dont mean simply that he had written a little trash but that he had bent his energies faithfully to the task. This he never does as he ought.

Your frequent & almost pressing invitations to "write" give me continual pleasure. Your close friendship (a thing to me incomprehensible) has been of great advantage to me in the past in more ways than one and, next to the friendship of home, than which nothing earthly could be more highly valued, I esteem it as perhaps the greatest blessing of my life, at least in the line of friendships. — By the way, I do not greatly admire the habit of telling too frequently in words how highly we esteem a friend; I think you have set me the example & I find myself in the act almost before I am aware, occasionally.

Well, this letter has one quality, at any rate, its length, whether it be a quality desirable to you or not.

Hoping to hear from you once or twice more before the close of the term I am as ever,

Your friend

Rockwood.

P.S. Since writing what I did with reference to my work next year, I have been thinking of what you suggested i.e. that I get a position as assistant in some High School. I should like this in some respects better than anything else, & would be glad & think of such an opportunity.

Grasshoppers come in by the wagon load. Yesterday two hundred bushels were taken to Mankato. It will be interesting by & by to see how many have been caught in different places & how many in all.

Love

R.

Rapidan. June 7th 1875.

Daughter Sarah.

Your letter of the 30th May to hand. the news in it pleases me much, Grass hoppers are indeed very plentiful We have Burned off 5 acres Wheat in one field in order to kill them, Where they were most numerous and to day trying to catch them in other places with a Skim net Contrivance. Jno and County pay at the rate of ten Cents a Quart for them each, 20 cents Wheat is, and it is said it pays well to do kill them. But unless most of them are to hated out Yet We shall to all appearance escape With probably Only a Crop. Your Uncle William writes me that the Chintze Bug is taking them Crops very fast.

We say nothing of either Helen or Willie, I enclose to You letter from Alex & Jane

We are all about as usual in health. the Baby does Grow, a nice Child, as indeed all Babies are, Prospectively at least

The news that you are coming Home
so soon please me much My Dear Sarah.
I am Lonely, to raise a Family and
then see them All Go away just When one
needs their presence to help sustain the
Burdens of Age and declined Strength, is
Common, I do not Complain. Yet We
feel it None the less. I am Glad You
are Coming so soon. As to Anne
do not be surprised nor hurt if You Can
help it. I did not hurt her. because
I did not feel any Aversions to her, nor
had any but the best feelings towards her
Yet She and her Family are associated in
my mind With some things, like the
beginnings of Evil. I cannot take any things
Back I send to You. as I believe them true
Nevertheless. by to force time
to Write me a Letter Note now and Again,
try to persuade me Some One Cares for
me. for Mine has a been a Troubled and
Lonely Heart for many long Years. Yours in
Affection. Ishrieter

Private Correspondence

June 7th 1875

My Dear Miss Christie, [Sarah]

A remarkable coincidence! (How abrupt?) A short time ago I received the report of President Folwell of the University, and afterward wrote him in regard to the means of self support about the University, as I saw by his report that a large number of the students earn their entire expenses. This afternoon I received his reply giving the information desired, and advising me (in accordance with my request) to come, "if in good health & not easily discouraged and have say $50 or $75" to start with. (This is the "plan" of which I spoke & this letter gave a part of the "light")

Your letter of Wed. came in the same mail telling me of Parker's idea in regard to the University. After reading Pres. F's letter which half determined me to go, I found out P's intention. — Now the point of the whole matter is this — I am not following P, if I go. You may think it strange that I should ~~I~~ take particular pains to speak of this, but if you had felt the sharp stings which I have felt, when charged repeatedly & continuously with being P's lap dog, ~~you would~~ without a chance of self defence, you would not wonder that for once I would do the same thing and I can say without its being questioned, that this time at least Parker did not influence my course. I told you it has often been galling to me that I was thought to be so completely under P's thumb, that his will was law to me. — But enough of this.

I am glad, very glad, to learn that P. wrote & read an essay of such a character. I never believed that the total depravity of his nature had so wholly retained its original hold upon him that he could not do a thing as good as this even. Now I am much surprised that he has done it.

Your letter is almost entirely about P. & I dont know but mine will be, & perhaps I will not try to prevent it.

With reference to Miss K., P. & myself, if I did do that of which you accuse me, it was unintentionally & even unconsciously done. I can not, must not & will not, become closely attached to any one for years to come. This is &

has been my fixed determination. Therefore, although I like & admire her for many reasons, I have never desired (nor have I supposed that she did) that relations other than of mere friendship should exist between us, all your fears to the contrary notwithstanding. Consequently as I have always had a high regard I would not knowingly for my right hand have placed myself between him & one to whom he was attached. You will remember that I knew nothing about P's attachment to K when I first became acquainted with her, nor did I until the day that charge was flung at me, which you now reiterate, With reference to "honest dealing", I profess profound ignorance as far as I am concerned that he has been dealt with otherwise than honestly,

I thought
Of anyone else had been guilty
in this respect, it would very much
lower that one in my estimation;
for of all things abominable, this
is the worst.

I hardly expect to be believed
in anything that I have said,
& have half a mind to burn this.
I hoped that I had heard the
last of the affair, but it
seems the flame has only been
checked for a while to break out
with new fierceness afterward.
However we will perhaps soon
have a talk (a short one) on the
subject.

Now in regard to my going
to ~~winnipeg~~ Winnipeg I am yet far
from decided. I shall be on the
lookout for a school & so prepare
myself to go on as I have intended
if necessary. We will also have
a talk (along one) about this.

President Folwell sent me
Statutes - Swinburne & de G.
Oxford note book & pocket compendium
Yours &c

a splendid (you know how to make that word emphatic) letter, full of encouragement, & friendly words. Should I never see Minneapolis, that letter, is worth a small fortune to me.

But I must close,

Ever Your Friend

C. J. R.

P.S. I will not write to

P.

Tuesday morning. I am ashamed of myself that I have left so entirely unnoticed your what you said of yourself. But I could not write intelligently about anything you have said for it is something of which I know nothing. Neither could I make any suggestions that would be of the least use to you. Moreover, I am the same "great selfish boy" that I used to be. Oh

Yours &c

Stockbridge. June 12" 1873.

My Dear Sarah, —[Christie]

Yours of 7th at-hand. Can say little to the purpose tonight. Have not-heard from Trowbridge, have not-heard from home definitely whether there will be hay or fat-kine, have not-written Treat (vide this evening), have no intentions of staying here, have no money, have no fears, have 5 shirts and an abiding faith. If there is a fair crop at-home, I will go to Howard; for I know Uncle Dave will let-me have enough to get-to Cambridge, if I ask him for it; and once there, I can fortify and dignify and justify and magnify myself. Will write you again ~~two~~ three days hence. = They have multiplies and and carried one at-Andover, - sir.

Am never "down in the mouth". Don't-feel that-way. Shall don't-feel used up if we both rent-& teaching at-$20.

"Forward the Children of Israel that-they move forward".

Yours &c — Alex. J. Christie

Avalonia Maine.
June 12th 1845.

My dear Miss Chisholm: [Sarah]

I received your letter yesterday morning. I intended to answer it last night, but did not find time. I saw Prof. Hall this morning. He said that he had received a letter from you, and answered it, telling you all about school matters. He did not seem to think that you would like this school for it would occupy almost all of your time, and would prove very wearing work. I suppose no excuse from attendance. He made the demand that you would not live hall

as long if you took the school.
I told him I did not think
that thought would influence
you in the least. He then he
made some laughing reply.

But for my part I dont
see why you would not like
here. You know you would
have lots of friends, and I am
confident your pupils would
all love you. This would leave
the burden one half I would bear
it. I do not think
it will be of any use for you
to come down Saturday.
You pass through in two or three
weeks anyway, and I should
think until that time all neces-
sary business might be done
by letter, but you know best
about it of course. Will

Lillian & have commenced a
letter to her. The baby is crying
and I must tend to him
so you must excuse me and
sometime I will try and write
something worthy the name
of letter.

Yours Sincerely
Nettie Spessard

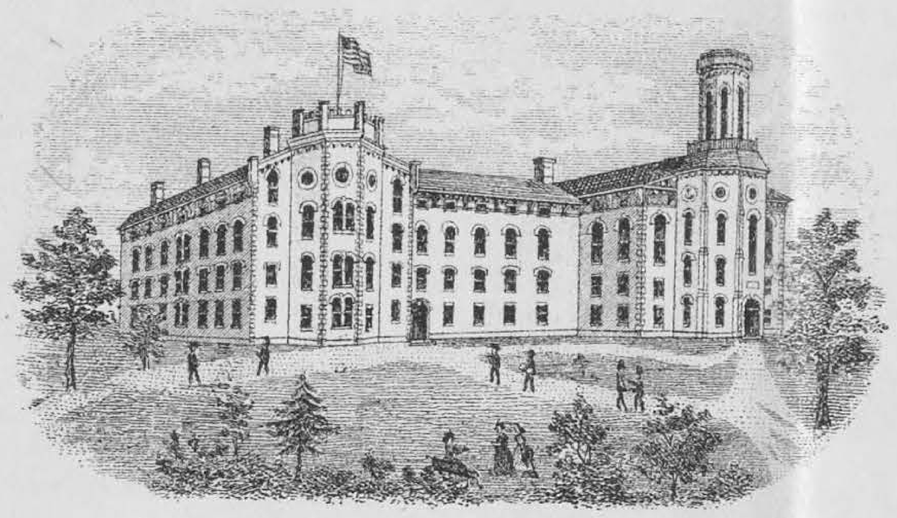
Letter No 3. —

June 17. 1870

Dear Sarah

I write a few lines to
inform you that I propose
starting for Beloit on Wednesday
~~morning~~ Thursday
I am going over to Mrs Hawley's
church & prayer meeting to night
and out to Fenton tomorrow
to spend the Sabbath there, and
such a trouble it will be to get
started It takes me all my time
to hold baby while I am at
home, for I shall be so far
away from her soon it seems
as if I could not let her alone
I am just the same undressed
in appearance which I am
before it only more often I am
wearing that the value of dress
and outward appearance, has finally

entered into my mind. All
Jennie's talking has never seemed
to make any impression on me
until now — and I will it
will bloom and bear fruit-
only in the Year. I think that
sometime I will really think
more of personal appearance than
I have done. This winter has
been a very busy one for me
and I hope, that all my future
will be as busy, in more duely
labor for my Lords. It is sweet
this thought! I shall be so happy
to get into a good talk with you and
Jennie. How and I may
call this a blessed winter since I
Christ- and the power of His salvation
are up! Good by till I see you
Yours in good hope. Helen



WHEATON COLLEGE

J. BLANCHARD, PRESIDENT.

Terms commence first of September, January and April.

COMMENCEMENT LAST OF JUNE.

Wheaton, Ill. June 19th 1875.

Miss Sarah J. Christie

Dear Madame

We are without a lady-principal in our College. We are in correspondence with one who has charge of an institution in Iowa, and who is to visit us at our Commencement June 30th inst: but whom is not expected unanimously as to her appointment, and the post will not be filled at once, if we have the prospect of one to whom we could unite more cordially.

Our college is in debt for the building pictured above, and we are all working under the average of other College Officers in hopes of better salaries. I commend myself & cause here upon a religious conviction, and remain here upon the same.

Will you please to give me replies to the following queries. You will oblige me.

1. Your Education, what & where?
2. Your Experience in teaching. Time? & place?
3. What you profess to teach?
4. Your religious convictions & Church relations.

5. Have you ever taken any personal interest in questions of reform? and if any what? The temperance cause particularly.

6. Have you ever thought any thing about the Secret Societies of the country belonged to any? Do you think the Temperance Secret Orders wise and useful?

These are the questions I should most ask you were you present. The lady to whom we have written will assist us, but we shall say nothing definite to you or any one else, till we either engage or close our correspondence with her: but if not too much trouble I should be happy to receive an Early reply & then often if you can send any testimonials & will be carefully return them — We are very anxious for the religious welfare of our pupils and if you have any Experience on Methods, we should be glad to know them.

My daughter (Miss Mamie) who was one of the best officers we ever had, taught for $250. & $350. After she left, we paid our last lady principal $400 and her living in the College, with a pleasant suit of furnished rooms, which might be worth $200 more, or $600 in all.

Hoping to hear from you by return Mail I remain Respectfully

Yours in Christ J. Blanchard

Garden City, Minn.
Apr 9, 1875.

My Dear Friend, [D.J. Christie]

The weeks pass slowly on, till now there remains but one of the present Carletonian term, and the time has come probably for me to write for the last time before seeing you; at any rate, I hope so.

How are you enjoying this part of the term? I wish it might be so pleasant as to compensate, if possible, for the care and anxiety which you have ~~borne~~ endured through the previous part of the term.

I heard from Parker a few days ago. He was very pleasant, and very fond, for him.

He seems to be yet undecided with regard to the University. I guess I can persuade him to go when I see him. At all events, I shall try. He also thinks it rather strange evidently that I should leave Carleton,— says I stand well there, have come on well with my studies, &c. But whether this is true or not, I cannot come back at present, and am very desirous of keeping in school without interruption.

I have not heard from you since writing what I did about going, and am somewhat curious as to your opinion on the question— I will not say anxious, because— (you may guess the rest of that sentence.)

Have you received any "satisfactory information" about vacancies? I presume there is little prospect of your remaining in Minnesota.

Why could it not have happened that you would go to Minneapolis? Just think how pleasant it would be if especially if several more of the Northfield students go there. Yet I have no doubt that in some way it will be better for you to go elsewhere, although I have not the least idea how. You probably have been kept informed from home on the grasshopper question. They are a great deal worse over this way than in the region of your brother's farm. Since I wrote that we had them nearly caught on this place, myriads of the pestiferous "d— b" have come on from adjoining farms and now there seems to be little hope of getting any what. They have not

yet eaten the corn & oats our
main crop this year badly, but what
they will do hereafter is known
only to omniscience and is con-
trollable only by omnipotence.
All through this part of the state
those crops which have not been
injured by the hoppers are remark
ably good. Reports have come to
us lately that they are flying
in from the southwest. If it
is true that they are coming
in any considerable numbers
they will take all that the
natives leave, probably.
And should the odious army
be continually reinforced, a
few years would suffice to
depopulate the whole State.
This, however, is hardly to
be feared.

Father preached an excellent
sermon this morning, from
the text, "He gave them their

request, but sent leanness into their soul." It refers as you know to the murmurings of the Israelites because manna only was given as their food. That fact and the attendant & following circumstances is in the same line as the a series of events, the most prominent one of which formed the subject of todays S.S. lesson. I believe there is more sound philosophy in that passage, than in many volumes of the writings of the heathen philosophers. The writer of that Ld, not necessarily a "positive belief" but a clear conception of his subject. By the way the next "oration" of my production will be entitled "Clear Conception" and I shall write it partly for the sake of refuting the argument of Mullikens oration, by which this subject was suggested to me. This would be a grand

~~subject~~ theme, and I know I am
right and he was wrong, in part.
My "conceptions" with reference
to it are as "clear" as noon-
day, and I can think of no
subject that would be so
inspiring, and so prolific of
lofty sentiments as this.
The only draw-back would be the
inability to do the subject
anything like justice.
I shall look all the week
for a letter from you
Ever your friend
C J Rockwood

Minneapolis Minn.
June 25 [illegible]

Dear Miss Christie, [Sarah]

I received yours yesterday while Sawyer was here. I suppose Prof. Payne and he have told you all about Commencement. I enjoyed it very much, but had been running about so much for a few days before, and then having around tours with Sawyer half the afternoons, I was pretty thoroughly tired out and have been about sick today.

School has passed along very quietly this Term, am almost sorry that it is out though it makes very little difference to me for I shall

have to study about as usual all through vacation - making up my Greek and one or two other unimportant studies. They have so many studies that to me, seem almost useless and yet there is no alternative, we have to take them just as laid down in the course.

Does Sawyer know that you are to leave Cs? I asked him in an indirect way, if they were to keep all their teachers next year, he said he thought so, unless Christie should leave, I supposed from that, he had heard something about it. Of course I did not tell him anything farther. He said he thought if you did leave, it would be a very unwise act on your part for you are succeeding better & better all the time. It seems just so to me, though, of course there may be, and probably are reasons, which neither of us understand, which indicate you to leave. Did you write to Prof. Swall? I really do not want you to go so far away, am afraid I shall not never see you if you once leave Minn., and then what shall I do?

There are two or three young lady students here who are intending to go to Chicago next year to study medicine, and one of them, with whom I have considerable acquaintance has been urging me to go.

I shall not do so until I have finished at least the Collegiate department here, and then there is hardly a probability that I shall.

I wish you all the success possible, if you really think it the best thing to be done, my greatest fear is that your health will not hold out.

I recd a letter from Rockwood a short time ago, he was inquiring about the school - seems to think

quite strongly about coming here.
did not say whose. Vanya
was telling me that he (Rockwood)
told him that he was determined
not to stop this side of Germany!!!

I am afraid he will find "nuts" with a
white head and burning one a cane
but then I may be mistaken.

Why haven't you been up to
see me, I thought you would
be up for Commencement, at least.
Can't you come after school
closes. I need see you before
you leave for good.

I do not leave here during vacation
or I should certainly call and see
you. I tried to get to Lake
here to school my 0 year, but he
did not seem to favor the idea
at all. How about Wilson? do you
think he would come? I wish it
might be so, for perhaps I could
manage to get acquainted with him
but Butts is utterly unscriptible.

Miss Christie

[June 23] [1875]

Dr. & Mrs. A. Hutchinson.

Mattie McCurdy.

Dr. A. Hutchinson.

Mattie McCurdy.

Married June 23d, 1875.

United States
POSTAL CARD.



WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

To Wm. S. Christie,

Steenbridge

Calumet Co. Wisconsin.

Andover, June 17. 75.

Dear A. C is laughing over your letter just recd. The little Anna Carroll-ite is quite a wonderful beauty, especially in dispositions. Her mid night Concerts are with Bessie, & doing well. Good reason to stay a month. C & Children to go with me as far as Stockbridge Mass. where her father's friends live. Will stay there a major part of summer likely. Start from here July 1. In Chicago July 4. Stay till End of Aug. then run out to Albany over Sunday to preach & see good folks there, & so back to Aly. Sept. 1. Must see you in Chicago. Let me give you orders from Headquarters, in procuro: Make no engagement in the West for next year.

Grasshoppers, by Worthington Chapin I see this morning, have done no damage in Blue Earth Co. & will do none. It says the prospect is of a greater Crop than in any part of the State. So that is out of the way. Again, a prominent gentleman here, graduate of Yale, took your address this morning; came to me for it, having seen your Democratic views, said he was receiving applications frequently from men on the lookout for work & many men as you, & you must make no plans for the West next year. Above all, C. says - Use ad vicum a te dictum adeas. Cum meditine pastor ibi pastor erat. Schola est alicui difficultima propter invidiam dissensiones que inter viri rico regnantes. parca pecunia, magni labores. Odia, conjurationes, insidiae tibi erunt, ut magistri praeteritis. Ille omnino adeas.

J. has not sent back paper yet. Sickness delayed my sending it for two weeks & expect answer soon. Keep me informed of your address. Bessie well, repeats Book of Alphabet admirably. Keeping all my letters, count, to 20 &c. C sends love. My oration horribly mangled by newspaper, so do not send it. Shall

[To: Sarah J. Christie, Carleton College, Northfield]

Rapidan June. 27. 1875.

My Dear Sister Sarah
have got your Letter of the
21st asking when those Notes
are Due and who holds them
one is held by Mr. O. P. Smith
that is the Largest one the
other by Charles Mansfield
Both of Mankato now it Seems
to me the Best way for you
to Do is to Send the money
to me by Express and I will
lift the Notes then you could
make your Visit at
Owatonna Before Comeing home
they are Due on the 5 and 7
of July Now Sarah be sure
and have the Money here
before they are Due Send
By Express to me at Mankato
now write as soon as you get

this and Let me know all about
it and when you are Coming
we are all very well Sandy
has got to be quite a little
Boy Can Shoye a Chair
all over the house has got
four Little Teeth now. he has
got your Letter Now holding
it up before his face making
out he is reading it like me
he is Such a Cunning little rogue
About
the Grasshoppers they are
Doeing Some Damage here
But we Cant tell there may
a Flight of them Come and
Clean us out yet Crops are
Looking first rate So farr
now Sarah write Soon as you get
this I hope we will See you Soon
So Good by from your Loving Brother
Dave

Stockbridge Wis.
June 28th 75.

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

One more week of
school and then — what?
I do not yet know certainly,
but in any event, nothing
very bad. I wish I knew
what chance you have for
a crop: and think Dave
might drop me a line.
I suppose Sarah is with you:
if not, send this to her.
Continue to address me
here. You will be in Chicago
on the 4th. I may see him, and
may go east to something good.

Yours Hopefully
Alex. S. Christie

June 29th 1875

Dear Mr Christie

Professor [illegible]

College duties has prevented
hitherto

me from looking over the paper
you sent to me.

The demonstration
seems to me a very ingenious
one - and shows a more than
ordinary command of
analysis. There is no journal
in America where such an
article can be printed. Save
the American Journal of Science -

I should advise you rather
to put the article in shape for
publication - and to submit it
to the Editors of the American
Journal. Which is printed at
New Haven - and of which Prof
J. D. Dana is the Editor.

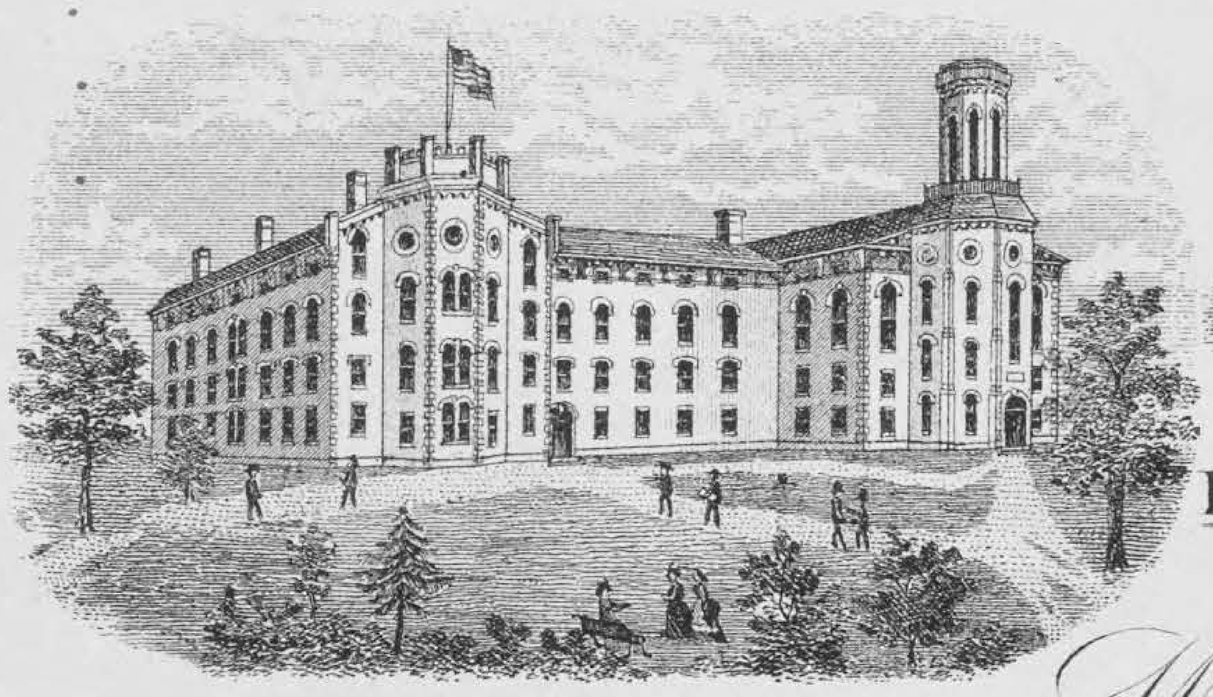
Very Sincerely
John Woodridge

[Harvard University]

Rockbridge Mis. June 30th 75.

My Dear Sister, —

Yours of 30th May at hand,
and I am glad that your health is
not worse than usual and that
you are still brave. Ours are
light afflictions compared with what
others have & continue to suffer. "Be faithful."
Do the best you can for one or both,
and I'll do the same; If we could
teach together, I would like it. You
may leave Carleton; but they will
cannot keep us from teaching
in College. We were born to that
end. I propose; and we'll do it
"by hook or by crook." I have no plan
in prospect; but will be active. We
can't fail. We'll stand by each other,
East and West, to the last. Just so
only to win. I will. Your two years
in Carleton, and my one year in this
place, have been the first Horrors of the
coming day. I'll write more in full in
a fortnight. If you get on a trail tell me.
Your brother Alex. T.



WHEATON COLLEGE

J. BLANCHARD, PRESIDENT.

TERMS COMMENCE

First of September, January and April.

COMMENCEMENT LAST OF JUNE.

Wheaton, Ills. July 3d 1875

Miss Sarah J. Christie

Dear Madam-

Our Commencement is over and the College dismissed. When officers are appointed it is done by nomination of the Faculty and confirmation by the Board or Ex. Committee.

I have conversed with individual members of the Faculty so that I am authorized that when we meet, which ever may do most need, I feel certain that you will be our choice.

Our Lady Principal has had $500. a year and been living in the College. She has a pleasant room, bed-room and closet & furnishes and

Carpeted. Fuel and light of course are included in the "living" furnished by the College. If the whole is worth $80 a year; then the Lady Principals Salary there is $80.

In case the Salary is not paid at the End of the College Year our Officers receive Notes for unpaid balances drawing 10 per cent interest which is Equivalent to Cash.

If you will accept the foregoing on the above terms please answer at once, and I will present the case to the Faculty next week if possible—

Hoping to hear from you soon I Remain

Yours in Christ

J. Blanchard

Elm Wood Castle, Napoleon, July 4th
1876

My Dear Clara

Yours of the 28th Ult.
Came, Perceiving You are not to be
in Stockbridge next Year. I would most
Cordially invite You to Come and See
us. We will if nothing Comes from
Abroad in the Way of insect, have almost
Excellent Crop. Average 20 Bushell to the
Acre. And nothing else happening to injure it.
It might be for Your ultimate
Good to rest awhile by the Way in Your
pursuit of Fame, and, Shall I say ease
to Men? But if any thing Should
turn up which would Advance You
in the True path, do not let Love for
Home, or I Was Going to Say, Friends,
retard You. But if I had Said that
it Would have been a Mistake.
for in No Letter Way Can a Man Please

Love to Friends than by Advancing
His own true interests. for the
Interest of us All is Advanced by the
Well doing of our Friends, We allways
do Well for our friends When we do
Well for ourselves. Sarah is in Blankets
for David saw her Yesterday. She says she
is Coming out here on Wednesday.
has resigned her Situation in
Carleton. Why I do not as yet Know.

I Should be Glad to See her anyway
And more that We are in this unfinished
House. We have plenty of Solace and Room.
And Breathe More freely. I Should like
Much to See You Also. to See Two or
Three of You again Gathered together. We
Shall Say in Gods Name. Which is Love.
And yet Observe me. I Would not
for my Gratification. or Your Gratification
desire to See You tho need Aside from
More Worthy Object,

There is to be a Big Drop, and you
might have the pleasure of being at
the Ingathering, And yet Carry on Your
Correspondence With Any and Every one
Yet, Just as You may think About it.

I Should Like Also to See a pair,
Tom. There are indeed many there, We
Would All Like. But Must be Content
to accept that Which our Dear Place
And God Allows to us.

Keep portering me in Your
Movements from time to time
And do not fail Writing to me
Although I Should Write but little
to You. All here in Usual health
little Sandy just trying to Walk
beginning to Get teeth. has indeed, 4.

Had a Letter from Willie
Lately. is to have Eyes Out, also. after two
Sad ones and feel Considerable elated at it.

So now then My first Writing
in this New Building is for You. on
this 4th of 75. My thoughts Wandering
around after You All, entering into All
Your Concerns so far as I Known to me
troubling myself with All Your troubles
and incapable of entering into All your
Joys, only through Christ. for when You
any of you tell me of them I then can happy
with You on Your Word.

Goodbye then now
in hope to hear again from You soon.

Christie.

Princeton Ill.
July 7th 1875.

Miss Christie. [Sarah]

Dear Friend:-

I am once more in my quiet home and am happy because I have reached it in safety and because my people are still spared to me.

The morning I left N. I found a large number of students and other kind friends at the depot to bid me farewell. I always appreciate such little remembrances and this time especially so since the majority must surely had to get excused from

study hours in order to do so but also Sooth Morning exercises. I thank them as I think of them for this little last act of brotherly friendship. But amidst this all things came another token of tender regards in the shape of a beautiful bouquet of flowers. This came with me, and its fragrance ever, as I sped through those many miles along, seemed a fit emblem of a beautiful benediction breathed from the heart of the giver.

I enjoyed a charming visit at Prides Chinn and Mr Sterling with friends.

Whatever is said never to have had a better commencement. I did all I could for you there and thought matters were quite favorable when I left. I presume you have heard some definite answer ere this. I am anxious to learn their decision and yours with reference to ~~the~~ your coming. For my own pleasure and benefit I hope you will be there next year.

I hope you will pardon me for not writing sooner. Your letter directed to M— was rec'd.

I hope if you come that your work may not be greater than you anticipated — I think it will be easier as you become acquainted with it.

The girls have been without a lady principal so long that they are a little demoralized they say but

I am sure you are the
one who can successfully
marital them to proper rank.
Please stand between
me and harm at Northfield.
For I am sure they will
hate to loose you, and will
not thank me for taking
you away.
I do not know where
to direct but suppose
this will be forwarded from
Northfield.
Please pardon any
seeming haste or neglect
Ed ever regarded me.
Yours Sincere Friend
Mrs. L. Lauder Stratton.

Red Wing, Minn.

July 7. 1873.

Dear Miss Christie. [M. Christie]

I have been so very busy I have not had time to write to you before. Our girl has been gone about four weeks, and they have not had much washing done since she went. we can not get a girl so we have our own work to do. have six men.

We had a wash woman come and help us monday and tuesday we finished the Ironing today I am very glad. I was very tired.

I was going over to Hallenworth with Pa today but I could not wear my shoes So had to stay and let one

of the others go.

Monday I stepped into a pail of boiling water and burned my foot quite bad, so I have to wear some ones slipper on that foot.

I have been horse back riding twice since I got home, and have been buggy riding three or four times.

I saw Fanny last saturday she still thinks she and her sister and aunt will go back to N. next term. and me and my sister are expecting to go too. I am so glad. I want to go back real bad.

Fanney has about six more weeks of school.

I wrote to Mary Shelton and to Emma B. Sunday did intend to write to you but it got to late.

I suppose you got home safe I did, waited in Farmington about six hours. but there was a piano in the room, and some magazines so I got along nicely.

When I got to Hastings two of my brothers and two of my sisters were there to meet me.

How did you celebrate the fourth? I had a very nice time Saturday. our church had a dinner and supper in the new hotel, to raise money to fix the church. we had all of the ice-cream, she made over two hundred dollars, that was quite well I think. It will be one week this evening since I came home, it does not seem possible to think I have been home nearly one week. the time flies. we will soon be back to N. It is a very nice day, quite warm. have you heard from any of the students yet? I am looking for a letter very day, hope to hear soon, from some of them.

You must send me your picture Miss C. Then I will send one of mine when I get some.
I must bring this letter to a close.
Excuse all errors.
Write soon to your loving friend.

Jesse Eames
Red Wing
Minn.

Garden City,
July, 8th, 1875.

Dear Friend:

I hope you have not concluded that I am one of that class of friends who are present only in the high tide of prosperity. Several things have combined to prevent my answering your note of July 1st, which, by the way, I was glad to get.

I wish I knew where you are to be next year. Your letter expresses so much anxiety (as well as hopefulness) in regard to the future, that even I who am apt to regard with indifference the troubles of others can not remain wholly

insensible to your present trouble.

Occasionally for a few weeks I have heard things from which I partly drew the conclusion you were not held in so high ~~Estem~~ esteem with certain ones of as ~~formerly~~ at other times I do not try to guess how or what I have heard for it is only an inference with me and may not be well based, neither were they from the one to whom you would ascribe them, P— ?) What I wish to say is this: if it be true that your friends seem less steadfast now than usual, it would be a pleasure to me if my friendship you could consider, ~~it~~ all the more constant as there is greater need of constancy.

You have told me that I was of some help to you. I am glad if I have been, for I know of no other good that I have been doing. And if in the present or in any future time I can be of ~~any~~ service to you, in any way you will, will you not, do me the pleasure of accepting such service as I can render?

I say write but little tonight. — The grasshoppers are nearly gone & have left us a good lot of corn (for this year) and a few oats. We are now afraid that they will go back to their old hunting grounds and disturb Eli's grain. They have taken that direction. If they do, I hardly know what either he or father will do, (Father has depended on having wheat from him)

Next week Tuesday or Wednesday I expect to go out to put up hay with Eli, and by & by help him harvest. Shall probably stay

about 2 weeks before coming home.
I wish I could see you before I
go, but dont know as I can.
We are very busy.
We will have to visit before
going away in the fall, to volente.
Your Friend
Rockwood.
P.S. I have two requests to make
first that you say nothing of the
contents of this letter, & secondly
that you be not frightened nor
shocked nor provoked nor
angered by the superscription
R.

United States
Postal Card

WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER.

CHICAGO ILL. JUL 9 7 AM

U.S. POSTAGE ONE CENT

To James Christie.

Good Thunder

Blue Earth Co. Minnesota

126 Rush St. Chicago. Thursday
July 9,
[1858]

My Dear Father;

I left Carmie and the babies at Stockbridge, Mass. in the pleasant farm house of Edwin Brewer - Cousin of her father - who kindly insisted on her making that her home while I am away. I work here as Tutor in the family of Mr. McCormick of Reaper fame, Have my boy & girl in their Latin, Algebra and Book keeping during the forenoon, and have afternoon to myself.

Salary 200 & board for the summer. It will cost 50 to come & go, the rest will enable me to give next year wholly to study - which is what I must do, as it is the year of the Course.

Return Sept. 1. after a run out to Amboy - The McCormicks came a Century ago from the parish in which I was born, to the Shenandoah Valley Virginia.

Love to all, & more soon. Direct as above, & I will send for it. J. B. C.

Garden City,
July. 10th 1875.

Dear Miss Christie [Sarah]
Reed

your note Sat. It was
too late to prevent any speaking
of your leaving Carleton at home,
but I have said nothing about
it anywhere else.
Some things in your letter
struck me as being decidedly
"reed". If I have been any
more indifferent than you
I deserve to be — but I
know I haven't: and yet I
never thought of doubting
your friendship.
Making many professions

and continually repealing them, is not a part of real friendship. and in so much more common between those who wish to seem friends than those who really are. I cannot imagine why you are sorry for having told me of your intention to study medicine. I hope it will not be necessary for you to give it up, & that you will find in the work peace of mind & contentment, which so few find amy where. I will not assume you to of any friendship, for I have done so before, & you didn't believe me,

Yours &c.

E M Parker

Stockbridge Mas. July 9th 75:

My Dear Father,

Yours of 4th at hand with good news this 29th birth-day of yours affectionately. Really in extacies over the idea of yours having a good crop, and all being in health, and Sandy the 47th getting on bravely. So you call it Elmwood Castle? Not so bad; but I'd like this summer to make regular approaches and then take the place by assault—. Now, remember, you have given me carte blanche to do whatever is best—; and much as I would like to see you, home-sick as I am at times, the

circumstances will not permit it.
I haven't much money, and
with that little, for my own
good, and for the good of all,
I must strike for Harvard.
This teaching common school
is no better than scrambling
for peanuts; and were not
doomed to it forever.
If I get a year or two there,
in Cambridge, I will be much
the better of it. With every
facility, I cannot fail. How-
ever odd it may seem to others
for me to talk of going to school
in my 30th year, it doesn't
seem so in the least to me.
I'm just the right age. The years
have come to me which bring the
philosophic mind - in some degree.
Are we not ever young? He
who grows old, feels it and says
so, is the worst kind of a mater-
ialist. It will be better for us
all. My course will be scientific
- I'm worth nothing in linguistics,
and I care nothing for them.
But just let me ogle and torture
Nature and wrest from heaven
and Earth their mighty secrets.
I'll go to Dodge Co. and stay
till time to go east. Am waiting
here for pay. May leave next
week. Write to Clymian or
Lowell - say Lowell. If Sarah
is with you, tell her to do the
best she can and let it go at
that, waiting for better days.
Have added a little to my Rainbow
demonstration, and wrought out
the numerical values for third
bow. Did you get the Journal
containing my Problem of the
Comets? Enclose card Jim

sent me sometime ago.
Carrie says " Do not go
to the village of which you
were speaking. (I was talking some
of Clinton). The school is to any-
one the most difficult one on
account of the strifes and annoying
existing there, small pay, great
labors, hatred, conspiracies,
snares are there for you, as for
the masters going before you.
On no account go there. "
So Good Bye
Alex

[illegible] have had [illegible]
one of the [illegible]
[illegible] I am [illegible]
[illegible] will do so -
place for grads.
Will remain
El- we know
are to [illegible]
or other [illegible]
[illegible] Friendly dollar
[illegible] and Queen
[illegible] annual home
[illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

& sympathized with him in all his trials of ill-health &c. & when feeling discouraged or despondent always came to me for a talk. I said to say I was both mother & sister to him

Wilson the boy who was expelled & for whom I fought so hard with the & who was finally taken back on conditions faculty - told me he was not coming back to Carleton - said he wanted to go where nobody about his past was known where he could begin all over again taking a good stand at the beginning & maintaining it - talked of the University of Oberlin - He likes Stratton very much, who had a good influence over him - so confided his plan to him one day also. - Stratton came at once to me & told me of it - & said that since he was to leave Carleton anyway, he had urged him strongly to go to Wheaton with him - & said Wilson had just about made up his mind to do so but told Stratton that he would not decide until he had talked with Pres Chrisler - As Stratton was going up Jr. then to Wilson all I told him to see Wilson at once and tell him that he had told me all about it - & that I sent word to him that I would much rather he would go with Stratton to Wheaton than to go elsewhere. In a short time Stratton came back & said that a thought had struck him & although he might be blamed by the Carleton Faculty for saying it yet he did not feel that it was wrong in itself & so would do as he felt impressed - So went on to say that he thought there would be that vacancy of Lady Principal at Wheaton at the close of the year & that he wanted me to go down there if I could get the place. Thought I was just the one &c. - I knew at the time that I was not to return to Carleton. but he did not. was the reason he almost feared to speak of it - to me - for he knew how very popular I had been with President - & supposed I was so still.) I told him nothing but inquired carefully as to the place & what the duties of the one who had filled place & when he asked permission to write to President - Blanchard about me - I gave my permission - & at once received letter from the President telling me that the place was not yet filled although there was not perfect unanimity although they had almost come to an engagement with a lady who had been preceptress in an institution in Iowa - but he said that there was not perfect unanimity on the part of the Board as to her appointment - She was to visit there at the Commencement time the 30th of June & then the matter would be finally settled - & meanwhile he asked me if I would like to do so to send in an application to the Board giving particulars as to education - where & when &c - Experience in teaching - places & time, with names as references from each place - & also "was not a gradual" - "Education defective" & gave the very meagre details - gave Experience with - J. T. Walsh as reference

in Clyman (because he could write well & is a friend, I know) Messrs Britton & Royce in Beloit, G. W. Ryland in Lancaster - Benson & Lovell in Lowell & Miss Evans & Messrs Preceptress & Prof. Payne in Northfield - I dropped a line to each of my referees & told them some of the general facts & what I had done - Evans & Prof. Payne urged my confidence & both were glad for me & Prof. P. would write Miss Calkins - Miss E. a private letter & Pres. B. telling forth my work with her - & I also sent a note a private letter that Pres. Strong would to me from Boston last winter in which he commended my work in all directions very highly - Throughout went down to Wheaton before the close of our term - & said he would do all he could for me but none of us had any hope hardly, as from the knowledge we had of details expected fully that the lady from Iowa would get elected - There seemed so little hope that I thought I would not let you anything about it - I knew that my defective education & lack of experience as Preceptress would be against me - particularly the first - I felt that if I did get it however that it would be purely providential - for I did not seek it - as I had been seeking in numberless other directions without any special success - and I made up my mind that if it came

to me, I would take it as a gift-
direct from God - And I could not-
wish it to come through a purer
holier instrument - than Shallow for
the boy or man, Talbot, is one of
the Saints in truth - The worst of
the best - all recognize that in him.
Well, Prof. Blanchard said he
would write at once after Commence-
ment - (June 30.) & Shallow said he would write
to me - but the time went + I gave
up all hope of it - Went out last
last week - came in last night - on
the train for my mail & found among
others a letter from Prof. B. in which
he says - "When Profs are appointed
it is done by nomination of the
Faculty & Confirmation by the Board
or Executive Committee. I have
conversed with individual mem-
bers of the Faculty - so that I am
persuaded that when we meet
which we may do, next week, I
hope. - I feel certain that your
wills be our choice. -
That is the basis on which
I ground a strong hope of your
& Shallow next year Jack Talbot
Principal - Will let you know
when there is confirmation, of
which I have no doubt. - If
you will keep me posted as to
your whereabouts - I get your letter

dated July 8. this noon - giving me names of places to which you had written - I will telegraph to Pres. Blanchard tomorrow morning accepting the offer that he make me at the close of his letter. - And now - Sandy - you give up all thought & worry about - schools & applications - you must go to Harvard - I am determined upon it - I promise you $400. during the year, at different times - now if you can raise enough in some way, to pay your expenses going & half through the first term (perhaps & $100. will more than do all that - the $400. I speak of will do the rest - you can rely upon that - - & you must go two years without stopping - by that time you can take a professorship anywhere. You shant teach in miserable Public schools longer - your teaching is not appreciated & you are not growing into broader usefulness thereby. More than that, as a money-making business it is a failure - & that is the consideration would help you on it - under present circumstances & the family - Go to Chicago at once see Tom - tell him all about this. & my affairs - & you & he come up & go with me to the National Association at Minneapolis - I have friends there where we can all stop. - You must get excused for a few days & attend that it will be an opportunity seldom within our reach - We will meet many of my Carlton boys & girls & I want you both to see them & other friends - & I shall go anyway, & I want you to keep me posted as to your movements - for so many of your girls want me to visit them at places along the route or near it - that I had thought of starting a week or two before that time - & a knowledge of your plans would modify mine accordingly - We have great reason to be grateful to God for his goodness to us as a family - surely He is leading us out - by his own hand. When I look back upon my own life, I cannot keep from praising him. I have never made a change yet - but it has proved a blessing to me - it has been a constant going higher pray the Lord give us grace to use that gift aright - for the good of our family, first, & secondly, for all humanity - that is my ambition - I have none other - Now Sandy do not let your energies be divided - that is the death of everything. - have you not learned that by experience? Let all effort be in the direction of Harvard. When

the End for which you strive is attained it - it reads - many a sacrifice, & much labor & striving, - you were thirty - eight - last - Friday. I feel & determined that - you should be in a fair way towards a Professor's chair - when you are thirty - if you live - It - is time you began. If I work nicely & well at Wheaton I do not doubt - but - that - I could help you in there — and I have no doubt whatever of my success - Wheaton is an old College - twenty - seven years about - the age of Beloit - & there are some great - men in it - Faculty - so that - it - will be an atmosphere of growth for me. - Father is well but - failing as the years go by - Come home soon as you can after seeing Tom - & bring him if possible - Father is weary terribly & - sick both of you - Poor old man - Nicholson have some kinds of neglecting him & think in their ambitious struggles & work - & he feels it - sorely - If you only saw him once - just - one glimpse of the old man - shut - out - from the world as it - were - & his faculties failing - I know you would come just as soon as possible I - & help comfort - & cheer him up, for a few weeks of the vacation - He talks constantly - about you & Tom, wanting & wishing for you to come home - So dear Dave & all - crisp good,-

[July 12, 1875]

Miss S. J. Christie;

Dear Friend. —

You told me to not wait long befor writing and I am yet uncertain whether this is too soon. I have for some time been debating both sides of the question — Shall I write before two weeks have passed? and, as you see, the negative has almost won. The first few days after getting home pass so swiftly that it is pretty hard to say how many of them are a long time. We left Northfield on the day after school closed, and have since spent our time happily at home. We have enjoyed excellent health, so that

our vacation has been a pleasant one so far. Emily has certainly had to work more than she did at Northfield, for I have heard her say that she has not after all "forgotten to get tired." The truth is they know very well how to make helpful, and useful people I presume get tired sometimes. Thorsten has been occupied chiefly in doing nothing. he thrives best at that. I have not worked very hard yet, the most busy time has not yet come here, and I have been helping father with some carpentering. I have not read much this vacation, as I felt too tired to begin any systematic reading directly on coming home; but I feel ready now, and expect to give considerable attention to German this Summer. I do not wish to take it up as a study at college if I can learn it almost as well by myself. If I can make up the Modern Languages required, without studying them with the class, I shall not need to take four studies more than one or two terms more, which I think would be quite advantageous to me. It seems to me that the Faculty ought not to hold me very rigidly to the required French and German, since I have one modern language pretty well; better than I expect to learn either of these two. I am going to try next year to be up entirely with the junior class. It will no doubt be hard work; but it can not be much harder than this year was.

My brothers and sister have spoken of you often, and we all wish you all the good that grateful friends can. We are debtors for much kindness, and we have no better way to repay you for it than by

trying to show our appreciation and thankfulness in making our future conduct as worthy as we know you wish it to be. I do not know of any one at Carleton who has reason to feel any way but grateful towards you; I hope that the consciousness of this will give you the pleasure and happiness which I wish and pray may ever be yours.

My brothers wish to be remembered to you. Ethel sends her love; she will write to you soon. You may say justly that this was not much to put off so long, but I have very little of anything to write about, since I have been scarcely anywhere but at home. If you desire it, I shall attempt an improvement some other time.

Respectfully yours,

A. A. Veblen

Northfield, Minn. July 12, 1875.

July 7th Twelfth [1875?]
Dr Stockbridge Town.

My Dear Sister

Yours of 7th at hand and thanks for the enclosure. Will return when I draw pay — in a few days. Then go to Dodgeville and get together enough to pay my way a year in Iowa. I can get it, I know. I send you copy of Trowbridge's letter to Tom.

Since reading Annenstein's last, have recast it and added a material point — much better shape now. A good letter from Dodgeville, but no particulars. Still reading

me a line occasionally, but-
splitting generalities like after
school-meetings. But-
am bent on Harvard and
a Professorship if among
the possibilities. Tom thinks
it is. Your wife notices T's
encouraging remark about-
command of Analysis. The work
was extremely elementary com-
pared with the Analytics I can-
use. There's a place in
this world for us all.

Nil Desperandum

Alex. S.

Write to Lowell.

June 29th 1875

Dear Mr. Christie

Pressure of College Duties
has hitherto prevented me from looking
over the paper you sent to me.

The demonstration seems to me
a very ingenious one - and shows
a more than ordinary command of
Analysis. There is no journal in Amer-
ica where such an ~~Art~~ Article can
be printed, save the American
Journal of Science.-
I should advise your brother to put-
the article in shape for publication
and to submit it to the Editors of
the American Journal, which is
printed at New Haven - and of
which Prof J. D. Dana is
the editor.

Very Sincerely
John Trowbridge.

Stockbridge Wis. July 15th 75.

My Dear Father.

I was paid in full yes-
terday, and start for Dodge 6°
Monday 19th. Will there make
arrangements to go to Harvard for
a year, going east with Tom
from Chicago. It is the high
road to success. Here there are
none able to appreciate good
work in the higher mathematics
except those who are content on
remaining in the chairs of mathe-
matics. I can hope for nothing from
such. In Cambridge I will be under-
stood by men who have it in their
power to give me a good place
without endangering themselves.
It is a significant fact that the
Nine Men came from the East.
I must go East and try their diet.

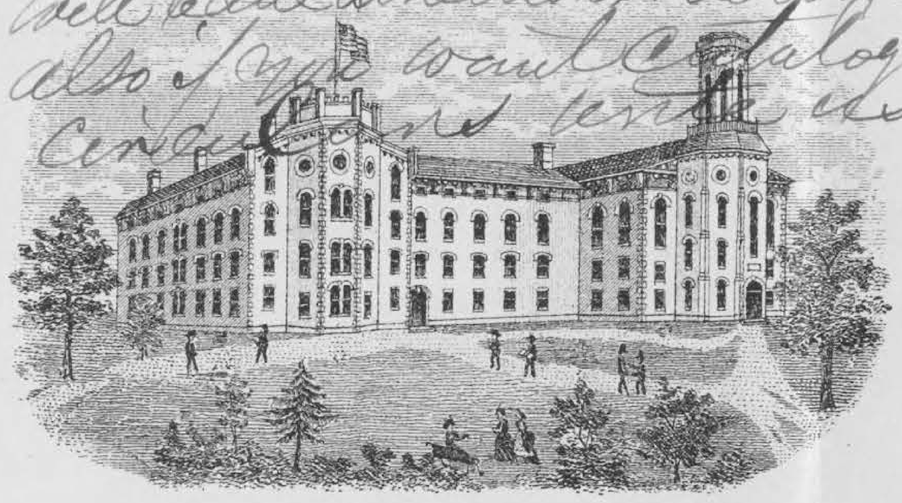
Yesterday and day before, I completely solved the Problem of the Couriers which I published last Spring. By that solution, I was able to find where one point overtook the other and how far each traveled; but was quite unable to find the Equation of the curve. This I have now done, finding it to be not transcendental (as I expected), but Algebraic, extremely interesting, possessing many most curious properties. My Analysis is complete, effected by ~~the~~ using the higher departments of the Integral Calculus, known probably in this to John E. Davies of Madison and myself, published in but one book in America. I'll now prepare for publication. Pardon my apparent vanity — I have wrought 3 years on this problem — probably 500 hours. In doing this, I have learned more mathematics than in any other way, like William of Orange, turning my defeat into victories.

Sent two pictures lately,
"Mamma is Coming" for You and
Mother, "The Cottage by the Cliff"
for Emma and Dave. The former
was a present to me from James
A. Christie of Calumet-Co., my
pupil and friend; the latter, ~~with~~ like the
other little boys, I received from my
Assistant—, Mrs. Marcia G. Bailey.
Put 'em up where you can see
'em, regardless of flies; for when
these are used up, we will have
more. Write to Lorrie,
With love to all,

In haste

Adv. S.

Mrs. Blanchard and I may be absent when you come but we will leave directions. As soon as you have chosen please write us. Also if you would like catalogues or circulars send us word.



WHEATON COLLEGE

J. BLANCHARD, PRESIDENT.

Terms commence first of September, January and April.

COMMENCEMENT LAST OF JUNE.

Wheaton, Ill. July 15th 1870

Miss Sara H. Christie

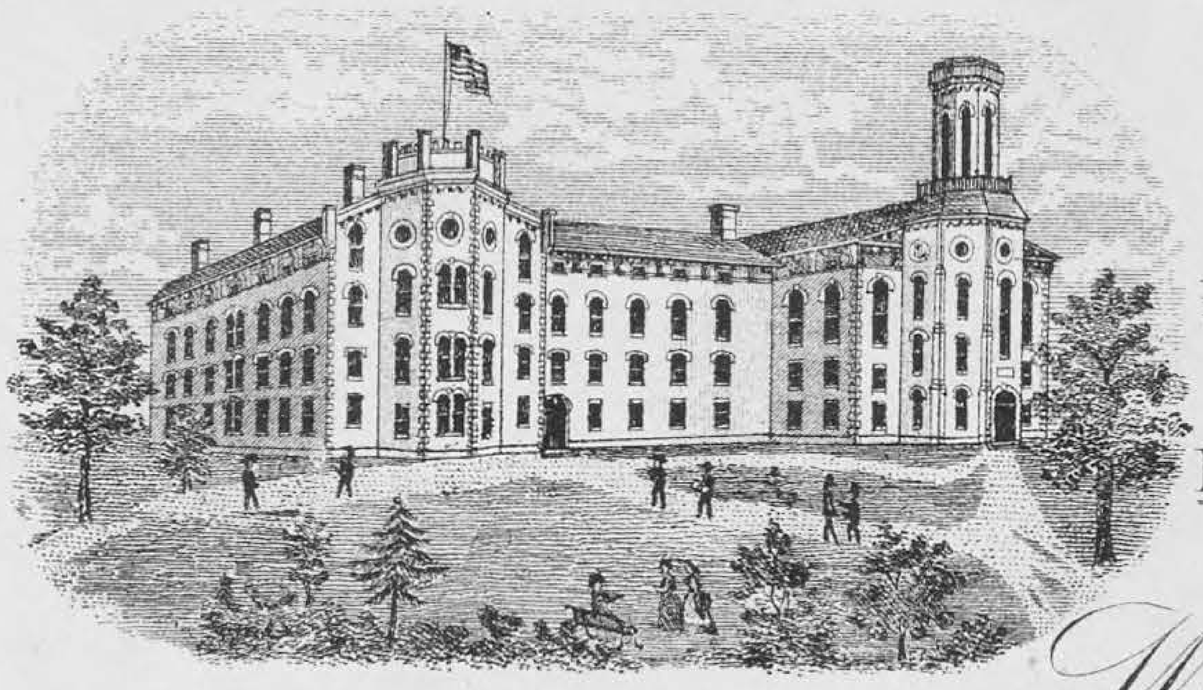
Near Madison

Your telegram and letter are received. We highly approve of every thing you have written. Your family is select and desirable and I have good hopes that God is leading you to us. Nevertheless "Confiden the day of small things"; Let us "Be sure then of the end" for they are many.

The Ladies wing of the above building can accommodate a goodly number, and as the room and new studies and many needed improvements have been made since you were here I hope they would be filled and more filled. My expectations have been raised by the reports which I have received about Wheaton. We have had good women for officers in the past but how the best would not always remain around. There.

I marked every thing you have written, I should like you to tell me about Delaney. Which you noticed

with Enthusiasm in your Last D. M.
that is well, and I hope you have
here Something of the Spirit in
which you speak, to work for
Christ, for his Kingdom and
and let him lead what & Many
We see Yet. — Think the College
with be Open a week or more
before Term time begins Sept 6th.
and Some of us will be here I
presume. Our Matron Mrs.
Young will doubtless have
a Table ready for you in the
building. And
"He also provides for servants bread
"Will you be his children
You know. Then and "you" many
Worker here who will receive
you to your with not stand in the
Place of — Let us know before you
Come when you will arrive.
Come I almost forgot to say that the
Committee Have Confirmed your
Nomination as Lady Principal by
the Faculty in the terms named in my
letter which you will Keep with the
Your Contract — In haste. J. Blanchard



WHEATON COLLEGE

J. BLANCHARD, PRESIDENT.

TERMS COMMENCE

First of September, January and April.

COMMENCEMENT LAST OF JUNE.

Wheaton, Ills. July 16th 1875

Miss S. J. Whites

Mrs. Madam

Mrs. 13th inst & Rec'd.

Some days since I wrote you that our Executive Committee had Confirmed your nomination by the Faculty, but in the hurry of posting my Mail I may possibly have omitted to direct it to Worcester instead of Minnesota. I hope no harm has been done.

Today I send you a Copy of Catalogue and some Circulars which they have a picture of the College may influence the Common mind as favorably as Catalogue and more so.

If you wish more of them I will forward them at once. I am very thankful for what you did as. It is refreshing as it is new & pleasant. Our Boarding Department has had the singular fortune of the Students with. The boarders and as the rooms for young ladies are superior & most that I have seen, and you are due a portion of the Faculty yourself & Miss. You need no recommending Students name. Mr. Shelton, you are, like the College - doors in Christ

Write acknowledging this and others.

Ste. Marie de Monnoir. P.Q.
July 19. '75.

My dear Miss Christie, [Sarah]

I was exceedingly glad to get your good letter on Saturday night. I had expected it long before, and really had almost begun to feel that with you it was much be "out of sight, out of mind" although I conjectured that you might be waiting for definite news from Wheaton. I am so glad for the hopeful aspect of affairs, and have but little doubt that now you are destined for that place. It really does seem providential, especially so. and I know you will take great comfort in

the thought that your work has been sent to you. I shall be anxious to know the certainty of it, and wait for further tidings from you.

I am sorry to hear you have not been feeling quite well since I saw you. although a prostration of body and mind was only what was to be expected; since I knew you were working to the very limits of endurance during your last weeks at Carleton, and a reaction was inevitable, I am sure, however, that as soon as you are no longer unsettled about your immediate future, you will recover your wonted strength. I hope you are doing absolutely nothing, are "vegetating" in fact. I think that is your best plan for this summer. Tell me of all you do. please.

You ask after my journey. It has all been forgotten so far. Our journey across the more enjoyable. Ethan to home. We came to Bel pleasure of a visit his delay, until the at Milwaukee. have had few passe able ones. and the and had quiet with val at Burfalo. el minute. once are not ended. and expect every one Buffalo. the Lake and a slight to my eyes. and the

sets and moonlight views will stay with me always. Our stay at Niagara was even more delightful. Two of our lake party remained with us, and we four formed a delightful carriage load as we "did" Niagara. Our first view of the Falls, except as we saw them from the car windows, was by moonlight, and I can never express the impressions made upon me by the mystery and infinite appearance, as well as grandeur of the great work. They exceeded my expectations, and the twenty four hours we spent at Niagara is something to be grateful for always.

For the rest, our ride along the Niagara river our stay of a day at Toronto, the voyage through the Lake Ontario, the passage down the St.

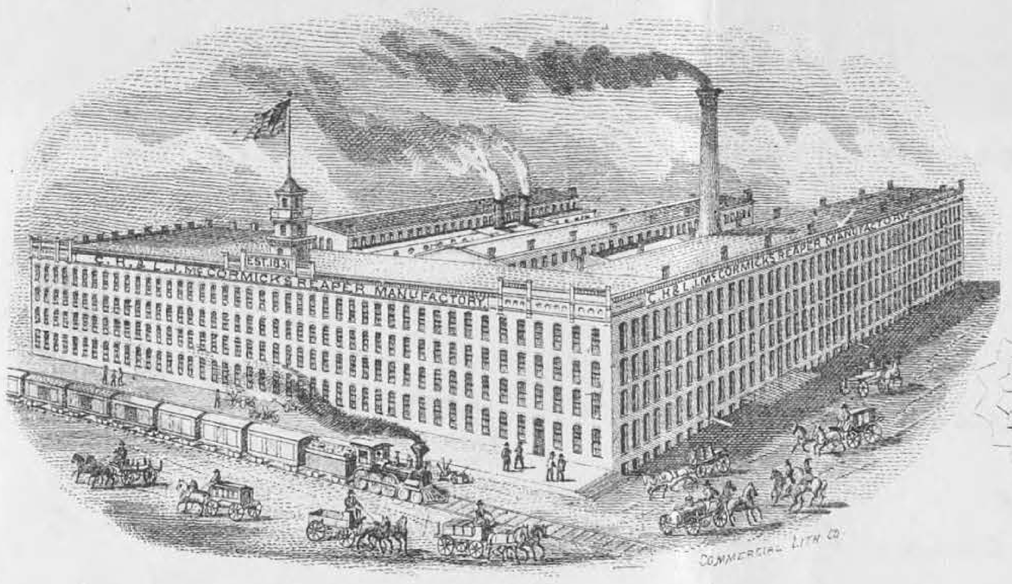
Lawrence, past the thousand islands and over the rapids, our day of happy sight seeing at Montreal, and the visits to the Cathedrals and nunnery there, all proved great and increasing pleasures to us.
Now, we are fairly settled for the six weeks at this little French village. Everything is so quaint and strange! But we find it all an unending source of amusement and profit. We spend six or eight hours a day on French reading, writing and conversation and can already see a great gain in our knowledge of French. Yesterday, we expected to be very homesick, but the day proved full of enjoyment. Monsieur Roux, president of a Seminary near us, spent the day here, and preached in the morning. He

is a European Frenchman, and we were greatly delighted to find his French quite intelligible to us. After dinner he told us of his conversion from Romanism to Protestantism, and of the six years he spend at the University at Geneva. Our family here, consists at present of Madame Le Roux and husband, two little nephews and a niece of hers, and three other American girls besides Miss H. and myself. Hardly a word of English is spoken, and it really seems as if we were in a pleasant foreign land.

I am very glad you have that money ready for me, as my expenditures, already, have far exceeded my calculations. Please send it immediately to Miss Reeve. and she'll return that note. I want to cash it when I go to Montreal August 12th. Let me hear again soon.

With much love. M. J. E.

Cyrus H. Mc. Cormick. Leander J. Mc. Cormick. R. Hall Mc. Cormick.



C. H. & L. J. Mc CORMICK,

MANUFACTURERS OF

HARVESTING MACHINES.

COR. BLUE ISLAND & WESTERN AVENUES.

126 Rush St. Chicago July 20. 1875.

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

Excuse my long silence; you have doubtless rec'd. my Card on arrival. Since then there have been many letters to write, and the long-purposed one to you has been delayed. Is Sarah with you, & does she go back to Carleton in Sept.? I should be very glad of a letter from her. David and Emma I hope are well, and that little treasure of theirs, about whom we hear so little.

Our young hopefuls and their mother are all in health and happiness at last advices. Bessie up to her waist every day in the clover, climbing stone walls, and getting sometimes well on the road to Stockbridge before her Mother overtakes her. The terror of cat and dog, whom she insists on carrying by the tail; keeps the house in a rattle when in, and everybody on the qui vive to watch her when out. The other little girl is the Exact opposite: quiet as a little lady - nobody even loses any sleep for her. The two are the Martha and Mary of our little household. I miss them all very much, but are

must bear the separation patiently for the sake of what it secures us. Work here from 8 to 12 with my pupil & have rest of day to myself. An assigned opportunity to do something in German, reading Goethe's Hermann und Dorothea with a young German friend from the banks of the Neckar. I talk Lisa with Milton's Comus, and we both enjoy our literary labors very much.

The German will greatly help me in Theological study.

Here is a bit of Goethe's philosophy — One of his characters blames the curiosity which leads people to run to the spectacle even of others' misfortunes, and another character, the village minister says — "I blame not rashly anything which good Mother Nature has given to men for harmless impulse. For what Reason and Intellect often cannot do, that is sometimes accomplished by such a happy inclination (i.e. feeling, or instinct) which leads us irresistibly.

Did not Curiosity allure men with mighty charms, say, would they ever learn so well how beautifully the things in this world harmonize with each other? For first man longs after the New, then he seeks the Useful with diligence unwearying. Last he desires the Good, which exalts him and makes him worthy." Much true philosophy in that, is n't there? Chicago does not interest me overmuch. Too much beer drinking and the bustle of Vanity Fair.

Seldom do you see a face at which you want to look a second time: of the Earth earthy, the most of them. Boston is different, and I love Boston. Chicago is like New York, and I could live in either only as a Missionary — for I never

go upon the streets without a sad, almost despairing, feeling. I am not a snob, for I feel the same in looking at the higher classes here, and observing their lives. They don't know how to use their money - Most of them live lives of absolute soul-poverty, absorbed in the things that perish with the using - so that their lives are as empty of real good as are those of the disgusting, bleareyed, guzzling Germans, or the vicious Irish, around them. Place in the social scale, wealth, these things make no difference - they only substitute the lust of the eye and the pride of life for the grosser lust of the flesh, & these are all equally "in the world."

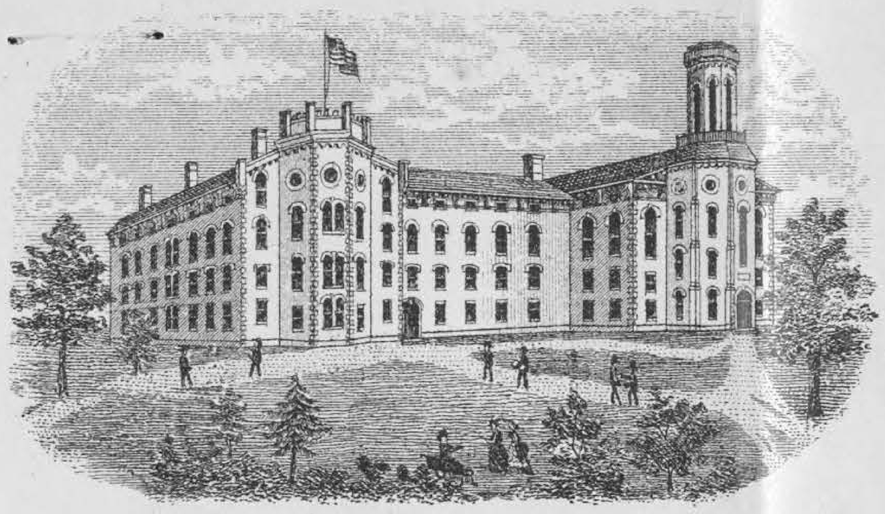
There are good people in Chicago, but it seems to me they are in marked minority. Look at the Daily papers - they are sinks of corruption. I would not dare let a child of mine look at one - & yet they circulate their slimy floods through all the households of the city, and along all the spreading railways.

"Ye must be born again; ye must be born again!" Oh how one realizes this as he walks these streets. Talk about Hell! Why, all that you need to get an idea of what that is, is to conceive of these multitudes permitted to go on forever in this very way they are in now: that is hell enough for an immortal soul.

I am sorry, father, that your old habits of doubt have still such power over you; you really distort Farrar in your long letter to Sandy which he sent me in the East to read. And it moves me to the very soul to see you encouraging my dear brother in his skepticism. What do you want him to be? In what atmosphere to live? You are doing your best by such letters to keep him from ever coming up into the sweet sunlight of the Gospel.

I know the answer you make: that these things I prize are not of the Essentials of Christianity. I maintain they are. Take away the historic Christ, and the whole is an empty falsehood. Explain to me Paul, explain to me John, in any way that will keep the purely spiritual, and ignore the historic basis. You cannot do it. When one goes the other goes with it: they are soul and body in their intimate relation, and you Mythopoeical are nothing less than murderers: you kill the body: what then becomes of the soul? Nothing, so far as this life is concerned. My father, these things belong not to the new life, into which I trust you have entered: they are of the old man: get rid of them: they tend not to edification: and above all, I implore you, as you value the soul of my gifted brother - whose life lies still before him - make not his way to the Cross any harder through these cunningly devised fables: He will find it hard enough as it is.

In Love and Sorrow, Your Son Thomas.



WHEATON COLLEGE

J. BLANCHARD, PRESIDENT.

Terms commence first of September, January and April.

COMMENCEMENT LAST OF JUNE.

Wheaton, Ill. July 21st 1875

Miss Sarah L. Chrystie

Dear Madam

Your telegram and letter following, are read and considered.

I have wished much and thought some of being at Minneapolis but cannot. Prof. Shatton goes to Cincinnati and Ft Wayne. Prof. Richen to Europe. C. A. Blanchard is East. There shall none else be there.

Miss Read, our Lady Principal for 4 yrs. left because she could not agree with Mrs. Young. She seemed to imagine Mrs. Young was amenable to her, and she went into the Kitchen to give her directions which she was utterly incompetent to do. There was no complaint that Mrs. Young meddled, in any way, with her department. Miss Read made no complaint of the kind; but she wished Mrs. Young to report to her about her own department. I never yet had no definite idea what Mrs. Young presented to. Miss Read appealed to us. I decided that they should go on quietly, and when there was any one thing about which they differed, they should refer it to Prof. Richen or me. This did not satisfy Miss Read:

She wished a general decision that she would control the Domestic and Culinary Department, which Mrs. Young understood to mean that she was to be Miss Read's "drudge". Miss Read not satisfied with my decision, said she must leave the building and board in town; or vacate her post. Of course, she left. She was a faithful teacher and good woman, but lacked discernment & discretion to keep out of Mrs. Young's way, and go along.

Miss Kate E. O'Byrne was her assistant and took her duties. She was a good-hearted girl, a graduate of Oxford Female College Ohio. But did not aspire to be principal & was sick and left.

For yourself, you make the impression on me that you will be likely to over-do rather than under-do. He that believeth shall not make haste. and He that hasteth with his feet sinneth. Any text which more benefitted me. Were I you, I should glide into my place here as still and easy as the few miles, and as warm and bright. Your efforts to increase the students here, are pertinent and please me much. Schools and merchandizing have changed in the last fifty years; till by and by Legislatures will have to advertize and send out summons. The competition for the control and instruction of young is almost terrific, and continually grows intense as Christ's coming for Satan's dam more anxious for the Kingdom of Christ. Christ died to establish his Kingdom — not to build up Wheaton College. What do you say of your "salary" "is secondary". Mr. Fischer tells me that the studies for next term are arranged so as to give you 1. Beginners in Grammar - 2. Middle class in Common Arithmetic 3. Beginners in higher Algebra. and 4. Elementary Astronomy. Four classes. But these arrangements are not like the Persian laws changeless. You will find no difficulty. If your time is otherwise em-

graded, in getting out of the classes here. We
Edinburgh call, like the term does, what classes
there will be but the faculty never have
had any difficulty in adjusting their
general duties neither have any heard-
burning has yet to arise but the wishes
of each are respected by all.

I sent you a couple of Catalogues
with 10 or 12 Circulars. Perhaps you
had not received them when you wrote.
I will mail some more today. By the
way you will see that two of the classes
assigned you are light ones requiring
no special preparation - I anticipate
no difficulty about studies, and classes.
The house not filled any in 30 years.
There are about 60 students who are
here.

I send you a "Christian Hymnal"
which I wish you would read Especially
the New Hampshire "Ashpeal" and
Mr. Buckwalter's address. Buck-
walter is a College Officer in Iowa,
and a good and Gentleman.

I do not wish to inflame you a-
gainst the Sodge or to let you in
lecturing on Reforms of any Kind. What
we need is a discreet Lady-like teach-

er, and one devoted to Christ. But as this College was, from its foundation, left against Liberal Doctrines, it will be desirable that one should post himself on the subject, so as to have an opinion whether the College is

[illegible] or not, or rightly teaching against the Kingdom of God.

I saw yesterday in Chicago about a new Rail Road. What I mean by this. Blanchard is gone to Peoria in a few days I go to Galesburg and shall be gone some weeks. But if you write on the receipt of this letter, I will read it and will have it attended to.

And now wishing you peace and a pleasant and profitable year

Entirely Yours

Respectfully

Yours in Christ

J. Blanchard

Anatoma Minn.
July 25, 1875.

My dear Miss Christie: [D.G.]

I know
you think it strange, and
perhaps unkind that you
have not received a letter
from me before this.
If I were to write you
all the excuses I have they
would more than fill this
sheet. This is the first opportunity I have had of writing to any one, and to you I feel do my duty.

I do not know what to do about attending the the teachers convention next week; you remember we expected to meet there. My school does not close for two weeks so that if I attend the convention I shall have to get some one to teach for me, and I cannot tell how that will please the people in the district. Will you surely be there? I want to see you and Knowpie more than anything.

I noticed in last weeks Journal that a Mr Clinton of Michigan is to be Principal of the schools here next year. He is an Episcopalian. I do so wish you could have come. Do you think you shall teach next year? I do not know which way to turn. I want to return to school but whether it will be best or not is the question. If only the lines of right and wrong were distinctly marked out it would be so much easier to live. It seems to me the hardest thing in life to do, is to choose between things both of which are right. If you know what to do in such instances wont you please tell me when you write again?

I saw Lilian a few moments this morning

as I came from church.
She is not feeling very
well, and she says she thinks
perhaps she will not go
back to Northfield & did
not see her long enough
to ask her what!
I have not had Fanny but
once since she came home.
Her sister is to be married
Tuesday.
Now Dear Miss Christie
good night. I shall expect
a letter from you very
soon.
Ever your loving
Nettie Davis

I am rather busy.
Besides my regular
work I am preparing those subabdominal
for Lucia, and Roma
History, for examination this fall, so I
have no spare time.
I hope you are
much better in
health than at the
close of the term,
and hope ch,
for a compleat cure
and a wish to
write me a little
letter sometime.
Meantime I am
Very Sincerely Yours
L. A. Sawyer

My Dear Friend:-
Cheshire, Mass Thursday
Sarah E.
Oct 22nd 1885
Your kind letter
of the 20th inst
came duly to hand
& was read with
much interest
and pleasure.
I was very much
surprised to hear
of your illness
and sincerely
hope that you
are entirely
recovered ere
this reaches you.
I have been
very busy
myself, and
have not had
time to write
you before.
Mr Parker
has been
very ill
with typhoid
fever, but
is now
convalescent
and able
to sit up
a little
every day.
Mrs Parker
has been
very poorly
herself
for some
time past,
neither
of them
have been
out of doors
for two
weeks.
Last Sunday
I was
quite ill
myself
with
a severe
cold
which
settled
in my
throat
and
lungs,
but
I am
much
better
now
and
hope
to be
able
to go
out
to
church
next
Sunday.

send, but still I am very glad I can study right along without any long break.

I saw Mr. and Mrs. Dow at Owatonna last week. James is looking real well and hearty. Myra, better than when they graduated, I think, but still not as well as I could wish. They went to St. Charles, to visit his folks, the same day. Then they were to go to Minneapolis to attend the State Teachers Association, and then to Faribault and the commencement of his new duties.

At the Campmeeting (or camp-meeting?) I saw George Lilly and his sister. Misses Summer and Knox also came on the ground but I did not see them.

When I was at Owatonna Mr. Spelman - bookseller told me Mr Dow and the that one of the Carleton boys from near Mankato had been there only a few minutes before. But we failed to find him, or learn who he was. Do you know?

I know we shall miss you very much next year. But you promised at least to come and make a visit to us so we must try to be content to await that.

My Brother is very well. He plays with the B.B. club occasionally in their matches games. Will Hankinson is quite well, now busy to-day at meeting. Alice, his sister, is to finish her school this week, Kate Abbott also will be home this week.

Farmington Minn.
July 25 1875

Miss Christie

Dear Friend It gave
me great pleasure to recieve
so speedy an answer to my
letter I was very glad to
hear from you. but was
sorry to learn that your
health was so poorly. but
hope ere this shall reach
you. that you will feel
better. I knew you was
suffering somewhat from
ill health before you left
the College But hoped
on your relief from the
cares of a teachers life and
your advent out on the
prairies where there is plenty
of oxygen that you would

Miss Christie Farmington Minn. July 25 1875

Dear Friend It gave me great pleasure to recieve so speedy an answer to my letter I was very glad to hear from you. but was sorry to learn that your health was so poorly. but hope ere this shall reach you. that you will feel better. I knew you was suffering somewhat from ill health before you left the College But hoped on your relief from the cares of a teachers life and your advent out on the prairies where there is plenty of oxygen that you would

Miss Christie Farmington Minn. July 25 1875

Dear Friend It gave me great pleasure to recieve so speedy an answer to my letter I was very glad to hear from you. but was sorry to learn that your health was so poorly. but hope ere this shall reach you. that you will feel better. I knew you was suffering somewhat from ill health before you left the College But hoped on your relief from the cares of a teachers life and your advent out on the prairies where there is plenty of oxygen that you would and a [illegible] of yourself I have long wanted one but never dared to

of pure fresh air that you would soon become well and hearty. As for myself I am enjoying excellent health I never felt better in my life I have been to work every day since the 5th of July it irked me a little at first but I am getting real tough now. The worst trouble I have is with my hands I have raised a good many blisters since I commenced but they are getting pretty tough now. I haven't seen any of the students or heard a word from them since I left Northfield. It has been a difficult time to find work but I hope they have all been successful for they deserve to be I think. However now that harvest has commenced they will all find work soon. I saw a couple of the old students of C. C. today Miss Flora Wheeler and Miss Livingston. I presume you remember them as they were in some of your classes. You wish to know something of my plans for the next year well it is hard for me to form any plans not knowing how I will be circumstanced But I hope to be able to attend the next year through and that shall be my aim but it will be awaiting to how successful I am in my work wages are pretty low now and bid fair to be. and I may be obliged to stop and teach again! But if it is possible for me to attend the year through I shall use every endeavor to do so. In regard to my

studies I have hardly come
to any conclusion what to
take up as yet - I am going
to commence Latin for one
I am sorry I did not take
that up sooner as you advised
me then I would have been
a year ahead of where I am
now. I can make up my
mind just what to do in
the future in regard to my
education. The Academic
course they have arranged I
like very well and would
take that if I was sure that
when I got through I would
be satisfied and not be sorry
I didn't take the classical
course. If I were younger I would
take the classical at all events
but at my age and prospects
it would be quite late in life
before I would graduate

June is swiftly passing
and there are scarce six
week more before Carlton
College which now stands
so grim and silent will
again be the scene of learn
est activity and the old
halls will again reecho
to the tread of scores of stu-
dents anxious in their pursuit
of knowledge. It will be a
pleasure to know to meet
the many friends / teachers
and students / with whom
we have met - so many times
in the past - But a sadness
will steal over us as we
note the many absent ones
dear friends in old time gone
by. But among them all there

in writing but I trust you can read it -

there is none that I will miss so much as you It will hardly seem like going to the same place again.
But your letter will be a great consolation to me and I know I shall enjoy them so much And I expect to derive a great deal of good from them so full of good advice and of earnest solicitation for my welfare, And Miss Christie you need never fear of my forgetting you or becoming so indifferent as not to write as long as you give me an opportunity. I may live to be an old man but there is one epoch in my life to which whenever I recur will bring to mind your form as of old. I know that time has much to do in cooling the ardor of friend friendship and friends often become indifferent to each other after long separation but I trust this will not be so in our case It need not be and will not be as long as we continue to renew our friendship by sending friendly missives.
This will be our sentiment:
"Distance may spread between us friend
But our hearts unchanged will be
And our tongues will be the faithful
Heard even beyond the sea"
And Miss Christie I am glad that I have a friend in you to whom I can write with so much freedom to whom I can unfold my inmost thoughts for in you I am sure I have a sympathizer You first broke the ice in our first conversation when you troubled the subject of religion to me.

And your experiance has been as you related to me during our last conversation / so very like mine that I know you can sympathize with me. But Oh! Miss Christie it is a hard struggle for me this trying to live a christian life, and I make such a failure of it. I have lived so long in sin and it has such a hold upon me that it is hard to free myself from it: But the worst trouble I have is my unbelief Oh! my heart is so full of it. I see so many people around me that are unbelievers and I read so much that has that tendency that I am at times almost tempted to give up. I ask myself is the Bible true? and is there any truth in Religion? There is so much difference of opinion in regard to the Bible and so many failures in the lives of christians or professing christians that my mind wavers sometimes in deciding this question. Then I take my Bible in my hand and read from it and say to myself can I afford to give it up? with all hope in Christ and return to the cold dreary world: the prospect is not inviting and I cant do it not yet.

Honor,
July 27th 1875

Dear Friend: [D.g Christie]

I have just arrived from the prairie where I have bun putting up hay with Eli. — I have frequently thought of you during the past week, wondering whether you had realized the object of your hopes, & wishing that I could do something to insure to you success. Two letters from you were in waiting and, as the the post-marks were dim I chanced to read the second first, thus learning immediately that "the lines are fallen unto you in pleasant places" — that your course

is fully decided upon for the coming year. I do most heartily and most sincerely congratulate you, (and the lady students of Wheaton College, also,) that things have taken such a happy turn. Whether this could be called "providential", in the sense in which the term is commonly used, I do not know, for I will confess myself to be somewhat skeptical with regard to the orthodox view of providential interference; but of this I have no doubt,- those who are true to their noblest nature, true to mankind and true to God, need have no fears but that their lawful wants will be abundantly supplied, in some way.

It does not seem to me a long time since we "said good-bye at Mr. Carr's gate", but measured by the experience crowded into the time, and, as I certainly hope, by the wisdom gained, it has not been short to you. To me, taken all in all, it has been a very pleasant time,- one in which I have accomplished considerable in some directions the line of study although less than I had hoped,- in which I have learned from life's great book, experience, lessons more essential to a successful race on the track of time, than Latin & Greek and in which my estimate of "success" has been materially changed so that some things which I then looked forward to with eagerness, now seem so scarcely worth a passing notice.

May we each as we pass on in life ever make the best use of the means and powers intrusted to our care

by divine wisdom and
Strive toward the noblest object
of human effort, - the gaining ~~acquirement~~
of ~~divine~~ Heavenly approbation.
I am afraid that those who know
me best would say upon reading this
that I should teach by example as
well as by precept. Milton in youth
came to the conclusion that the
life of a poet should be a poem,
So too the life of a "preacher"
should be his greatest sermon.
I am glad now that I sent
you that letter of "reassurance".
Somehow I felt sure it would
be acceptabe to you just at that
time. A part of it did not express
exactly
just what I wished it to, (what
I said about "high esteem" &c) but
at the time I could think of
nothing less objectionable so
had to let it go. — About Parker
I have seen him but once since

he came home. There was but
little said about you, Although
he made some criticisms on
your course, they did not seem
harsh or unkind and he
said several things that were
not less than complimentary.
Now, I have fully answered your
question, and I want to tell you
plainly that I think you have
sometimes pressed me too urgently
for information in regard to R.
I have occasionally felt myself
in duty bound to keep silent or
rather to give evasive answers.
I believe I have never given
deceptive answers except as
I allowed you to deceive
yourself. Perhaps I should have
bluntly refused to answer, but

you must understand that that would be at least unpleasant to me.

The grasshoppers have been on Eli's grain, as they have on nearly or quite all of the grain southwest of us for a long distance. E. will probably have rather more than half - perhaps two-thirds - of a crop. The eggs are deposited in great numbers over a large extent of country - no one yet knows how large. It seems like a grievous calamity to ride mile after mile & almost day after day, and see scarcely an acre of grain but that nearly half of it is destroyed while thousands of acres are entirely swept away, by the destructive pests. Yet I believe that in the end it will prove a benefit rather than an injury - a blessing rather than a curse, to the afflicted regions. It cannot be otherwise.

I expect to go back to the prairie for harvest in a day or two, so there is no immediate prospect of our meeting. I am sure it could not give greater pleasure to you than to me if we could soon have a long, general talk, and we must before either is obliged to go away. Please write me as soon as convenient that I may be sure to find a letter when I come home again.

Semper idem,

Chelsea J. Rockwood.

P.S. I was really pleased when I noticed the superscription of your last. Only a few days ago I almost determined to sign my name hereafter in that way, and

perhaps you have fixed my
wavering resolution.

R.