

Cattlettsburg, Ky.,
January 1st, 1860.

Mr. Thomas Means;

Dear Sir, - I have bought a House and Lot, known as the Crishing property in Ferrisopolis. There is a vacant lot just below it, which I understand belongs to you. I would like to purchase that lot of you if you will give the chance I wish to have.

How much will you take for the lot, the payments to be One Hundred Dollars annually with interest from time of trade, the first payment to be one year from time of trade, and the deed to be made to me when all is paid to you? Give me a chance, and you will not lose any thing by the operation. I want the lot because it joins mine, and I want room for a good large garden.

Let me hear from you by mail. Tell me the best you are able to do. Let me

hear from you soon. I have in
contemplation the purchase of one
adjoining my lot above, belonging to
Lamperton — Yours, very truly,
John B. Wellman.

P. S. For my character, I prefer
you to John D. Smith, John Clark,
William Campbell and all
respectable citizens of this place.
J. B. W.

15 Jan'y 1861
Will Meant

Cincinnati Jan'y, 15th 1860-

Dear John

I have your favor of 14th with Chk. on Bank of Oakland for \$100 - enclosed - As you only took the buggy to accommodate me I never intended to charge you interest for it and cannot think of receiving it - I shall therefore do myself the pleasure to remit for that amt. (\$50) first opportunity - I have been advised of the intention to change officers of Means Hall & Co, through Uncle John Ellison, who asked if I could arrange my business to accept the position of manager, I replied that I could arrange my business without material loss, but am unwilling to take the place, unless there is almost an unanimity on the part of the stockholders in my favor -

My partner having gotten into a tight place through his interest in a Real Estate business in N. Y. was compelled to borrow money to save himself, as this would compel him to put his name on

paper in which other parties were interested, and at this crisis run a risk of becoming seriously involved, he agreed to dispose of the Patentship, and he assigned his entire interest in the Rights for this state over to me, I am therefore left with the entire business so far as this state, Indiana & Michigan are concerned, and will receive the whole proceeds of the business, until he is able to arrange his matters or until I determine to dispose of his interest to another party - which I can do at my option - It is my intention to give up our store at the end of this month, and take an office as before - I will then obtain storage for such pumps as I think necessary to keep on hand, and mounting two or three on boxes place them at good points, give the Agents exhibiting them a certain per. cents on all sales - I will also sell all I can myself - I would in this way be enabled to reduce my expenses, and get other parties to do business for me without any outlay on my part - I think the pump a first rate one, and it only needs good advertising and some soliciting

to make it go - Mr. West the inventor sent me a scientific paper "The American Engineer" a few days ago, in which is given the report of a Committee of the American Engineers Association on Science and New Inventions, who having examined West's Improved Pump, Unanimously recommended it to the Association - as being all that is claimed for it - He mentions in a letter of late date that a Mr. Hamilton of V. D. who purchased the Rights for La. & Miss. ordered over \$3000. worth of pumps at cost prices, which would give him a larger profit on the year's business, than he would get from the same investment in almost any thing else - I intend to dispose of my Rights for Indiana & Michigan at the first opportunity - And hope to make something if peace is declared soon - Remember my wife & myself to your family - One hundred guns have just been fired for Major Anderson at Newport -

Truly yours
H. Means

March
Tombville C. Feb. 3^d. 1860

John Meaus Esq
My dear Sir

Your letter of the
25th ult. recd.

I have been making some enquiry
in regard to wet nurses in this vicinity,
but can not find one willing to leave
home on such a mission.

You will probably find one much
easier in Cincinnati than elsewhere.

I'll battle if she can not get a nurse
to suit her, she can get along very well
with the help of a good cow, and a nursing
bottle - If she can drink all, and milk
herself, she will find her strength very well
sustained. After the first month, she
can feed children on two thirds milk, one third
water, with white sugar. Besides nursing them
as often as her strength will allow.

Some of my patients who have been troubled
with the Scurvy complaint much prefer this plan,
to employing a wet nurse -

I am happy to hear the boy has had no
spasms for the last 12 days; but I want you
to understand that 12 days, or 12 weeks, will
not exempt him from the danger of their return.
The first time he gets a fever from any
cause, or irritates his stomach by indigestible
food, or gets badly frightened, you may
expect him to have a recurrence of the spasms.
A Convulsion coming on during sleep, preceded
by a loud cry, or scream, accompanied by gen-
-eral spasms of the muscles, frothing at the mouth, &c,
and followed by profound sleep or coma is
a genuine case of epilepsy, and nothing
else, and if your physicians can not see
Epilepsy (as you write) in such a train of symp-
-toms, I am sorry to say he is not worthy of your
confidence. No matter what may have been
the cause, there can be no mistake in the disease,
nor in the danger of its return, if the proper
purgative means are not used for at least
three months - As I should much prefer
seeing a relative of mine in the grave,
rather than a drivelling idiot from epilepsy,
I trust you will neglect no reasonable
means to prevent so terrible a result.
During the present year, with the proper
treatment there will be a very strong

probability of curing the disease. If you
allow the habit to become confirmed, a cure
will be very difficult, if not impossible.
In my first letter I referred to the proper
remedies - If the cause is found about the head
Podwick of Potash in full doses, with blisters on
Crotch oil to back of neck, or behind the ears,
a diet of bread and milk, and the proper
attention to his clothing, Sleep, exercise &c -
If the child is pale and full, give
him a preparation of iron & quercin in
fall and winter, with plenty of out-of-door ex-
-ercise in good weather -
As the above remedies are all designed
to improve the appetite, & general health,
and strength; they can not possibly do harm,
but will very probably protect the patient
from the recurrence of one of the most terrible
diseases in the catalogue -
I Prescott is now at my house, and joins
Sarah & myself in love to Mother & the family

My truly yours
Chas. G. Nichols

C. C. Hildreth
13th July 1860

Lansville, O. Feb. 12. 1860

My dear Sister

Your letter of the 6th inst
reached yesterday, giving me an account
of the illness of your son Fred. Hildreth.
Your child has epilepsy, arising from
irritation of the brain or bowels - If the cause
can be found and removed, he will no
doubt get well very promptly - If not
there is danger of the disease becoming
established from habit.

You do not state the boys age, and I
can not prescribe the doses of the remedies
(I shall mention) with any accuracy.

This omission your family physician
can very readily rectify.

Supposing the cause of the epilepsy to be
located in the brain, I should prescribe
Blisters to the back of the neck, or behind the
ears - full doses of the Iodide of Potash
internally - purging with Calomel and Sassa-
parilla occasionally, until you are satisfied
he has no more worms - If he has any
now, it should be controlled by the

use of *Utracium viride*, the warm bath
See

If the child becomes pale & exhausted,
Iron & quinine (Crotch), will be a good remedy.
I have done most good in epilepsy generally
by the use of Oxide of Silver with belladonna,
or the Phosphate of Zinc with belladonna.
(Do not give the Nitrate of Silver for fear
of colouring the skin -)

There are the remedies in which I have
the most faith in this most terrible disease.
Very much will depend on good nursing,
proper diet, exercise &c. He must receive
every possible care and attention for months
after his spasms have ceased to occur.

If epilepsy is curable at all, it is
generally within a few months after its
first appearance; hence the great necessity
of prompt treatment.

If your family physician thinks from
the present symptoms there is danger of
dropsy of the brain, the same treatment
will still apply - viz. Cloture, large doses of
Iodide Potash, purging &c.

From your statement of the case here I
can not make out a case of dropsy of the
brain - but clearly one of epilepsy.

If the child does not soon get well,
please request your physician to write
me a full statement of the case, and
I will correspond with him directly.

Sarah Sewall her love -

Very affectionately your brother

Chas. C. Middleth

Rx Citrate of iron ʒij
doze grs ij

Rx Subcarbonate of iron ʒss
doze grs x

Loose Item

Handwritten mathematical work on a piece of paper with a vertical crease. The work includes several equations and expressions, some of which are partially obscured or written over.

Visible expressions and equations include:

- $13(x+y)$
- $\frac{13(x+y)}{35}$
- $13(x+y) - 35$
- $3(x+y) - 35$
- $\frac{(x+y) - 35}{xy}$
- $= 35$
- $\frac{35}{x+y}$
- $\frac{35}{x+y}$
- $13 - \frac{35}{x+y}$
- y^2
- $y^2)x = 35$
- $-y^2)x = 35$
- $x - xy^2 = 35$
- ~~$y^2)x$~~

Loose Item

I gave a couple of minutes to father & Charles in regard
 to the length of the ~~minutes~~ ~~minutes~~ ~~minutes~~ ~~minutes~~ ~~minutes~~
 but Dr. Ward says he thinks they are all right than a
 minute or a minute or half. Mrs. St. Paul says she has
 had just such a case in her practice two years ago in ~~London~~
 a little boy of the same age as ~~Charles~~ had a galling in
 the head and discharge from his ear for three months and
 that opening as long as it lasted but after he was given
 the same had any more opening & is given a few drops
 of the same and got well & in the ~~same~~ ~~same~~ ~~same~~ ~~same~~ ~~same~~
 yet he will write again -

- 09814 18th 1860 -

My Dear Mother

I expect you will be anxious to
 hear how Hilbert is getting along so I will write
 you a few lines - I am glad to say he has
 been no worse and we hope is some better
 His ear still continues to discharge, but the matter
 is very thick & for some part of the time it seems
 nearly dry, yesterday and today - He had three spasms
 last week one Monday, at half past five in the
 morning & two Wednesday morning - This week he
 had one Monday morning and one Tuesday
 morning and has seemed to feel much better
 the last two days - We have sent to London, and
 had Dr. Swartzwelder from there come up twice
 to see him - I wish Dr. & Dr. Van Hook think the

Spasms caused by an affection of the brain - a gathering
in the head discharging from the right ear - Dr Swartzwelder
first gave him turpentine fifteen drops three times a day
mixed with Castor oil + molasses - and put a blister on
the back of his neck - this treatment was continued for two
days - now we give the turpentine once a day and
every morning at 3: 5 + 7 o'clock we give him penicillin
back. Dr. S. wished to give Quinine but Dr. Van thinks
it too powerful for a young child and prefers the bark
instead - we give the Gum once a day - and as he
has never had any spasms except when his stomach
has been empty - I feed him two or three times the
last part of the night - some biscuit broken into sweetened
wine + water - it keeps me pretty busy all night as
Bessie has to be awake three or four times in the night
crying for milk - so between them both I get very
little sleep - we still keep the blister sore - + dress
it occasionally with Castage leaves + then take them
off + put on the blistering Lacer - it seems very painful
to him sometimes - I think his case must be
an uncommon one, as none of the Doctors seem
to know exactly what ails him - John says he
is being faith in the whole medical profession -
I write to Mother Charles, to get his advice + it
seems to agree somewhat with Dr Swartzwelder -
blister back of the neck + raw - Quinine + Gum - the Phosphate
of Lime with Belladonna or the opium + silica with Belladonna

Pruning with Calomel + some tonic till we are sure of no
more worms - full doses of the Sodicide of Potash
warm bath - dieting &c - he says he cant prescribe
the doses because he dont know the child's age - I thought
he knew a little about my family - but I suppose
he dont even know how many children I have or what
their names are - Mother Means came up to
see us last week Tuesday - Mary Anne came with
her - Mother stayed one day - and Mary Anne is with
me yet - so I have been very busy waiting on company
and Dr Van has been making three visits a day an hour
long most of them - I have the same girl I had after
Mary Dabell - she dont understand all about cooking
and I have to help her some - still she does very
well + is so kind + fond of the children that I am
very well satisfied and would prefer her to Caroline
her disposition is so much better - I am glad to hear
you are all well + that you still keep well - and hope
you may still enjoy good health all winter - Give my
love to Father - George + Gray Ross - Tell Mary that I
fully agree with her in thinking Aunt Hattie has a very
hard time - Give my love to Bennie Putnam + tell
him to hurry or he wont get married this winter
Love to all my friends - Will soon be gone off -
Hattie

Quincy County has been divided and we are now living in
Boyd County + Cattletown is to be the County Seat - There is great
disappointment because Ashland is not the County Seat - The
Cattletown folks rejoice greatly over us - Their men gave the legislators
more money than we did I expect + so won the day - We got the news
yesterday

Marilla. 28. Feb. 1860

My dear Natie -

We are pleased to hear by yours of the 18-na ciner - that little herduth is some what better - It is probable from all the circum-
stances that the worms arise from the irrita-
tion of the abscep. in the ear - & not from worms
as a first thought - The discharge will finally
retract it, so that he will not need any more arti-
cles for worms - but keep up the running from
back of the ear, as more innocuous than
from the neck, & not near so painful & destruc-
ing to the patient - Do not purge him so
much - it only weakens him - give such food
as he craves & enough to keep up his strength
if he has a good appetite, he will not need much
tonic medicinal - but your physician can judge
of this matter - the warm baths are good -
I should think he would get well as the weather
gets more warm & pleasanter

you must let some one take care of the boy at
night, so that you can get sleep, or you will
be sick yourself

your mother has been sick about ten days
with chills - neuralgia - diarrhoea. &c. but

is now a good deal better will visit you
herself in a few days —

we had a nice time here yesterday cele-
brating the 22 Feb, Washingtons birth
day — The students in college made
give a display of oratory, music & on the
Chappel — many Rep. was greatly delight-
ed, with Mr. Tenney & the girls of his school

Benjamin P. was married on the 14th or
Valentines day, & started directly after on a
tour to his uncle Charles & to Pittsburg
Washington & to see his wifes relatives —
They go to Iowa the first of April or last of
March

we send a dear of Love to you John
& the children

affectionally yours —
S. P. Aldrich

Your mother is quite feeble, but managing nicely.

P. S. Ben Intrava is married he ~~was~~ was married two or three weeks ago. they are out on their wedding tour. Loydia got some very handsome presents. She got a set of silver from her brother in St. Louis. She had silver salt ~~cellars~~ cellars, spoons, forks, teapot, cream pitcher, and a doz. knives with silver blades and pearl handles.

Grandma intended to have a little company for them but says she dont know as she will be able to get down stairs. Aunt Eliza is going to have a large party. Miss Maria ~~Woodbridge~~ Woodbridge was in here the other day and said she ^{had} intended to have a party for Loydia but would not if Aunt Hannah was not better. I dont suppose she will have a party at all now. (from Mary, 1835)

No. write every week till Hildreth
is well again — S.S.D.

[Feb. 29, 1860]

Windsor, Maratta, Feb. 29. 1860.

My Dear Aunt,

I write to inform you
of the death of Aunt Hannah Shipman.
She died Tuesday morning about half past
eleven o'clock. She is going to be buried at
two o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Grandmother
is getting better slowly. This morning she
said she did not feel as well. I got 11
Valentines. Did Bob get any. Hildreth got one
as Bessie well. I am very sorry Bob is sick
I wish he could come up here and be under
Grandpa's care for a while. ^{As} he was.

I do not know any more news
to tell you. Oh yes I do Mrs. Skinner
is dead and was buried yesterday. It
was old Mrs. Skinner that lived at Mr.
Robinsons. Goodbye from your Aff. Niece.

Mary Ross.

Maine, 5. March. 1860.

My dear Kattie —

Your good husband's letter of the 2^d inst. somewhat surprised as well as gratified us — we were quite astonished at the announcement of the two little strangers, whose arrival was so little looked for, & much gratified to hear that ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~children~~ ^{children} was so much better & apparently on the way to full & robust health. Having so large an addition to your family must not distress, or discourage you; it is the gift of God! & will doubtless be for your happiness — If you can preserve their lives until they are a few years old or to womanhood, they will be your pride & admiration as well as that of John, & your old father & mother should they live so long — you will in the actual trial, find it about as easy to take care of two babies as one — I have often heard it affirmed by those who have tried it — If you can get a faithful & healthy wet nurse to assist you in their nourishment & care, it will be a great blessing, & relieve you of many wearisome hours. Be of good courage my daughter, & all will end to your satisfaction & happiness.

your mother has not yet left her chamber
but I think she will come down stairs to mor-
row, as she sets up nearly all day & has a good
appetite

we are having a very pleasant visit from
cousin Sally Dana, who has been down
here five or six days on account of her aunt
Barker Devoll, who is very sick with a liver
disease — To morrow, Tuesday evening, there
is to be a large wedding party at Douglass Pat-
nam's, on account of Benjamin & his wife,
who have been on a bridal tour, as is the fashion
in those extravagant days — The new man-
sion, or minor palace, will doubtless be well
filled, & be a "Levee", long to be remembered
by the people in Harmer — your mother
is not able to attend, & I shall not go without
her; so George will be the representative of the
Kiddiths, on this occasion —

your mother will doubtless write to you in a
few days, & give you all the comfort she can

very truly & affectionately yours
S. S. Nildrith

Maritta, 3 April. 1860

My dear Father

Your letter by the way of Cincinnati was a great comfort to us - as thereby we were assured of your returning strength - we were also much comforted in hearing of little George's improvement & that the dreaded spasms had ceased & that you can now heal up the spot on his neck with safety, which will be a great relief to the little fellow - we were not aware of your so finding so much in your confinement with the twins - They are commonly so much smaller than single ones, that the suffering is not greater than with one larger child - But now it is all over & you as well as usual, they will be such a source of enjoyment to see them & provide for their wants that I think you will not be sorry that it is so - God directs all things well, & right for those who put their trust in Him - your mother has had a severe relapse, for as she was getting very comfortable & able to go out on the garden & about the house - she thinks it was brought on by fatigue & anxiety in overlooking the clothing, & some sewing for the little boy

Mead

Wobland

Hy

via Boston

Hildreth — Mrs. Devoll has been very sick
& we had to move him to our house & then
to Mr. Tomp's where he will now live & go to
school — went there last night for first time
your mother is now mending again & begins
to sit up some — if nothing adverse happens
will be about again soon —
The rest of us are well —
as to names for the little stranger at your
house, my Rep proposes — Liddy & Rose, or
very appropriate & becoming for such beautiful
objects — Grand-ma also thinks they are
quite appropriate — It is so important a
matter, a long affair that I think you had not
better be hurried, but choose deliberately —
Martha & Mary, is suggested by Mr. Brantell
the preacher — who is sometimes poetical —
our garden is coming on finely, & if there is
any of its products that would be acceptable
to you shall be pleased to send them —
Much love to you & all the little ones —
mother will write or soon or able —

very truly yours
S. P. Hildreth —

Epilepsy is truly alarming.
But I had it also when a child,
so had Dr. Payson, of New Hampshire,
and many others, who
have had nothing of it since.
I hope your son will make as
great a man as Dr. Payson
did, and your daughters
as fine ^{girls} as the three daugh-
ters of Job. Job. 42, 15.

We should be greatly
pleased to hear often from
you, and from your Father's
family, and from your Uncle
Neph, and his family. We
certainly take a deep inter-
est in our friends, and are
always greatly delighted when
we hear from them.

Your affectionate uncle
Dyer Burgess

Constitution April 29, 1860

Dear Cousin

In behalf of Maggie, your aunt,
and little Linnæus, Mrs. Tuttle,
myself, &c. &c. I now address
you. I have delayed writing,
that your aunt, and Maggie
might get well first. They have
both been ill; your aunt, with
a bad cough, and threatening
symptoms of Consumption;
Maggie, with the epidemic
sore throat. Both are getting
about again.

I dined at Dr. Wilder's
yesterday. They are all pretty
now. Mrs. Wilder has had
her old complaint New
gias.

We have lately received
a Letter from Dr. Williamson,
from which we learn the
gratifying news that he

will, Providence permitting, attend the Gen. Assembly at Pittsburgh, and, on his return home, pay us a visit. I suppose he will be here about the first of June. Could not his Ironton, and Ashland, Union Landing, friends meet him here? We should be glad to see them all together.

The people in Marietta are engaged in discussing the question of the Central fires, the consequent warm North pole - the practicability of navigating the Polar seas in a steamer - the Genesis etc.

Mr. Wickes has come over boldly, and preaches Hough Miller the suicide, as well as Christ the Confounder!

You know my views upon that subject. I need not re-

peat them.

Coal, you know, according to these immense Wise acres, was first, and foremost, leaves. Now, if we have upon earth thousands of Millions of Billions of Trillions of tons of coal it must have taken a great many Wheelbarrow loads of dried leaves to furnish out the batch of coals.

But, why need stone coal to be made of leaves? Because, it ~~is~~ is leaves, to be sure! Then Gold must be made of leaves, and all other metals, Iron not excepted, for they are all combustible! Yes, and Diamond too. ^{and sulphur} I am glad I am not leasurd enough to believe such stuff yet. I resign my scholarship in favor of Ephraim Jenkinson, in Vicar of Wakefield

Marquette May 3. - 1850

My dear Mother,

As your father answered your last letter immediately on its reception I thought I would wait a few days.

We were all very sorry to hear of little Hilda's ill health again; but I do hope by this time that he is better - poor little fellow we all do pity him very much - & all the best of you for it must be a constant source of anxiety to you, both by day & night. - If I had been there I should have objected very strongly against putting a blister on the back of his neck; for no one that never had one can have any idea of the pain it produces: if anything would produce spasms on me it would be that - you can't move your head arms or any part of you without drawing the chords & producing pain - your father thinks it would be more beneficial to bleed the ear & it would not hurt him half as much.

My health is still poor. I haven't been out only in the garden yet; Will Pam. be contemplating a visit to you; as I am very anxious to see you all & particularly the little strangers.

I am almost afraid to leave home fearing I may be taken sick again. It helps me two years ago when I visited you & I am in hopes it will again as it is a little change in the air.

Mrs. & Mrs. P. Newton are going to Cincinnati soon, but they do not know exactly when, it depends on his business.

When they do go I think I shall try to go with them as I am afraid to go alone fearing I may be taken sick in the night? & as she is like me patronises the beautiful boat Ohio No. 3. I think I must avail myself of the opportunity.

I have been hesitating thinking perhaps you had better move up here first. but as the babies are so young, perhaps I had better go to you, & the babies will show to a better advantage when they are a little older.

Poor father what a sad time he has had in his garden, when the water went down it left every thing in such a deplorable condition, he has just had a fire in the garden to burn up the drift wood & logs there a thick coat of mud over every thing, many things killed entirely. Not a mass of gooseberries this year. pie plant nearly ruined & so on & so on.

Mary Beals begs very hard to go with me but I don't think I shall take her from school. She has the promise of going East in Sept. with her father so that consoles her.

I have just sent Mary up to Mrs. Newton & she thinks they will be ready to go week after next so you may look for me a little but not too much for fear of disappointment.

Yours

Ever

Geo. Hilditch

John Means

Dr A/c with H. Means & Co for hauling

of James Owens

1859					
March	21	To hauling	1 Chl Flour	15	
April	12	" "	1 " Charcoal	15	
	30	" "	2 Load Drift	1,00	
May	4	" "	1 " "	50	180
	7	" "	getting & setting out trees	1,50	
	16	" "	fed to house	15	
	18	" "	Sum to "	20	
June	9	" "	Flour Soap "	20	205
July	23	" "	3 Loads Drift	1,88	
	26	" "	3 " "	1,07	
	28	" "	6 " "	3,75	
		" "	1 Chl Flour	15	
	30	" "	5 Sks Corn	25	790
Aug	20	" "	Flour Sugar	15	
Sept	2	" "	27 Cords Wood @ 90¢	24,30	
Oct	8	" "	3 Loads Drift	1,00	
	22	" "	2 " "	1,25	2750
Nov	21	" "	1 " Corn	40	
	24	" "	Potatoes	25	
Dec	22	" "	1 Chl Flour	15	
60 Jan	17	" "	1 Load Corn	40	120
					4045

Ms. A. 9. 2. 45
James Owen
Cent
4th May 1860

John W. and
Mrs. J. W.
Owen
P. M.

She looks very badly and is failing
very fast I fear - She has chills +
a bad cough and the lump is
leaving her neck + I fear forming
on her lungs - She feels much discouraged
herself - Belle has been with her more
than a week and John has been down
very sick - She cannot bear the least
noise + we ~~tried~~ had to
keep the children all quiet - Bessie
+ the babies did cry well but ~~John~~
would keep giving a screech occasionally
which would be hard to keep from poor
Esther's head - hide him in what part
of the house we would - The twins
they thought were very pretty + no one
in the house could tell them apart
all the time - Coming home But tried
to out scream the whistle and pretty
nearly succeeded - Sam Humpstead's wife
+ their children, were on the boat coming home
returning from Manchester - She inquired after
you - The Ashland Ladies regret they did
not hear of you being here - Mrs. Bliss +
Mrs. Wilson ~~had~~ had some calls after
you left - I suppose you are busy preparing
for Commencement - Give my love to Priscilla
+ Sophia - Charles + Sarah - Esther, George,
+ Mary - Rita + c - I had the pleasure of rating the
reparations + sending the lognet that Father sent
after you left - Write soon to your Father -

Ashland June 16th 1866

My Dear Mother

I was very glad to
get a letter from yourself again and
I was very sorry you were so sick
after you reached home - I was
hoping the trip would do you
good and thought you seemed
stronger + better when you left
than you did when you first
came down - I wished very
much to have you go home alone
and if But had only been well
and so I could have attended to
his neck myself, ~~could~~ have
insisted on John's going up with
you - I am very sure you shall
never have to go alone again if I

have to go myself with all the babies -
I was sorry I had not made John
go with you - but it was so uncertain
when you left what your plans would
be - I thought if you went on the Ohio
you could stay on there till morning
and perhaps if you had you would
not have been sick - I have
been having a quiet time since
you left - and have been waiting
till I made my visit to Father Means
before I write - we were planning to
go for two days and were disappointed
till yesterday, we at last made it
out - Esther is in such wretched
health and failing so fast and
was so anxious to see the babies
that I thought I would try & go
down with them - though it really
was as great an undertaking as a
trip to Mantua would be - I was
awake by half past three & had all
four of the children washed all over

and dressed and breakfast by
half past five - got Mr. Nicholls two
seated carriage and drove down to the
river & waited half an hour or so for
"The Hanging Rock" - (The Cricket having
laid up a few days for a broken wheel)
packed Father Means at nine o'clock
and remained till six or seven & then
returned on the same boat -
so I had a great long day and feel
as tired today as if I had been working
hard all yesterday - The children
enjoyed it very much but got most
outrageously cross & sleepy before we
could get them home - I think
that travelling for pleasure with so
many babies can't be very agreeable -
I think a trip on "the Ohio" with them
all, would be apt to make me nervous
if she was as slow as usual -
Esther was much pleased with
the babies and I was glad I undertook
the task of taking them to see her

She (Her aunt Brown)
~~He~~ went to Illinois and
settled, perhaps 40 or 50
miles from where his
Brother ~~is~~ ~~and~~ settled.
Mr. Brown she supposes
died in Kentucky.

Your aunt does not know
whether his Grand Parents
settled in Franklin County
or not.

When you come up
and communicate month
to month, you can get
more than I can put down
with ink and paper.

Accept assurances of
much love; and be
pleased to present our
best respects to your
uncle Hugh and family;
also to your Father and
family.

Affectionately
Dyer Burgess

Constitution June 25 1860

Dear Cousin

We are much obliged
to you for your letter. We are
truly sorry to hear of the dan-
gerous sickness of your sister.
Your aunt would have gone
immediately down, but does
not feel as if the state of her
own health would justify
the fatigue of the trip. We
are glad to learn that your
son is in better health, and
the rest of your family
prosperous. We hope you will
take the rail, when you come
to Marietta, and certainly
bring not only your own
family but Mr. Ross' daugh-
ter. Tell your uncle Hugh
to come along with you.
Mrs. Newton and John (Hugh)
were here a few days since

All will except ^{that} Mr. Newton
has a touch of jaundice
Your brother Thomas started
to come down, some time
since, but a Boat in the
Miss Kingum Canal, hindered
ed his passing the Bridge.
So we thank him for his
attempt, and wait a more
convenient season for
his visit. Mr. Cobles found
ly is well. Ephraim has got
to be a fine fellow.

Your aunt does not know
in what year, her Grand
Parents were born; neither
does she know in what year
they came to America; or in
what year they went to S.
Carolina; but thinks it was
soon after the arrival in
America. Her Grand Ma
died in August 1799.

Her Grand Pa had been dead
years before they died in
Union District (Fair Forest)
Her Father and her aunt
Brown, were born in the
same District; How many
more, she does not know.
Her aunt Rachel was
married to Joseph Means
(not to Hought) there was
no other Joseph Means that
she knows of. Joseph was
a cousin of his wife.

Your ^{great} uncle William Means
went to Illinois, she thinks
in 1823 In what year he
came to Ohio, she does not
know, perhaps 1812 perhaps a
little later.

Her uncle Brown lived
in Kentucky, near the Indi.
and line. She does not
know in what part.

Esther is some better - Belle has
been down there more than a month
Arch keeps house by himself -

John goes down one day every week
on the cricket to see her - I am
hoping she may get better again -

We had some warm weather
lately - Yesterday the thermometer
at 100 - it makes the children
all fretful - I am going to try
to walk to church next Sunday for
the first time - We had a fourth
of July celebration in the Park
Speeches at the church picnic dinner
at the park - John + Biddy went -
Emily + I stayed at home -

I would write a longer letter but
have no news to write - must
stop + help Biddy make ice cream
for dinner - Give my love to Father
George, Mary, Rita + - Yours
Hattie

Ashland July 12th 1860

My Dear Mother

I was very happy to
receive another letter from you and
find you were still well and not
quite used up with the fatigue
attending such a brilliant Commencement
as you appear to have had - What
a wonderful thing it was that
Charles really condescended to visit
Martha without any of you being
dangerously sick - You don't
say anything about sister Sophia
and the children so I conclude
Purcell came without them - You
must have had a busy time
it was a good thing you had
plenty of good help in the kitchen

as I suppose Pres brought every man
he saw home to dinner - I suppose
Mrs Putnam's reception was something
very fine - I should have liked to have
been present - I was eight provoked
at Johnny Means for coming home
without the baby bonnets - he said
he forgot it - I would like to have
had them for the babies to wear
when I have them baptised as I
probably shall at the end of this
month - I made them some ~~the~~
silk ones but they are stuffed with
cotton and most too warm for July -
I suppose now there will be no other
opportunity of sending them to me -
If Mr. Ross has not gone for
goods yet - I wish you would
tell him when he goes to buy
a black silk dress for me - I want
either a tuck satin - or else a corded
silk of some kind that would be
easily matched and I want a large

pattern - and for him to get it
with his goods & keep it for me
and I will buy it of him when
I come up - I expect Mary Ross is
preparing herself for her Eastern trip
tell her I hope she will have a
good time - The children are
well - The babies have the chicken
pox I think - Little Rose has
three or four boils on her head and
Lillie about a dozen, some of them
very large, on her head - They make
her a little cross - but they are
getting better of them now and I
think they will soon be gone -
Emily was sick a few hours the
other day from eating too freely of
green peas - The babies had a
hard time of it till she got well
again - They don't like feeding at all -
Aunt Amandas baby & Millie are
both as usual, sick - baby cutting
teeth - and really looks quite badly -

be impossible that she may get well yet.
Aunt Amanda's children are better - Willie
legs & arms aint any bigger around than
my baby's - he is so thin that Grandma
Wilson has to hold him in her lap
most all the time - They keep him
dressed in white - I often wonder how
long Bessie would look clean in a white
dress - not more than five minutes I expect
I am getting her fall wardrobe arranged
so that I wont be so hurried in making
my preparations for visiting - I find
that she just fits into Hildreth's
last fall delaines exactly and as he
had a good store of them I shall have
very little trouble - I suppose I shall have
to hunt up your little Breeches pattern for
Hildreth's benefit for not any of his last
winter's assortment of breeches will come
below his knees - He is growing as fast as
he can - Give my love to Father - George - May
Rose &c - and accept a large share for yourself
from yours
Hattie

I suppose you are busy putting up
Hildreth's & we don't hear any thing else
but do you want to buy some blackness?
from brown the night - I have some but
not very many as I had such a cold left from
last year -

Ashland July 21st 1860

My Dear Mother

I must write
you a few lines to let you know of
the safe arrival of the little bonnets -
I believe they came the day after I wrote
my last letter - I am very much
pleas'd to you for them and think
them very pretty - The babies look
beautifully in them - they bring very
becoming to their style - I keep them
in their box laid up on the parlor
mantel to show to my friends - they
have arriv'd just in time as I intend
taking the babies next week to church
to have them christen'd - So you can
imagine them starting out in their

new bonnets next Saturday morning at
half past ten - I wanted to get them
some ^{wide} white satin ribbon sashes but I believe
such an article can't be found in Oakland -
I intend going to church tomorrow, for the
first time - Emily went last Sunday, to mass
the first time - She had to fast from twelve
at night till after church was out so that
she might take communion - so I had
to feed the babies - to keep them from
starving - its a good thing she dont
have to attend every Sunday - Biddy
had to stay at home for the first time
which nearly broke her heart - I
have not very much news to write as I
write so lately - But got sent away
three times from dinner by John and
the last I saw of them, he was after
him with a switch - He put in
his spare time nowadays switching
him I believe - but I cant see as Bubs
temper naturally, improves under the
paternal discipline - Bessie keeps

dirty enough to be uncommonly healthy,
John has had the front yard spaded
up to see if we could not get some
better grass started - and Bessie &
Hilduth get so dirty you could hardly
tell they ever wore white children.
I tell him I wish he had postponed
the spading till it was too cold weather
for the children to go out - but he
thinks there is no time like the present -
The babies ~~are~~ talk a great deal
lately - Rosa talks to every tree she sees
while the little Lilly dont notice anything
but people - so I conclude that Rosa
inherits her Grandmothers love of flowers
it certainly cant be her Mother -
People tell me they grow prettier every
day - and they are thought by some
to resemble their Grandmother Hilaceth
greatly - particularly Lillie - Emily
Janies looks very much like you
Ethel seems better lately - John was
down & Thursday - It would not

has been furnished & carpeted by the
 Ashland Company, - so the many
 strangers who will be here can be
 entertained there without troubling the
 Ashland Ladies - who are all nearly
 dead putting up peaches & quinces -
 I have not dared to go out calling
 for some time as I know all the
 Ladies are so busy - ^{day before} yesterday I went
 over to Aunt Amanda's & she was
 surrounded with four bushels of peaches
 out in her kitchen trying to get them
 all canned & jammed in one day
 I went to Mrs. Nicholls & she was in
 her kitchen stewing & preserving quinces
 so I have not dared to go anywhere
 else - I have got about through with
 my troubles in that way & have good
 success with every thing but Tomatoes
 & I have been told that the cause
 of my trouble with them was that I
 did not stew them down enough & that
 the chief cause of disturbance in the bottles
 was that I filled the crevices which should
 have been left empty - I have thirty nine
 though still left without ~~plotting~~ & have

I have bought three dozen of new little
 glasses for your use with the same glass
 mark different kind of fruit & all looking well
 but all the peeling was in being from the
 & the room & I thought I was into them - I was
 some time with some ornaments - I was
 much pleased to hear - I am just finished
 my chopped green tomato pickle - only
 some were all drying on top - I thought I will
 to make it more - I will give to you

Ashland Sept 8. 1860
 My Dear Mother

I have to write
 you and Father a letter of thanks
 for the very nice box of pears which
 are received from you last Tuesday
 They were most of them in good
 condition - but some of them were
 so decayed as to be worthless -
 I had enough left though to give
 a few to Mrs. Martin - Mrs. Nicholls
 Aunt Amanda and Mother because
 John would not eat much dinner
 as long as they lasted - for the minute
 he got home he would make his
 way to the Pear box and eat till
 he would not be able to eat any thing
 else - so it was well for him they

I saw much of the pears & placed a glass in the jar

Three Bartlett Pears which were pretty good - Mrs. Nichols had eight on the tree and is going to take them to the fair - Mr. Kelly of Linton says when he wants to keep fruit to exhibit at the fair - he makes a strong brine with + skins it + puts the fruit in it cold - it shrinks but little and does not change its color - He keeps peaches in that way - So if Father wants to exhibit any at your fair he can try it - If I had known it in the Spring I should have tried to keep some of our big Strawberries - I don't believe they would have been bad - Then his great excitement about our fair - There is are some large premiums offered - So it is to be hoped there will be some fine horses + c there - The men + the ladies are all talking about it - The Park makes a beautiful

fair ground - They are putting up good buildings + if there is anything brought to show I think it will go off well - Mrs. Nichols and Aunt Amanda are making some elegant preserves + jelly to take - but I think I should have any ambition that way this year - I might take the premium on the greatest number of tubs under four years old - I don't know of any other ^{branch} I should be likely to excel in - If the tickle peas come in time I will take over some of them - + we have the jar of big gooseberries - The Frizzle Rooster with the two feathers in his tail of his family - + I want John to take some of his Chubuck as it looks very large + fine now - + some of our marrow fat Squashes - This being our first fair makes it a great event with us - We have a new + very good Landlord in the big hotel - The Wilsons have moved out - The house

The best of my friend

When you can write to me that the grapes are gathered + put away to the cellar + when you can write to me that the fruit is in the house + when you can write to me that the fruit is in the house + when you can write to me that the fruit is in the house

Marietta Sept. 15. - 1860.

Dear Hattie,

I received your letter of the 8th was happy to hear that you are all blest with good health.

I wrote you a few lines in reference to that contemplated visit.

The pears & grapes I think will be out of sight before you can get here.

Our fair will be the third & fourth of next month, Mrs. Means I suppose would like to attend, as it would help up a part of the time; couldn't you come up the week before with Capt. Hempstead on the Cricket?

The weather will be cold enough by that time for your children to be on a boat.

Don't stop thinking your children are not in alphabetical order, you know you are coming home,

Write immediately as I shall have to send to the country for a girl. We are all well & hope to see you all soon. Ever Yours, Dr. Childreth

Ashland Nov 7th 1860

My Dear Mother

According to your request I write you a few lines to let you know of our safe arrival at home - We reached Parkersburg at eight O'clock - made our way in haste to the Cricket and had the pleasure of spending the day on her and part of the night as she did not leave Parkersburg till eleven o'clock Monday night I was very much afraid she Ohio would beat us down but when we did start we travelled well & reached Ashland, Tuesday at three o'clock in the afternoon - and she had time to vote and I had my three trunks unpacked before

by the Ohio whistled for Ashland
we found the house undisturbed by
thunder, fire or earthquakes - but very
musty & dirty - There were no lady
passengers on the Cricket till Tuesday
morning and no children on her but
ours - So I enjoyed it much better
than I would the Ohio for Bub had
nobody to fight & there was no danger
of whooping cough or measles being
taken from the crowd - Uncle Hugh's
family are still talking of visiting
Mauietta - perhaps next week - but I
think it doubtful if they really start
John sends his compliments & says
Kentucky is going for Bell - He has
had an Irishman today planting
the asparagus & Quince trees &c -
Give my love to Pita - Write soon
to Father

Biddy & Emily will write to Mary -
please save Biddy's ^{white} petticoat if you
see it hanging in the closet where she
thinks she left it - Love to Father
George & Mary Ross -

I am anxious to hear how Mary Ross is. I hope she did not have the Diphtheria as you feared in your last letter - She must have been much interested in the Biddys letters. Tell her Bub is learning to say his prayers - + is in such a hurry at night to say them he can't hardly wait to be undressed. John thinks it is very amusing. The little girls of Mr. Bayless School are to have a fair and supper Christmas eve - the proceeds to be given to buy them a library - I suppose Mary Ross is all excitement about Christmas + New Years - Liddeth + Bessie hardly understand much about it yet - Well I will wish you all a merry Christmas + Happy New Years + hope you will write soon to your son
Hattie

Ashland Dec 22^d 1860.

My Dear Mother

I will try and write you a few lines this afternoon not because I have anything very interesting in the news line to write but for fear if I am too long waiting you may get uneasy and think we are sick - we are all well as usual - John has been away from home ten days but got back this week - he went to Mayfield some town in the lower part of the state to see about establishing a branch bank of Ashland - he found quite an excitement about the war, hard times &c in Cincinnati - The business men have a great deal to say about it - a lot of negroes were sold in Mayfield while he was there and they did not bring much more than the price of horses

any body that had any money was
afraid to part with it.
I was very glad indeed I persuaded
and had the babies vaccinated - for
a real case of small pox in town is
reported today - Dr. Van is tending
on it + he was int^{er} made me a call
an hour or two ago - he is vaccinating
every body with some of the matter
that Charlie sent me - The young
man who has it is in a store + his
in the house. The store is in + has been
complaining two ~~days~~ weeks of not being
well - they only closed the store today
so I suppose it will be likely to
spread - Dr. Van vaccinated his grand
children + Uncle Lughs children after
mine + their ~~eyes~~ arms are just
getting well so we were just in time -
Mr. Bayless has only preached once
since I came home - his throat is
affected and I am afraid he wont
preach again this winter. I wish

we could have reading meeting or
something - ^{the} twins are
growing finely - Rose is getting much
fatter than Lily - Emily can hardly
lift them both together now -
They both creep backwards ~~now~~
I should think it time now that
they went forwards, but they dont
seem to incline to -
I was up to Belles to a dinner party
on ^{last} Saturday - The snow was so
deep I could hardly get along
again - I have a couple
of turkeys and am going to
try to get up a dinner party
next week but expect it will
be hard ~~times~~ work with the
children - I have never had any
company since the twins were born
for I felt as if I could not undertake
it - but I suppose now they are ten
months old I must try to pay some
of my company debts -

The young Man still is unconquered has not spoken yet; it is the fourth day; it has excited a good deal of sympathy as he was a fine Man very much beloved as a teacher he has a wife & one child. the father is not able to let up.

Mary Quap. says you may tell the girls that she thinks she will soon have time to write to them if this does not any more I now call it as it is not enough for stitching, but if we should have a little more I know she will have so many beaux after her that she can't possibly find time to do anything but attend to them.

She has just been in saying she has another invitation tomorrow to dinner at Mrs. Sawyer's, she thinks she can attend both as one is at 1/2 & the other at 1/2 past 1 o'clock. She keeps our house very lively.

Sends love to all the family
and all inquiring friends
Yours
Ever.

Geo. Hildreth

Newetta Dec. 31st 1860.

Dear Hattie,

I rec'd your letter of 22nd in due time, that is in a week from the date: was happy to see that you were all in good health & enjoying your lives so finely - you rather beat us here in point of society: but I don't know much about it, as I do not go out myself this cold weather, but keep close to the fire, & amuse myself by sewing, reading & taking some New England medicine, hoping by that course to keep up thro' the winter.

I can say as you did that I have not much time to write you: still I want to write often keep one letter on the way if it is only to say how do you do.

We had a lively Christmas with the children and the prospect is very good for N. Year, Mary & Hildreth enjoy it very much - tell Tommy that he had to come over twice to carry all his presents. among the rest was a very pretty Cap, which I thought I could get without giving offence?

To night is a spice me at the Library Hall
for the Sunday School. No. 11. no doubt with spice largely.
Tomorrow Diaphne has a dinner party at 12 o'clock
Mary has an invitation & so the prospect is pretty
bright for her - as she is expecting a good many calls
from the young beaux..

I have been making ready also three or four kinds
of Cake; a dozen of figs, almonds & candy with apples
is my treat. I have just been shining up my stove
to be ready, & I say to them come if you please.

We hear nothing here but seceding & battling.
I don't care anything about the Southern States
leaving, tell them take their Niggers & go, they will
always be in a quarrel as long as they remain; their
character & views are so different from the free States
that they had better be by themselves.

But Virginia & Kentucky I am very much in hopes
will remain, I cannot bear the idea of their leaving
do write me what John thinks about it, if he
apprehends any danger of Kentucky's seceding.

Mary got over her sore throat in a few days
but it has prevailed to a considerable extent upon the hills
scarcely one escaped that watched with Mrs. Cottons
little girls that died; that was a very bad case indeed
they feared the oldest one would not live for ever a day
but they are all better now..

I have not heard from Mrs. John Weston for a few days
past, she was sick with it last week. Two of the Bram Girls,
& Maria & Rebecca Nye & many others that had watched at her.
It is a dreadful complaint, their suffering is so great. Mrs. Nye
says she had no idea of it until she had it in her family,
it is very much to be dreaded.

We have one family here that has the small Pox.
the Man took it down river & gave it to his family
George has been tending on them. George has also
two patients at Deacon Dismans old house. Mr. Gould who is
superintendent of the high school here, was going home with
his father who lives a few miles out of town to make a visit
the horse ran away threw them both out on their heads, they
were both senseless, the father soon recovered so as to speak.