Lex. Ky. Aug. 8d 1849

My Dear Cousin

Although I believe I wrote to you last I will stand on nonformality this time yes my desire to know how you all are is stronger than any petty pride that I might have had concerning who wrote last. The reports from cholera are so doleful that I almost hate to look into a newspaper and the sight of Moses Spencer (Annetta's husband) makes me sick, for as none of us go to town, and as he comes out every Friday night he is our only reporter concerning town news. Though accounts from town are so distressing yet the country looks cheerful enough and we hardly ever think of cholera. I donot at least. Ma has gotten a letter from Mrs. Brand and she informs us of a case of cholera at the meadows a negro man named Isaac oks was hired to McCoys factory and also that Judge Worley is either dead or dying of cholera. several of Mrs Brands family have had cholera, Aunt Rebecca has gone back to the Meadows again, she came to town when she heard the cholera was abating, but went back a few days scince when it broke out with twice its former violence.

Aug. 23d 1849. Lex. Ky.

Miss Maria Clay
care of Mr Clay Esq
Miller Hale
Madison Co
Ky

5

I expect dear Warfield that you will think my letter very dull and doleful. But having just got Mrs. Boardes sad note and with Moses, bad accounts, you know I must feel sad and then it goes contrary for me to write cheerfully and gayly. But you must excuse it and try and answer me in the mood which you are in

Your ever affectionate
Friend and Cousin
N. G. Warfield

My dear Mary. We have had accounts as sad as I fear will reach you of the Cholera which will cease to reign over us as you will with its pestilential breath blasting all its victims upon God can only know but that I went over to the Meadows to see them the time looked quite cheerful, the pestilence had ceased to be dated as an Epidemic when lo! Monday we had the most awful acts of its violence in an entire different part of the town - its mysterious visitations no one can calculate when how long I am for poor Woody. I cannot tell how much I regret his death. I hope you will all escape this dreadful - you have had your share - here is Caspar I wish I have been over again to see him but fear to leave my family I have not seen them since I came over I think to the Meadows. Write me soon for I want to know Brooklyn. Be to all yrs Aff. E.

Cathy sends her love & the children by me to write a letter for each to the children but I cannot. I am very busy in bed sick

W. E.

Sunday. The Meadows December 7. 1850

Dear Mary

So what a sleet we have! the limbs of the trees groan and break from the weight of the spangles and transparent gems; not diamond, but like them — what a spectacle to behold, what lessons it teaches when rightly considered — But I did not take up my pen to write about this, but to enquire for my dear little Brother, he has received a brief but still I have hoped to hear from you every two or 3 days during his illness — I fear and when he left us for his head, but trusted in the skill of his Doctor there, to guard his, head as all children in fever, tear this organ most affected — and all Dodos are early taught to be mindfull of that fact, and surely I hoped yours would be so. write to us, you know our feeling, and our solicitude; the day time is nearly gone for us, and we require some little stimulus from those around us: especially from those we most like, Caroline is very considerate she often writes and comes over too — Old Soldiers like to fight their battles over & over again, so, we that are not old Soldiers like to taste of some bye days of frolic & fun and gallantry — we read too, both light & heavy — did you ever read Young Cate or the Rescue, if you did not you must when you come over here, but I keep it for you — its laid on the Kanawha, and filled with many names we know, and to some extend founded on fact; it duly excites —

Mrs. L. M. Clay
Whitehall
Pay Town
Madison Co
Ky

FREE

Madam rumour has it here, that Col. Clay has sold his hogs at Cin.ti for 10000$ profit and his Corn Hogs would give 2000 more, this old Lady rumour is a great liar, and I fear they is one of them — too good to be true, we hope to make tomorrow to kill hogs, I had before killed 21. and will tomorrow be able I hope, to add 30 more to the meat house Tarlton neighd has got has killed none, they eat corn, too much for this year of scanty crops. should it be true, that 12.00 is made, I suppose Christmas times will not be able to keep you on that side of the River, you must join those that will most rejoice with you in such an event — I am called to dinner and then am informed by your mother she had just finished an epistle to you I therefore quit, only wishing you to keep the children poor me and beg to have your letter quickly saying Brackett was well & all others

Affy

E. Warfield

Wm M. J. Clay.

Her grandmother gave her a chaste figured Stancy & myself intended giving her a figured muslin dress the first time we go a shopping again poor orphan Child I feel for her very much I received a letter from Rebecca Brown her health is not good appears very anxious to hear from her brother Caroline received her dress very much pleased with them very big flounting your cutter very good Stancy sent out for hers have you bottled yours yet if you have not you ought to do it immediately it will get too sour I did not have enough bottles I had but mine to leave like that you ever see any thing more beautiful than the sun shining on the trees to day ten millions and millions of Diamonds I regretted very much you could not have stayed longer with us you would have enjoyed those little parties we had so much and stayed longer with your sister I never was so much surprised when staff Mc parlour told you was gone I had no idea you thought of such a thing as all your children was here with you write me on the receipt of this how you all are what you are doing how you get along your farthers love to you and the Children & kiss the servants ever yours Mary A. Maria Barr Warfield

tell Warfield I never expect he can possibly stay a day and night with us long as he can get to his Aunt Catherine it is perhaps natural he should like to stay with those he loves most

The Meadows Sunday December 1st 50

My Dear Mary

We are all anxious to hear from Brother and have requested you to write us or make some of your children write us have not heard since Caroline left, have you heard whether Mr Clay has sold his horse in herd he had but I forget it is not true Aunt left on tuesday in fine spirits and so she has been ever since she was married stayed all night in Frankfort dined with Mrs Hannah and left on the boat in the evening with Stay several days at Louisville & memphis from there to Williams and Robert Brashears will not go to Orleans of Cholera is there; she is perfectly devoted to Mr Ryland he fills her eye and heart and I think he is the man to suit her will indulge her in every thing and never let her she has a fault that is the man that will suit her Dr Brashear said he would not dare to insult Jenett with his wife she would never forget it and she made him one of the best wives in the world but such was her disposition she could not bear to be funned fault with and he knew it

Allen and Jane passed a very nice little party Invited Ann and all the family Esq McCallister she did not come and Mary and William Brands she had every thing very good and nice Judith Rogers went with us at Lancelle light to and her and Kitty Stunt went to Lockeran party with Ben o'clock given to his brother who received Mr Deiras from Mexico with upwards of 500 hundred persons then Elisha Stunt went with them a great squeer indeed

Lord and his wife was here I think she is really jolying
Julia was not Frank & Nancy they laughed very much
at her gallant as Benjamin and Julia stayed at home
we all dined with Caroline she had a very nice dinner
indeed spent a very pleasant day the next evening
at Rebecca's the family attended Mrs St Brard
Mary & William she had very many very nice indeed
oysters chicken Salad Charlotte rouse a very pleasant
evening indeed Friday after she was married
she was invited to Mrs Todhunters it was a very
wet day: she could not go but went on monday
following Nancy came by for me we went to see Susan
Warfield whom we found still very ill a great sufferer
when we returned to dinner we found there had
been 28 carriages to call on the bride of course
persons in all: quite a pack of cards left Nancy
says Maria hem the fire made up and drops
herself down so and the parlour was full until
dark Mrs Richard and Jock Higgins called
and asked Ann & Sturbe and Dr Warfield and
myself to spend the evening with Kate Gillis at
her house she said there would not be many Mrs J.
Higgins asked for the next evening Ann returned
on tuesday evening not disposed to go to either Julia
had been so unwell she did not go to any of our
parties but asked Ann & Sturbe and Dr and myself
on Saturday evening Elvira McC Lehenin said she
had been very anxious to invite them to dinner
but Mr McCallister's Sister was going from
day to day and her home Servant very ill body
another to nurse him and she found it impossible
until Saturday and then Ann expected Mrs
Todhunter to spend a Saturday evening and stay
all night with us and I expected Nancy Mrs McC
Clure and Sarah to spend the evening with me
Alice came out and Julia Elvira Breckenridge
and Kate and Elisha we had quite a pleasant
evening so you see I have been quite in a bustle Ann and
Rylands called to see Julia but did not see Benjamin
at all. I think he treated your Father and myself
very badly: for he was well enough to go to his farm every day
do you not think after all that bustle I must have had
a considerable calm too warm and not to hot I go
I am sure you enjoyed it but I think your Father died
with he was considerably lonesome but would not own it
as I am always anxious he should prefer my company
to any other and be satisfied if he has that I think he will
miss Ann very much still more than I do more than any
of his children as she has been the longest with us I shall be
satisfied if she is happier Our loss will be her gain she wants
something to fill up her time her excitement they promised
to write from Louisville if they do I will send you the letter.
Caroline received a letter from Maine all well Edith
has left her sister with much delighted to see Ann they
talk of staying two weeks there to morrow I hope we will
hear from you Your Aunt was much gratified with your kind
remembrance Mary Erwin purchased a bonnet Black and
crimson velvet bonnet very pretty I do'nt know she is very much
placid and thankful

Andover Theo. Seminary Jany. 11th '73.

Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Clay,

Dear friends,

Several months have passed since I learned through the newspapers that you had been bereaved of two of your children; but it was only a few weeks since that I learned from Mr. Colton who of that happy circle were removed from your sight. During the past year I have been called to witness poignancy of parental anguish such as I never conceived of before. And I have learned, too, how soothing and grateful to wounded hearts are the sympathies of friends, even when they come from an obscure and far off source. And perhaps my sympathy, though it may seem to you but a drop after a shower, coming as it does after the warm gush of sympathy from a multitude of hearts who are bound to you by such close ties, may cheer a lonely hour, and send a gleam of sunshine where there was gloomy darkness before.

I need not relate how many and how pleasant are the associations which were formed by a year's intercourse with Warfield, not only as a teacher but as a companion in many an excursion. I need not speak of his generous nature, and the many noble traits of a character whose faults were those that "leaned to virtue's side". You have treasured up these hallowed recollections of the departed, and sweet thoughts of the loved one cheer your desolate hearts, as the perfume of a rare flower lingers when the flower has passed away.

No one trait shone more brightly during my intercourse with him whose loss we mourn, than a high respect and an ardent love for his parents. Boys sometimes suffer expressions to escape their lips which

promise princely entertainment. The faint and weary traveler enters the magnificent pile, and finds there is no roof above to shut out the storm. He lifts the covers of gold and silver dishes but finds no food there. There are saloons for dancing, sporting implements in profusion, but there is no couch where he may rest his weary limbs. That palace was intended for something else than the use of hungry, weary travelers. It is a good palace so far as it goes, and worthy of admiration: but it is a cold dreary place to the traveler. Just so it is with Venica. Just so it is with all sources of comfort to the mourning heart which do not spring from the Bible - from God. I know your hearts want no speculative comfort to chill the fountains of affection in its icy embrace. I know of no one who can sympathize more with the broken hearted mourner than that same Jesus ~~of Nazareth who wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus.~~ I know you must have felt an unutterable longing for something which no human being can give - Thousands have had that longing satisfied by trusting in the promises of the Almighty. The cold morality of Venica, or any other mere system of rules, will no more meet this longing of the soul than will the outside forms of a religious life. Nothing can shelter the soul of the heaviest from the successive storms of life but the refuge of the Omnipotent. Christian philosophy puts the roof upon the palace and supplies all that his famishing nature needs, through all his pilgrimage to eternity. My dear friends, I beg pardon for writing so long a letter. You have my sympathies. As I rejoiced with you when you rejoiced, so now I mourn with you. I have many thoughts of you, and you are not forgotten in the

Yours truly, W. Burnet Jr.

indicate a disregard of the authority, and want of appreciation of parental feelings and requests. But my pupil and companion in many an excursion has often delighted me with his manly and affectionate expressions of regard for his parents;— expressions which most boys, who are just beginning to be young men, would think too child-like, and indicative of a weakness inconsistent with manliness. Many times as we have walked or rode in company have I listened to his enthusiastic expatiations upon the excellences of his parents. From no boy in school did I receive so many kind attentions, so many thanks, and so many tokens of regard. His parting gift, a pearl-handle knife — the knife you bought for him in Cincinnatti, lies before me. But he is gone, and I shall never see him on earth again.

Yesterday the funeral of the son of Gen. Franklin Pierce was attended in this place in a very quiet and appropriate way. As I looked upon those parents who seemed to be crushed both in body and in spirit by that sudden and terrible blow that dashed from life their darling — their only son, I thought of those who had been bereaved of their first born. I longed to sit down with them and talk of the dealings of the Unfinite Father for their good, and to tell how others have found in these dark dispensations untold wisdom and bless. I looked upon the man whom the nation has honored, and saw him a child in weakness and unconscious of all things but his dead boy. What were honors to him? Take the presidency — take all the honors of life — I spurn them — but give me back my child — my darling — my only child. This would be the language of the agonized father. How station, wealth, renown, all dwindle into insignificance when God lays his hand upon the idols of affection! He touches the bubbles of life and they vanish. But have we nothing in life but bubbles? Have we nothing which may not vanish and leave us desolate?

I have recently been reading Seneca, and have been captivated by the depth of his philosophy and the richness of his thoughts. Though a heathen, I do not wonder that Jerome sainted him. Certainly there was more true philosophy in him than in the majority of canonized saints. His stoicism is true so far as it goes: but half a truth is often times a whole lie. It is so with Seneca's philosophy. Philosophy is his panacea. He writes splendid epistles to the afflicted, the disappointed, the bereaved; but those who are not afflicted, the prosperous, and the happy admire them more than those for whom they are intended. The broken hearted mourner feels the insufficiency of cold stoicism to meet his case. It does very well for one who is not afflicted, but the mourner detects the lie. Philosophical maxims can no more bind up the broken spirit, than they can feed and clothe a man, or quiet the lash of conscience. Seneca's medicines are finely labeled philosophically compounded; and the well admire their taste, but they cannot cure the sick. He throws a pall over the pleasures of life to drive you to philosophy. Does the world go hard with you? Grin and bear it like a man. Are you in pain? Poh! Its half imaginary. Disappointed? Hope is not worth the taking. Are you afraid of death? Nonsense! None but fools fear death. If life becomes unpleasant, commit suicide. The stoic can decorate and beautify such sentiments as these so as to delight all who read; but the aching void of the stricken heart is not filled by such cold comfort. And yet Seneca is the best author upon these subjects I have ever read, except those who have drawn from the Bible. Imagine a hungry and weary traveler hastening from the storm to the shelter which a magnificent palace seems to offer at a distance. Its fine proportions, its towers, its costly sculpture, its profuse adornings, and an invitation blazoned in letters of gold,

[1860's?]

Dear Laura,

I asked Ma to leave space for me to write if you her now I have nothing to say after all. I have been visiting lately a good-deal among the married ladies, as the girls have ceased entirely. I have been amusing myself painting a photograph of myself, the size of Aunt Ann's and making a frame out of corn shucks, which is very pretty, sewing, reading, and attending to the flowers a little is my employment generally. Sallie Stone spent nearly two weeks with us we enjoyed her visit very much. Our home looks pretty and dear all are glad that you will soon be with us. Anne and Sal have had strawberries for two days as Ma and I did not gather us some at all without.

Ann says she wishes you would make haste home. We think of you often even if we don't write. The cellars to the house are nearly done. And we have a house full of workmen as well as from Camp, a perfect tavern we have been keeping. I have had no letter from Green for a long while of course I get very uneasy and low spirited at times he was just on the eve of starting to Rome when I heard last from him. Aunt Ann Clay has been quite ill but is improving now I hope surely. Are you all not worried over Grant's moves, though. I dare say you hear nothing cheering from the Engineer, but we are. Will send line I'll come over for you a day or two before school is out, so as to come home that evening.

Good night

with love to Aunt Lewis

Aff. yours

Mary.

[1860?]

Dearest Laura,

I send Cornelia's last letter rec'd night before last. Mary sent the previous one to Green Clay as it contained something she wished him to read. Mary will go over a few days before your school is out, & be ready to bring you home as soon as you can start. Be careful to gather up all your clothes &c. & have your trunk nicely & carefully packed & it can come home on the wagon as I will be hauling from Lex. for a great while. Send it over before you. The few things you will need one night you can bring in the carriage. I am glad you are so well pleased to be with your Aunt Laura. I would suppose you would find it a charming home. You are both fond of reading & your music will be agreeable to your Aunt & you have plenty of room now to keep your clothes all in good order & I trust when you are ready to come home to stay you will have plenty of room

at home. Tell Laura to write me if she has any flowers? I am very anxious to hear about her housekeeping. Is she not happier in her own house? It appears to me that every body must be. Tell her I say she must enjoy it. I enjoy her being in her own house, for her. Tell her, if she wishes it, she can be so content there. How does she like the servants she has. Do not let her have any trouble on your account.

Brutus came home last Monday. The building progresses slowly. I cannot hear any faster their supplies else they would get on a little more rapidly. I reckon. I have no fault to find with any of the workmen. I have upwards of two hundred Gov't stacks, on the farm, but hope to get another thousand. These I hang on better than none, but I do not expect to keep them long. There is no corn to feed them here is the reason I have not as many as I could graze. Love to Laura

Yrs. sincerely M. G. Clay.

if the mail continues to come. Laura I had written all the half of the last page about Frankfort &c. before I found out that this letter was to you. I had commenced three letters, one to your Pape, Brutus & yourself & finished neither, kept all open awaiting the return of yours sister from town, to give me all the news they had collected there relative to the rebels. I fancied this was Brutus' letter & so wrote accordingly. I received a letter from Brutus last night, giving us intelligence of Mrs. Jeffitah Dudley's death. We wonder with whom your Grandmother will live. Mary received a letter from Chris. Clay last night in which he mentioned that his Father had gone to Frankfort upon hearing of Mrs. Dudley's death. I expect his Mother will live with him. Green is in Lex. He fled from the rebels & has written to Lonnie to join him in Lex. She has determined to remain at home I believe, which is a wise resolve, I think. Do write me my child by return mail. I would like to have letters from you as long as I can. The public is completed. If the rebels are upon us I know not when it will be. All send love. Love to Henrietta. Yr. devotedly M. P. Clay.

March 25th 1863.

Dearest Laura,

We have a prospect of being in rebel-dom for a time again. If you have need of anything before you can communicate with me go to your Aunt Anne. I feel that I will not see your a Brutus for a long time. I received a letter from your Pape last night. He is in New York & does not yet know when he will sail. He is waiting for the appointment of Secretary of Legation. There are a great many applicants for it by men with families & middle-aged men. Do you think these men can support families upon the salary? We have all been busy beautifying our grounds lately & I have enjoyed it so much. The rebels may come now & devastate our beautiful homes & make us beggars. Oh! that this state of things was at an end! In another week how sadly changed all things may be. We understand that Madison county is not to be protected by the Union troops at all. Green is in Lex. I hope he will go to see you. Lonnie & the girls have gone to Richmond in the carriage. Dickson by

in Lex. are very much frightened we understand & I suppose the rumors are not to be counted. One scares another & they all rush pell mell to doing nothing. Well I pray continually for the success of this grand, glorious republic. When will the rebels be put down. How damning the title of "rebel" will be in coming time. Laura I enclose a note to "Hunter & Bruce" in this letter. Ask Richard or Elijah Craig to deliver it. I have written by mail but have received no answer & suppose therefore they have never gotten it. Perhaps a letter to you may be allowed to go on. After I got home last week I received a letter from Sister Anne written before I went to Lex. You don't know how much I have improved the yard lately. Mary has had a beautiful rockery built where the old shop stood, Sally has commenced having a pool day where the wet weather spring breaks out in the winter & I have levelled & graded the earth all around the mouth of the old well where the elm tree grows & the fill of the carriage road. None of this will

two of Green's work horses. I expect them at home in a few hours & hope they will bring some cheering news. I suppose our mails will stop of course & we will be enveloped again in Egyptian darkness. I have been writing to your Father & to Brutus & feel so tired that I will draw to a close. I write to you to-day particularly that you might know to whom to apply in case of need before you could hear from me. Write to your Father immediately & direct your letter to "St. Nicholas Hotel, New York City, New York."

The girls have just returned from town & of course they bring some kind of bad news. They say that the small pox is raging in Frankfort. I trust you may be spared the horrid disease. I suppose the citizens have taken all precautions to secure themselves. The rebels are not nearer than Lancaster it is said in Richmond. Many of the citizens are remaining there. Carrie always comes with startling news. I was almost ready to cry this morning at the thought of leaving home. I trust I will be able to remain here. I will write to you every few days

Miss Laura Clay.
Care of Dudley M. Craig, Esq.
Lexington,
Kentucky.

ref. to
Whitehall
Grounds

March 8th. '63.

Dearest Laura,

I suppose you have felt quite anxious to know what has become of us all during the last raid of the horse thieves. A number of them came here Sunday evening & inquired if they could stay here all night. I was quite unwell with sore throat & had gone to bed. In the afternoon I had had the horses all put in one of the carriage houses meaning after night when all the negroes had ceased to run about the yard to have them put in the lumber house. My dear the rebels were here: so we had to wait until they had their supper & gone to the office to bed. About midnight the girls went with Bob. to the lumber house & could get only the carriage horse to go in. After securing him Bob took the others a way somewhere & we felt we had secured the carriage horse if no other. In the morning Zeph. was sent for the cows: the rebels saw you would be happy then. I hope you attend to your teeth well & very careful to personal neatness, seeing that you never wear a soiled collar or pocket handkerchief or soiled underclothes. Be careful to keep your hair in nice order. An untidy girl is very disagreeable to look at or associate with. I send over some sugar cakes for you to give Richard & Elijah Cuig & Henrietta too. If I could raise a jug I would send her some molasses but I have nothing to send it in. Do write me how Mrs. Fleming is? I am busy on the farm & in the garden & the girls are amusing themselves with reading, sewing & music. When I will get another horse I do not know. I would very much like to have a one-horse rockaway. Do you hear of any to be sold? I am glad you are studying Algebra. Are you taking French lessons? Write me how you like your teacher & how you are progressing? Are you very studious? Now is the time for your greatest improvement. Love to Henrietta. Write by Sophy. Yrs devotedly, R. P. Ely.

him, took him into the office & told him they would kill him if he did not tell them where the horses were. He told them they were in one of the houses about the house. He had seen them put in the carriage house. They then went peeping in all the houses & listening. They found the horse in the lumber house, lifted the door off the hinges & led him out. Mary just then went out the front door, observed they had gotten the horse, ran to her room got her pistol determining to kill the horse or cripple him rather than let the thieves take him. She shot but missed the horse. One of the capt.'s rode up & said he would be under the disagreeable necessity of taking the pistol from her. She told him if he attempted it she would shoot him. They all then rode off, the man with the horse waving his hat. Some time during the afternoon they came & took the mare "Kate" leaving a little broken down horse in her stead. I determined to try & secure it & ordered the children to drive him & the mules around to the mill lot. The horse had to be actually beaten before it would budge. His back & shoulder are in such condition that I think it doubtful that he will ever be worth a cent. Oh! how I wonder when this horrid war will end! I received letters from your Papa night before last. When they were written he did not know whether he was to return or not to Russia. For near two weeks we were without a mail. It appeared to us two months. We got a mail Friday night; from one of the papers I learned that your Father was confirmed by the senate. Seward did all he could against him. The stage did not return to Sep. Saturday but I learn it will go over to-morrow. Brutus is ill return to school. It is the first opportunity he has had since he recovered from his attack of sore throat. He is not so well satisfied to stay away from home as you are, altho' he is boarding with your cousin Sally Watson. I feel very grateful to Henrietta for taking you to live with her. I believed

Miss Laura Clay.

Feb. 17th. '63.

Dearest Laura,

I rec'd your very welcome letter last night & hasten to reply to it. You can take french lessons with pleasure. If you find yourself improving under her tuition I shall be very glad. I understood Mr. Williams to say that de Rordé would teach French in his school. Will you have time to study all your lessons? If you study them, as you should, I do not think you will find time to read any thing. However, I send you the volumes of Rollins ancient history, your Bible & Prayer book.

As to the expenditure of money, I would have you to indulge yourself occasionally, in going to Opera, concert, &c, &c. & keeping money always by you to buy, shoes, gloves, pins soap & other little necessaries. You know our circumstances. I indulge you all to the greatest extent of our ability. I love to see my children enjoy life in every reasonable way & endeavor to

contribute to it, by every endeavor counting my labor at a cheap rate. I am glad you have commenced studying algebra & wish you to continue the study of Mathematics until you are perfect in it. Give my love to Henrietta. I send your Father's photograph & one of mine for Miss Gabrielle Martin & commission you to carry it to her: tell her I would have written to her, but as Sophy goes to Lex. to-morrow I have many things to attend to & have not time. I was so glad to get your letter. I felt so unhappy about you after your letter to Mary, you having mentioned having diphtheria symptoms. Brutus has been threatened with it. He is still in his room, but relieved I believe. Mary is in Richmond, Sally at home. She has been amusing herself making molasses & sugar & herewith send you eight sugar-cakes. If I had any thing to send Henrietta some molasses in, I would send it to her but I cannot raise even — a bottle. I have not heard from your Father for several days. He was in N. York when he wrote: had not been to Washington: as soon as it is determined where he is to go he will write to me. It must be very annoying to him to be in such suspense. Annie is well. She continues to write to her Papa in all my letters. I see Green often — but Lamie — very seldom. I am busy as 'tis possible for me to be. I fear I will exhaust myself if your Papa stays from home two years. Good bye. Love from Sally & Brutus. They say they will write to you in a few days. Good bye

Yrs. devotedly,

M. G. Clay.

Miss. Laura R. Clay.
Lexington
Kentucky
U. S. A.

F. le.

April. 18th. 1863.

Dearest Laura,

Your Aunt Anne & Mary have gone to town to make some visits & to see the brigade of soldiers that passed over yesterday on their way to Richmond. Beyond that point they do not let it be known where they are destined. Gen. Naglee commands & Ed. Charly Walker commands the cavalry. The chaplain of one of the R. Island companies — a Mr. Howard — was here this morning, to visit the home of "C. M. Clay." He was very gentlemanly & pleasant very different from the ragamuffin rebel in appearance. He staid all night at Mr. Bennetts the brigade encamped near Mr. Jones'. I would like to have seen them, but some bolts on the carriage were broken & after they were mended it was too late for Sally & me to go up to town. Sally comforted herself by riding over to Carrie's. Carrie was over here yesterday spending the day. Green's place is very much improved & looks beautifully. He hopes to finish his house this summer. He is putting in a large crop of tobacco

and I do hope he will make a quantity of money. Annie went home with them last evening & Green wrote me this morning that she was going to live with them. Sally mounted a horse this afternoon & went for her, for we can not do without our singing bird at all. I could not sleep well without her last night. I do wish you could be at your beautiful home my child now. You would enjoy it so much. It is looking so beautifully. Tell Henrietta she must come home with you! Laura I wish you would buy an orange & plant the seed & grow them for me & get slips of all of Henrietta's plants & grow them for me. I would enjoy a visit from Henrietta so much! Ask her if she will not come with you? Do you ever walk out to the Cemetery? Visit my graves, whenever you go out. Your Papa says you must write to him once a month regularly. I think I wrote you this before. Have you written to him? He will wish to know all your branches of study & your opinion of your teachers. Write to him before you write to me & look at my letter & commence it as you see mine. You do not commence a letter properly. I wish you to take care in penmanship. Not one

of my children write a decent hand. If you ever have an opportunity I would like you to take lessons in writing. Your Aunt Anne carries over some dresses for you & will buy others. & whatever else you may need. Think of what you would like to have & ask her for it. I wish you to dress neatly — and that is all I can afford at present. By the time you are grown I hope to be able to indulge you somewhat. At present I can not do it. The carpenter comes ~~to-morrow~~ Monday, to lay off the foundation of our house. I may not do more than build the foundation this year. It will

depend upon circumstances.

Sunday morning.

As your sister & Aunt re-turned from town they brought me your very welcome letter. I send you the five dollars you write for. Brutus writes to me much oftener than you do, tho' not weekly as I have desired that both of you should. I think Lannie likes housekeeping very well. She is not enthusiastic about it. I thought I had written you all about the improvements there as well as at home. Green had all the dirt from his cistern drawn around his house foundation, of which I formed beautiful

terraces for him & laid out walks to the vegetable garden from the front door & side door, from the side door to the kitchen door from the kitchen door, one to the smoke house & one to the cistern. The place is beautiful & vastly improved. Green will improve it from year to year & truly & highly appreciates his home. He & Bernie seem very happy. Write to your Father next Saturday, a good long letter. Direct to Thos:

C. M. Clay Cassius M. Clay. Esq.
"Care of State Department."
St. Petersburg.
Russia.

He will be much gratified by receiving letters regularly from his children. Let him know all your wants. Ask his consent to your using snuff on your teeth, if you still desire it & any thing else you wish. It will make him realize his responsibility. Good bye.

Love to Henrietta.

Yrs. devotedly.

M. J. Clay.

Nov. 27th '63.

Dearest Laura,

I rec'd your nice note last night & one also from Owen from Buffalo. His was dated 22d. of Nov. He expected Connie to join him last Tuesday which I hope & suppose she did. He expected to leave Buffalo on the 1st of Dec. & New York City the 8th. for Europe. He wrote back for Fullerton to join him at Buffalo immediately, & he starts next Monday. We will all welcome you home Christmas. The girls & I will be over next week sometime & will then send you some money. Buy your 35 c. dress if you need it, my child, & I will give you money to do with as you please beside. Your Father sent you a spray of stones for the hair & breast & any part of the dress you would want to wear it, as well as the fan pack of your sister's. I am sorry he died, for it will be long before you need it. They will borrow all your jewelry this winter. I am very busy with the mubs & will be. I have a heap to tell you when you come home. There were secrets in my letters which was the reason I

wanted my letters burned. You are fond of keeping secrets & therefore I write to you. Brutus will go to school after Christmas & I will miss him so much. I do not know how to give him up. I rec'd a letter from your Father Saturday night. He has not much faith in our speculation —— but I have. We will know this winter, which of us is right. I am glad to hear of your improvement in music & that you like Mr. Williams as instructor. You shall go to New York if things continue to prosper as I have every reason to believe they will, of which we will talk when you come home, & Sally & I will allow you to help us to build castles in the air. I am very, very busy & expect to continue so until your Father returns. I will send Henrietta & Lucca's ones next week. I have no time to see about rose roots & they could not be gotten without my superintendence. Mrs. Vallandingham has gone to Leg. to live with her daughter. Brutus bought her cow & hay & ducks &c. &c. Quinn has a sale to-morrow. I hope to be so fortunate as to get some corn from him. I want to keep the mules as long as I possibly can manage to do it. Say nothing about my mules to any body.

Good bye, my darling, with love to Henriette.

Yrs. devotedly

M. J. Clay.

Dearest Laura,

~~I forgot to tell Mrs Brooks~~

~~to send~~ I enclose letters from your Father & Connie & accounts of your Papa's death from London & Paris papers. Give them all to your Aunt Anna to read & she can send them to Sister & Mama if they desire to hear them. I also send a note & check to Mrs Crey which hand her immediately before you have a chance of losing them. Write me about your chemise & petticoats. I am now having your dresses cut out & made & will send them & the skirt of your dress as soon as finished. Send the letters & papers to Brutus when you get them from Sister Anna.

Yrs. devotedly.

M. J. Clay.

April 13th '64.

The girls have just started off to Miss Thomson's wedding near Mt. Sterling.

Recipe for Hair oil.

Just go to Norton's Apothecary Shop & ask for a pt. ~~bottle~~ & tell them to put a third of each ingredient in it, & for it & you have a supply of hair oil for some time. Write me where you need money. I send the key of our lot to Aunt Nancy which you carry up to her directly.

White-Hall
April 18

Miss Laura Clay.
care of D. M. Craig.
Lexington,
Kentucky.

March. 13th '64.

Dearest Lenie,

Why have you not written to me my child? Having been sick, I would be miserable about you, if I were not always combating with my anxiety. The day you went to your Aunt Julia's was not bright & I have not heard from you since. Have you been to school yet? are you entirely well? did you take special care to have dry feet & wrap yourself up, well? The men are still at work on the foundation & will finish it in two days if weather does not prevent them. I have made some beautiful improvements in the yard I think best work but will not mention them but let you enjoy them when you come home. I hope your Sister's are now in Lex. & will be at home in a few days for I do long to see them. Have you written to your Father &

forwarded the letters to him which I directed you to do? & to Burton too, have you sent him the letters I told you to do? I rec'd a letter from him a few nights ago in which he said he had not heard from me for two weeks & I know in that time I have sent you a letter for him. All are well. Love to Henrietta

Yrs. devotedly

M. G. Cly.

White Hall Ky
March 15

Miss Laura Clay,
Care of D. M. Craig. Esq,
Lexington,
Kentucky.

~~Institute~~

Jany 25th '64.

Dearest Laura,

I hope your sister's left you as much money as you wanted. I told them to be certain to do so & to give you the Grammar you wrote for. I think it very likely I will go to Sey. some time in the next two weeks when I will pay Henrietta & all other bills. I enclose you one of your Father's best letters as it contains a high compliment to you. I expect to give over the Mules in two weeks time & if I do I will go over & make Meme a visit of a few days before I become so busy about the house. The men who undertakes to put it up says it will be under cover in Aug. So it may be that we will get in our new house before your Father gets home. I hope we will have no fright about the horrid rebs. coming in, for then I would quake more than I ever did before if our house is up. I am anticipating a fine time for the girls in Washington. Would you prefer going to Italy

if you have a chance? You might be very home-sick & still you could not get home. You must consider it well, all the disagreeables attending it as well as the advantages. It would not perhaps be any more pleasant, if as pleasant, as when you had all the family in Rupie. Mary would leave you a good deal by yourself, very likely. I do not much believe you will have the opportunity, for I do not think he will go back. Your Father has not got more than rec'd my letter. I do not know what he will say to it. I am very glad you have the opportunity of studying with a Frenchman. I hope you will improve rapidly under him. Do let me know if he makes you speak the language. I look for your Aunt Anne to-morrow. I have not yet felt lonely, because I look for her to-morrow, if she delays coming longer I hope I will not feel it. I wish she would part with that poor jade, to whom she appears so much attached. I have no doubt the negroes would be glad of a change. I understand Mrs. Morris has an infant. Buy a pair of infant's socks & send her. That will be a very nice present & one you can afford. See that they are handsome ones. Julia will get you a pair in your Aunt Caroline. Love to Henrietta

Mary Jane

Yrs devotedly M. J. Clay.

late Feb. - early
March 1864

Dearest Laura,

Your Aunt Anne goes over to see Elisha Parker & consult Dr. Bush as she is very uneasy about her health. I send you Carrie's letter which I rec'd last night. I got one also from dear Green which I also send you. When you read them send them on to Mary. My child, let me impress it upon you the necessity of great caution in going out after having had the measles. There lies the principal danger of the disease. If you take cold with them consumption follows. Now, I entreat you to be as careful as possible. Follow strictly the advice of Mr. Cley relative to the time of your going to school. I hope you enjoy the eggs, apples & oranges. Good bye my precious one

Yrs. devotedly M. J. Cley.

Mary Jane

Miss Laura Clay

Monk 7th 64.

Dearest Laura,

I send you a letter of Green's & Sally's. Send them to Brutus & tell him to return them to me directly he reads them. I trust that you will see to it that you are entirely well before you go to school, & then see that you are well wrapped up & your feet dry & warm, my precious child. Be certain, at the earliest day, to inquire of Mr. William the day his school opens last Sept. Love to Henrietta

Yrs. devotedly

M. J. C.

Miss Laura Clay.

Feby. 28th. 64.

Dearest Lave,

I rec'd Julia's & Henrietta's letters only last night which were written Friday. So you were taken sick, the day after I left Lep! I cannot help feeling anxious about you. My heart is so heavy! If you remain in bed & drink the hot tea which Henrietta says she will give you I suppose there is no danger. The eruption is out on you well & you only need care not to take cold & repel them. If you would like me to go over I can very easily do it, for Sister Anne says with Annie she is not at all lonely, so I reckon she would stay here during my absence & if she would not I would go any how. So be certain & ask Henrietta to write me if you prefer I should come. Be sure & not go to school any sooner than Henrietta

thinks it proper you should go.
I saw plenty of oranges at a shop near Phoenix Hotel & thought of you but it was so late before I could have town that I felt I ought not stop to carry them to you. It was dark before I got home. Ask Henrietta to send down & get you a dozen at least, at a time. I send you ten dollars. Be careful not to eat them tho', if they are not good for you. Wait until you are well.
Dear child! I wish you were at home! I wish you were well. I send Mary's & Sally's last letters. Write to your Papa & send them to him. I hope Henrietta will write to me to-day. I send this by Will. who goes on for some oranges. I send you some eggs & a basket of Apples.

Annie's letter.

(kiss 50 times)

M. J. C.

Feby 29th '84.

Dearest Child,

I was in hopes to have had a letter from your Aunt Julie & Henrietta Craig to-night. I have no doubt they have written. I comfort myself by believing that "bad news travels fast" & that if you were not doing well they would have been particular that I should hear from you. I enclose Mary's letter rec'd to-night, ~~from~~ you. You'll see, she says her letters are for you always. I rec'd a short letter from your Father also, nothing in it, with sending to you but he promises the next shall be very interesting which of course I will send you. I also rec'd one from Jennie Rogers enclosing this clipping which I send you, which you must, with Mary's letter, send to your Pape, with the letters I sent you to-day by Will. & tell him how you got it. Jennie clipped it out of a "Louisville Democrat." There came a letter from Green Clay & your

Pape to-night for Mary also. I have enclosed them to her. I wanted to read your Papa's very much but I did not. She'll bring it home to me. Oh! my precious child I wish you were at home with me! The Irishmen came this morning & began the work of excavating the cellar. It will be done in two weeks, if no wise hindered. I hope you enjoyed your apples, eggs & money. Annie sends you a long letter & many kisses. Good bye. Hoping to hear of your being quite well in a few days & begging that you may be altogether & in every way prudent

I am ever
yr. devoted mother
M. J. Cly.

Feb. 17th. 1864.

Dearest Lanie,

You have not written to me this week! I suppose you have rec'd your Father's & May's letters which I sent you! The cold weather put a stop to my trimming the vines which must be done before I can leave home. There are so many things to prevent my leaving home always. I am so glad the girls are enjoying themselves so much. Return May's letters & your Pappa's also. Love to Henrietta. Annie sends a kiss. Love to Henrietta.

Yrs devotedly

M. J. Clay.

Washington City Feb. 17 1864
National Hotel.

Dearest Mama,

I wrote to you Sunday, and this is Wednesday. We had Aunt's letter this morning, saying you hadn't received anyletter from us, but we use this you have several. To begin and answer your questions. We made over dresses at Mr. Wood's, I wore my blue one, Sally her yellow silk, we enjoyed the party, and I think we are much admired, at least, have plenty of attention every where we go. I have no copy of my letter, but I think Aunt Cami has it. We are just going to pantomimes or somewhere every night and enjoying ourselves very much. Last night we went to the Lucia's Mrs. Lincoln's house was crowded and all kinds of dressing. I wore your yellow silk Sallie hers and Aunt Ann is travelling I don't much expect one. You write about the Small Pox, a physician told us the other day that from twenty seven districts the physicians met and reported not more than three cases in each and that they were slight. I was vaccinated in Paris and since I came here but neither have as yet taken. Some one has called so I stop. We will try and let you hear from us every week. Don't try and do too much and wear yourself out we can't enjoy as much if you are working so hard for us. Give my best love and kisses to Annie and tell her I am going to bring her a little buggy for her baby. Give my love to Anne and yourself dear Mother

Yrs aff.

Mary B. Clay.

black velvet with lace and feathers trimmed dress, and had many compliments paid us. Mrs Lincoln wore white satin, black lace trimming, white point on her head, feathers in it, and gold looked handsomely. Uncle wanted us to ask Mr. Lincoln to let some men out of prison so I went to him as he were about to leave, and asked him to one side, and asked him, in created girls as she is in the company, and I fear may create some remark, but I don't care but not much can be said about it I think Aunt Ann wants to know how Sally goes to Paris, girls pleasantly, and the Misses Who were looking for her, We received our bonnets and they are very pretty, they are white crape, so will do for our common bonnets I find I will have plenty of dresses, both evening and day, the evening parties are composed of different persons, so we can wear the same many times. We go out nearly every night somewhere, and of course are enjoying ourselves very much. Tell Aunt Ann that I have the half of that band she looks for, Mr Mrs Fulkerson make the drawers and get their negroes in to make Cremise Cornie told me about her, so Mrs Walker can tell you about her. I am so glad to hear from Cornie. Charlie Walker has been twice to see us, and is quite well, says he gets no letters from home, yet they get his. Saturday, Mrs Chandler has invited us to go with her to Lieut. Ridgeway's head quarters, where we are to have a ball, and we anticipate a gay time of it; it is four hours ride from here in Virginia Uncle Sanford seems to enjoy our company very much and Aunt Ann enjoys every thing with us. There are very few young men, but plenty of married gentlemen for beaus, there are not a great many young girls here either. Aunt Ann write girls delightfully about our writing I hope she will be great full hereafter I shall write every week so do not look for a letter oftener though you may be sometimes agreeably visited. I had no letter from Green last week but as he

Bourbon Nov. 4th 1864.

Dear Mama,

I hope you are all well, and safe from trouble since I left. I sincerely hope the bricklayers are increased in number and that the rain has not interfered materially. I reached here safely and agreeably but Sallie Stone failed to get to Lex. so I came by myself I so much regret Sallie didn't come she was the recreation. Tell Rodes I hope he won't consider it to his interest to go with Mr. White — for he is such a comfort to us but of course we would have him do that which is most advantageous. Mr Mrs family have not sick so I was well I came so soon or they would have been

gone when I got here. I stayed there the night I got here, until next evening when Aunt Anne came for me I will go in to-morrow again to see them. Uncle Benton is not here, off speaking. I have not seen Sid or Cis. All are well here. I think Lassa is well our Aunts make mountains of mole hills she ought not be allowed such free access to Drs. Poor Aunt Nancy says she believes her Andersen fills brought it on her this ill health, she looks miserably, write to her; that will please her, I don't think she can live long, unless soon relieved I suggest her to send for Dr. Danby of Cin. Nonie's physician, hope she will. Love & kiss to you all ever lovingly

Yas.

Mary.

Barr Clays

Wednesday, Oct. 26th 64.

Dearest Laura,

I rec'd a letter last night from your Aunt Anne saying you had been to Dr. Bush about the water running in your ears whenever you swallow. What in the world is the matter with you? If you are not well I would rather you would come home. Write me next Saturday what Dr. Bush says is the cause of it. Something must be the matter with your throat. I shall be very anxious to hear from you, so I hope you will not let any thing prevent your writing. All are well. Love to your Aunts.

Yrs. devotedly

M. J. Cly.

Pd. 15 Three Cy
Oct 27

Miss Laura Clay,
care of Mrs. Laura Rogers,
Lexington,
Kentucky.

Tuesday. Oct. 18th 1864

Dearest Lenny

I have been much troubled since I came home about your loss of color & shortness of breath in singing &c. I had so short a time to stay with you that I had not time to consider or talk to you about any thing so I will write all I wish to say & you to do. Mary's singing master in St. Louis told her that no one ought to commence taking singing lessons before they are sixteen years of age; so I would prefer that you would wait another year to take singing lessons when I hope you will be able to influence your Papa, to allow you to go to N. York to school & devote all your time to music & French. I did not ask you whether or not you felt sick. Mary says when you were at home you complained of feeling weak. If you feel so now I particularly desire you to buy a tub large enough for you to sit in & hold water enough to come up around your hips. Have the water at first tepid & gradually get it colder & colder. Mary says she was greatly benefited by the bath. She keeps it up yet as you know & I never saw her look better. We are in great spirits about our prospects for a great fortune from our oil lands. Dr Jones was telling us of an interest in the Commercial relation to oil spring. The people in Cincinnati are wild on the subject. Two companies from Pennsylvania are investigating the oil lands in Medina & Clark. He sent an agent to look after ours & buy & lease any quantity. The agent will be here again in a few weeks & I'll write you what he says about it. We this day sent Rode Stone over to Clark to make investigations there

and we hope for great results. Sally & I are building castles in the air. Sally has determined already upon one drive & the setting of magnificent diamonds, trips to Phesan, country seats & city residences &c &c. The house progresses slowly. There are but three brick-layers at work yet. The stone masons have finished the stone work of the house & are now dressing the stone-work of the conservatory. They will build up the cellar division at side of the kitchen & then I think will likely leave off for the winter. I look for a letter from you every evening. Write me immediately upon receipt of this. Pay the singing mistress & I'll send you the money by first opportunity.

Love to your Aunt,

Yrs. devotedly M. A. Clay

White Hall Ky
Oct 20th

Miss Laura Clay,
Care of Mrs. Laura Rogers.
Lexington,
Kentucky.

Sunday. May. 28d. '64.

Dearest Laura,

I have had but a short letter from you since you & your Aunt Laura went to housekeeping. I sent your letter to your Papa & forgot to set down the time you left. Henrietta Craig's & went to your Aunt Laura's, so write me, that I may make a note of it. Do not neglect this, for it will cause me trouble, if you do. George is now hauling lumber three times a week from Lex. & will be I expect as long as you are in Lex. so you can send notes by him, leaving them at Dowden's commission store, which you can pass every day, going to & ~~fr~~ from school. I have had upwards of a thousand mules on the farm, eight hundred & fifty are gone now, fifty men & teams. It looked like Camp Nelson had been removed here. I hope to have another thousand very soon. I want to make all the money I can this year & for that pur

-pose have written to Brutus to
pack up & come home. I have been
greatly troubled by Henry going off &
each morning wake up, fearing more
annoyances of the same kind. I have
made all effort I can to secure the two
runaways & still hope to be successful,
on many accounts. The foundation of
our fence, will be nearly completed next
week. I am not so elated about it as
I have been. I hope when Brutus gets
here & I get rested some, I may enjoy the
prospect of a home, as I have done. Sally
is as eager for it, as ever. Your sister's always
cheer me. I send your Father's letter re
-ceived last night. I send it to you to
read & return by George. ~~Do not read~~
~~that about Sam Cly to your Aunt Jane.~~
Never show any letters I send you, but read
portions of them, if any one wishes to hear them,
or all, if there is nothing to withhold. Mary
is in Richmond with Mary Walker at Dr. Walker's
went up with her yesterday to remain a few
days. Sally is at home. I cannot spare both
at once. Annie is as big as Sally — in her
own estimation. Pauline Stone has been here for
the past two days & Annie enjoyed her visit quite
-ly. Good bye, too tired to write more. I am so
glad 'tis nearly time for you to come home. Love to
Lewis Yrs. devotedly M. J. Cly.

Miss Laura Clay.
Care of Mrs. Laura Rogers.
Lex.
Ky.

April 27th '64.

Dearest Laura,

I rec'd your letter & your Aunt Carrie's last night & hasten to answer it. I will not consent to your being baptized until you receive your Father's consent. Joining the Church is simply an acknowledgment of your belief in Christ before the world, what confirmation is, I ~~neither~~ know not ~~as I know~~. I do not suppose it is any thing necessary to salvation. & to honor your parents is a positive command. As to the name of Warfield I have no objection. Your Father objects to double names, but not seriously, I will take the responsibility of your assuming the name if you desire it. Annie is bawling around me & it so annoys me that I cannot write more. The stone-masons left here last Saturday after working one day & a half on the foundation & only got back to-day, losing three days this week. I hope Mr

Murty will be here to-morrow. I understand there is a car load of lumber arrived in Lex. for me. I am sorry for it as I have not time now to send for it. Tell Henrietta she must not replace those things you have lost, for you are so careless with all your clothes especially handkerchiefs. Any one that would not think of touching them save to look thro' a trunk of clothes, somewhere over two hrs. of dresses for weeks ought never to trouble any body else with looking up their clothes, I am sure. I know nothing of your petticoats. If you were here, perhaps I could tell you something about them. The petticoats you allude to my taking of yours, I took when we first came from Rapides. If I marked your petticoat, I most likely put the number made on them & the year they were made. It is a matter of no moment. If you are without petticoats, you must have enough made to make up your number to nine. How many have you now? I forget. I will take it as unkind in Henrietta to say any thing more about your clothes. I hope the trouble you have given her, will be a lesson to you hereafter. The yard is looking beautifully. I wish you were at home to enjoy it. We are eating asparagus & lettuce & pig, our peas are stuck & all the early sweet potatoes are up, even celery. I do not know whether there is much bloom on the strawberry vines. You & Brute will not be at home to enjoy them tho'. Sally will make you a quantity of preserved ones. She is very diligent about gardening. I reckon the foundation of our house will be finished when you get home. I have nineteen Govt horses now & hope & expect to get a large number of mules to graze next month. I understand that Govt is buying up every horse & mule of proper age in the whole country. I have just bought three mules & had to give $150 each for them. Govt is giving $165. Good bye my precious child. May God help my darling & give the prayer of your Mother

M. S. Clay.

May 1st '64.

Dearest Laura,

I have written a letter inclosed, to Henrietta, which you can send her at proper time. I will make an arrangement with you that leave about board. You have right to say nothing about it. I shall say to her what I say Henrietta. You will be happier away from home, with Lucy. I suppose as you being so, reconciles me more to your absence. I am glad you are pleased with your dress. Sally says you can have a buff chambray which she is having made up in Phila when it arrives, so with it you will have a sufficient number of dresses, together with the new white body. Sister Ann will have Miss Hare to make for you. You had better get a new pair of corsets, which fit you nicely, before having your dresses made. Sister Ann will give you the white lawn, or any or clothing you what you need. Be certain to get a new set to wear with your bonnet. Get one like Sally's. I do not like the fancy

nets at all & be careful in keeping your hair in nice order. It is more necessary to dress the hair well & becomingly than any other part of the person. Why did you not send your photographs home by Sophy? You'll get them spoiled traveling about. You might to have sent them home for me to "look up" as Annie says I do every thing. Oh! you do not know how beautifully every thing looks! I wish you were at home to enjoy it with us. I long for June when all my beaus except Guerne Carnelia will be at home. The more the merrier, & we, with our, will be a delightful house. After awhile, we'll all have plenty of room for our clothes. Will not that be charming? I got a dear letter from your Papa last night. He says, the Empress is going to have the photograph of the little grand-daughter taken, specially for me. If the piano of Ste's will answer for you to practice on, I would rather you would take that, until you return to Lep. in Sept. than to hire another for that time

May 1, 1864 p2

I do not know what our circumstances will be this year. It will take a great deal of money for our building. I will not get any mules to graze this month & I may not get any this summer — but I hope I will. I have not yet despaired. This will alter my programme very much of expenditure. I.e. it is better to expend as little as can be done with. Mary is going to your Aunt Betsy's to-day. Sally will stay at home. I will not let both of them go, at the same time. Sally has a large garden on hand. All hands nearly are continually at work on the building in some way. I keep three men & three vehicles, four ~~horses~~ four mules & eight oxen all the time engaged hauling & at night you can see but little accomplished. & three Irishmen are waiting continually on the stone-masons besides, so in all there are eight men engaged & sometimes nine. If the stone was here ready hewed the foundation would be finished

this week. There is a car load of lumber
waiting in Sag. Now to be hauled. I'll be
pushed the whole time. I have many letters
to write, so must close. With love to
Henrietta & to Mr. Henry & kiss for the
boy. Lambert

Yr. devoted brother

M. J. Cly.

What does Mr. Morris mean by?

White Hall Ky
May 2

Miss Laura Clay.
"Care of Dudley M. Craig. Esq."
Lexington,
Kentucky.

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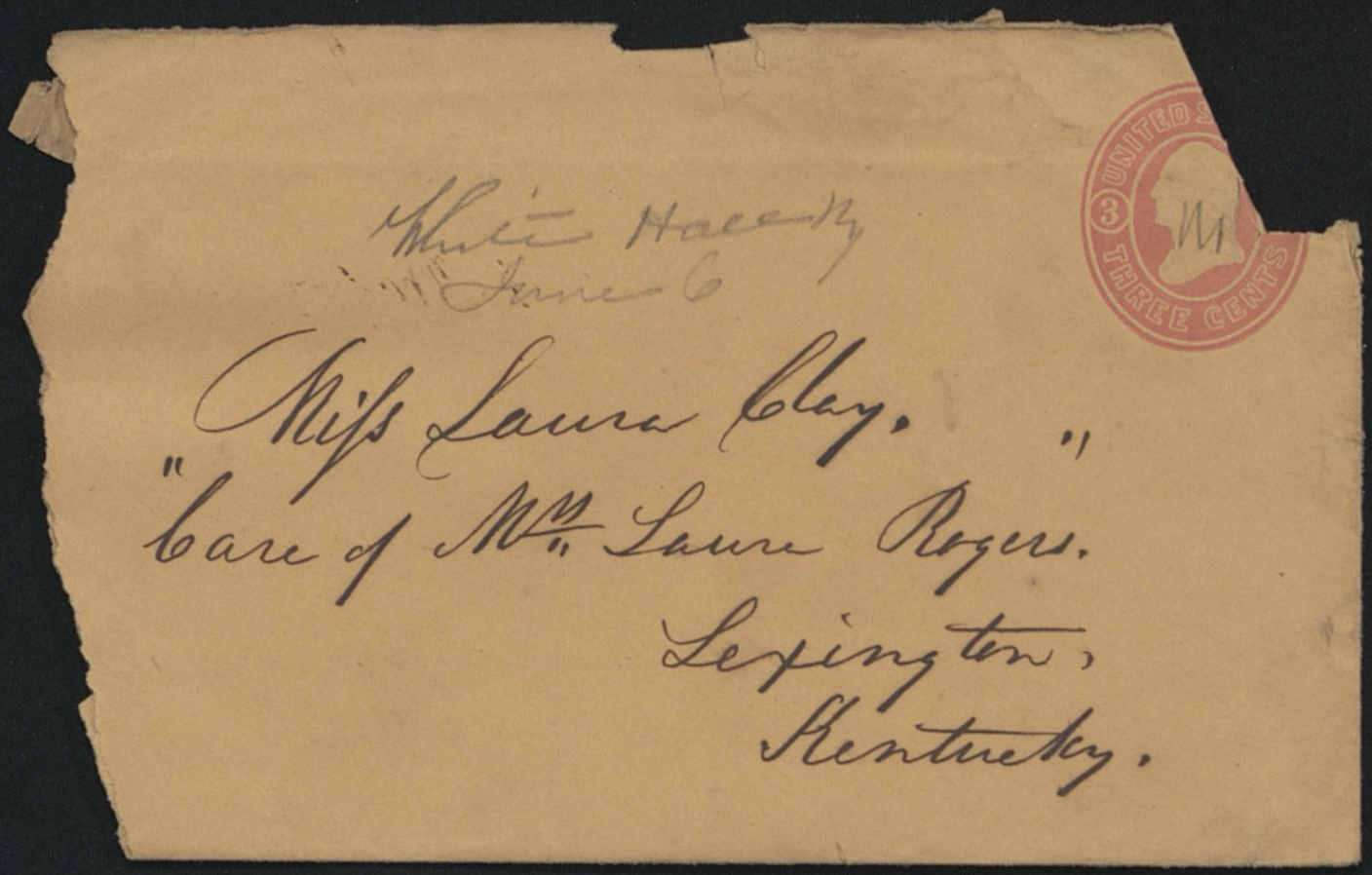

UNITED S
3
THREE CENTS
White Haven Pa
June 6
Miss Laura Clay.
care of Mrs. Laura Rogers.
Lexington,
Kentucky.

until more lumber arrives from Cincinnati. I wish I had thought of sending asparagus & strawberries over day before yesterday. Mary did not think of telling me & I have so much on my hands that I have no thought of others concerns. I have had in the last month as many as fifty men here at once, in some way or other to be attended to.

As to the poem of Warfield, if you would like to have it, state it. Perhaps it would be a gratification to your Aunt Laura. I am glad to hear you are both working so hard. It is good for digestion & keeps off the blues. Breakfast is ready so in haste adieu. God bless you in all your good efforts with happiness & success to crown the prayer of your devotedly

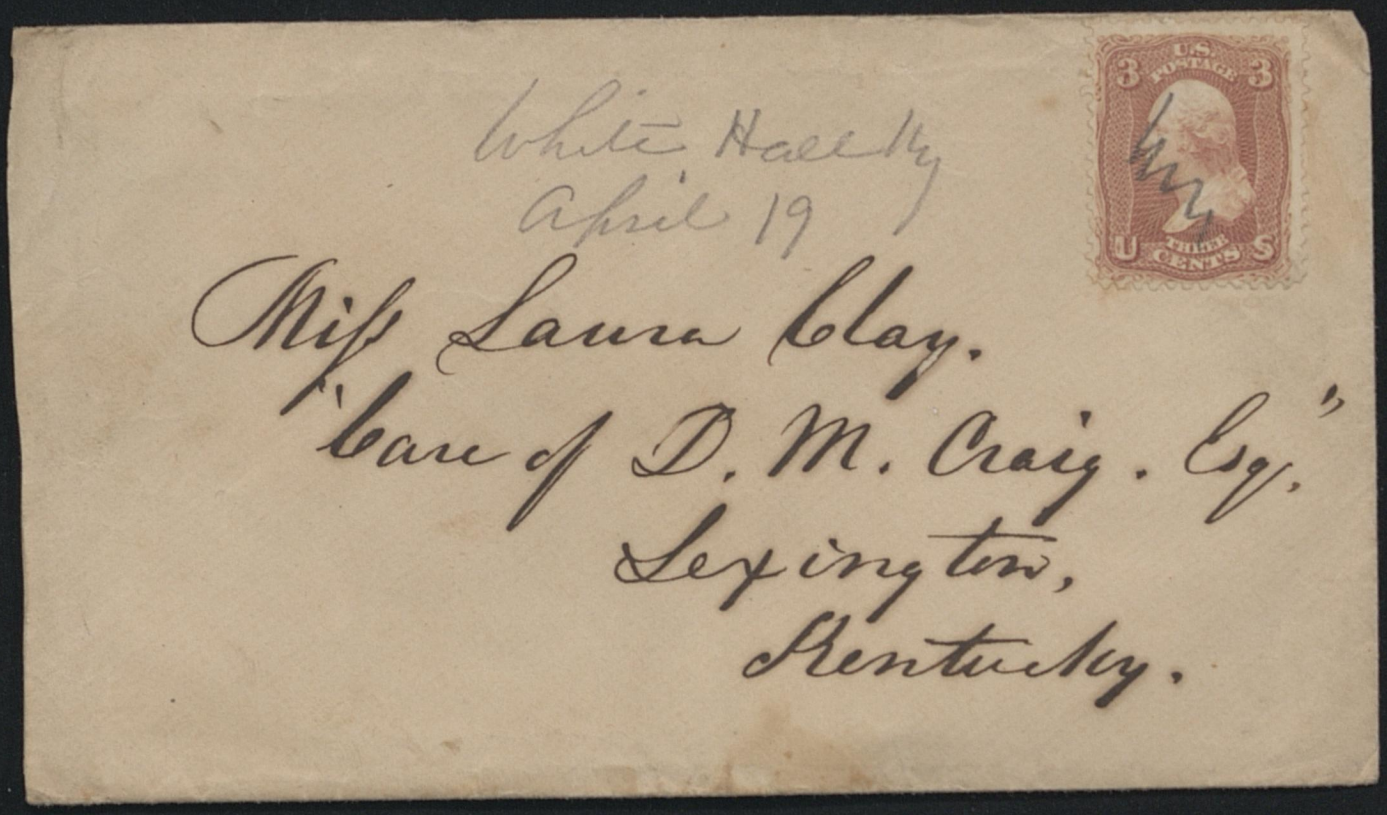
M. Gibbs

June 8th '64.

Dearest Laura,

I rec'd your note by George & hasten to answer. You had better be immersed the Sunday before or after your school is out. I will go over if I can possibly, the girls will go or one of them at any rate. I am using every horse I have except the Rockaway horse continually & could neither spare horse nor driver for the carriage.

Annie told me to tell you that she did have her ~~photographs~~ likeness taken after you left & now she is willing to have it taken every time she goes to sleep. I am delighted with it & Mary says the photographs are better than the ambrotype. I hope I may be as well satisfied with yours as I am with Sally's & Annie's. George will not go over again



White Hall Ky
April 19

Miss Laura Clay.
"Care of D. M. Craig. Esq."
Lexington,
Kentucky.

U.S. POSTAGE 3 3 THREE CENTS

April 17th. '64.

Dearest Laura,

I rec'd your letter last night saying you wished to be baptized very soon & would be confirmed on the 8th. of May &c &c. I thank God that he has opened your eyes to a knowledge of the truth, & given you desire to acknowledge Christ as your redeemer before all mankind & pray that He may give you strength to walk in His way all the days of your life. All the joys of Earth are found in the strictest conformity to His law & then death is but the gateway to eternal bliss, to those who have done His will in Life. There is no need of hurry in this matter. You must wait until you receive your Father's consent to this step. He has shown a great deal of feeling upon the occasion of each member of his family joining the Church & I suppose will most likely do the same now. You mention having written to him some weeks ago & I suppose

it was relative to this step. I send you your skirt which you will take to Mrs. Edrington & have her make the binding to fit you if it does not now fit. I'll get your Aunt Anne to buy some cotton for your petticoats for you should have nine & she will likewise get you three prs. more of stockings. She will get you a new white body likewise to wear with your silk dress. Have you gotten your new hat & how do you like it? Have you your black silk mantle with you? You must get a new net for the hair & only wear it on Sundays. Tell your Aunt Anne of all you want & she will get it for you. Give her the enclosed note. You did not say anything of the note I sent Mrs. Crey enclosed in yours. Do write whether she rec'd it as I enclosed her a check for the money I owe her for board. I have concluded not to send your dress to-day but expect to do so in a few days. All send love & good wishes.

Yrs. devotedly M. J. Clay.

Dec. 8th. 1865.

My dear Mother,

I have time to write only a short letter. It is our Thanksgiving holiday, and I am spending it with Mrs. Estell. I went yesterday morning, and spent the night, and am now at the school for an hour or two, to learn my lessons. Bettie Field will call for me presently, and we will both return to the Estells. I am extremely pleased with the whole family, particularly with Mattie. Mrs. Estell received me very kindly, and speaks very affectionately of you.

I have as yet received no letter from home this week, but hope you are all getting along well. I wrote to Brutus again last Saturday, but have not yet received his answer. I received your letter enclosing letters from Brutus and Aunt Anne.

It is necessary to put two stamps on when you enclose so many letters. ~~Least~~ time three cents were due.

After my holidays, I will write you a letter, telling you how I have enjoyed myself, and what I have been doing but will content myself with this one now. So good bye, dear Mother. Give love to all, and never forget to write regularly every week.

Your affectionate daughter,

Laura Clay.

Friday Dec 2d 65

My dear Mary

My precious Kate is here - came Wednesday night, and I have not had time to write to you. She and Ma are both in bed - Max had Colic and lies in bed to prevent a recurrence - expecting a relapse - Doctor Buck says nothing is the matter - Kate had a chill to day at noon - and fears she is to have remittent fever - She is chilly and feverish - I hope she is only over fatigued and distressed that Maj. R. is not with her - he has gone to his farm and to see after his business - Kate travelled alone from Cons[t] and seemed quite equal to it. She has been having some dresses made and been actively busy and is fatigued

I shall send this to the office but expect you here to night or to morrow in consequence of sending this - Give my love to all the girls and Green - Kate sends you all bushels of love - come and see if she has it -

As ever lovingly thine
R. T. Hunt

P.S. Caroline was here to-day looking well - but laid down most of the time -

May 27th 1866.

Dearest Jane,

I with Sally to accompany me, went to Sep. last Thursday, to attend the division of my Father's household effects & went directly to see Mr. Adams relative to your coming home under the protection of his son, with whom his sister & Sally Burnham were expected to come. I there found the son seated by the Father's side. Mr. Adams said his daughter's school would not close until the 27th of June & she could not leave the city for ten days after but – if you & Sally would wait on her the gentleman who would escort her home would take charge of both of you with pleasure. Of course this arrangement did not suit. I reached home last night & this morning sent a boy with a note communicating this fact to Mr. Burnham. I rec'd this kind reply from Mr. Burnham & so immediately write you to make ready to come home with Mr. Burnham. This will give

you the necessity of being sick in order to get home sooner. You will find us all amid painters I expect. You will be home this day two weeks at farthest I reckon. that is if Mr. Burnem goes directly to N. York. He writes that "it will give me real pleasure to bring Miss Jane, if she can leave at the same time, June 14th." So you must make all preparation to leave the 15th. Mr. Burnem will not bring Sally until her examination is over. Mrs Beecher has written them pressing invitation to attend Sally's examination & he will be present at it. The next morning I suppose they will start home. Pay all your bills up to that date & draw money to send Mr. Burnem for your expenses. You had better ~~give~~ ask him to take charge of all the money you draw. If I understand you right, your Father sent you a certificate, to draw any sum required. Your Aunt Anne says you must get a handsome pair of bracelets & she will add to the money she sent you as much as is requisite to get them. Use your money & she will hand it to you or me, when you get home. I will re-invest the full amount of your money for you. I am so glad to hear that Sper

(3) May 27, 1866

tunity of hiring you home. Brutus is anxious about your mode of coming. He proposed going for you himself. I am glad of being able to be spared the expense, indeed. I got some small sofas, sideboard, chairs & two bedsteads, tables of various kinds, &c &c from the Meadows, all of which are very acceptable. I will have to buy more carpeting. I suppose near five hundred dollars worth of furniture & carpeting before I can stop at all comfortably. I tell you, it will keep me moving, to keep up, all my life. Well, if we are all well & enjoy it, I will be satisfied — if I can make two ends meet. I do hope your Father will come home next year & never again desire to leave. I am so tired of attending to business. I feel my household cares will be very light — tho' they will be more burdensome I have no doubt, than they were formerly. Oh! my life is all toil! I am so much obliged to Mr. Burrows for his kind note. I hope you will be all of pleasure & no trouble to him, by being always punctual. Write me if the Misses Estill are coming with you.

I hope I will have the second story of the house ready, if no other. I will not be forced to leave home again on business, I think & hope for every time I go the mountain of letter increases for the hands do nothing & I have to work to get up again. I find it is as well to stay for they all become more careless to please the longer they stay. I have a very poor cook now & no hopes of a better one. If I had nothing to do I could make out to get a comfortable dinner from her, but as it is & will be, until your Father comes I look forward to great trouble. I am so anxious to see you! God grant you a safe return! Be careful to bid all your school-mates adieu & your teachers. I hope you have many well wishers among them. Be careful to thank all acquaintances for their attentions &c &c. I have much to say but am too tired to write more to you as I have several others on my desk to write. Good bye my darling

Yrs. devotedly

M. G. Clay.

White Hall Ky
May 29

Miss Laura Clay,
"Care of Mrs. Ogden Hoffman."
No. 17. West 38th. St. New York City,
New York.

Monday night, Nov. 12th '66.

Dear Laura,

I have just rec'd your note of to-day one from your Father & a letter from St Anne, all of which pray accept ett. You are going to make a long visit truly. I do not think I can spare you so long. I have seen nothing of you myself since you came from N. York. No, you cannot stay so long. However I'll write you again. Sally was in a whirl the little time she was at home. We rec'd an invitation to dine with the Misses Rollins at your Uncle Rodes' Friday which we accepted. We had a delightful day & a fine dinner

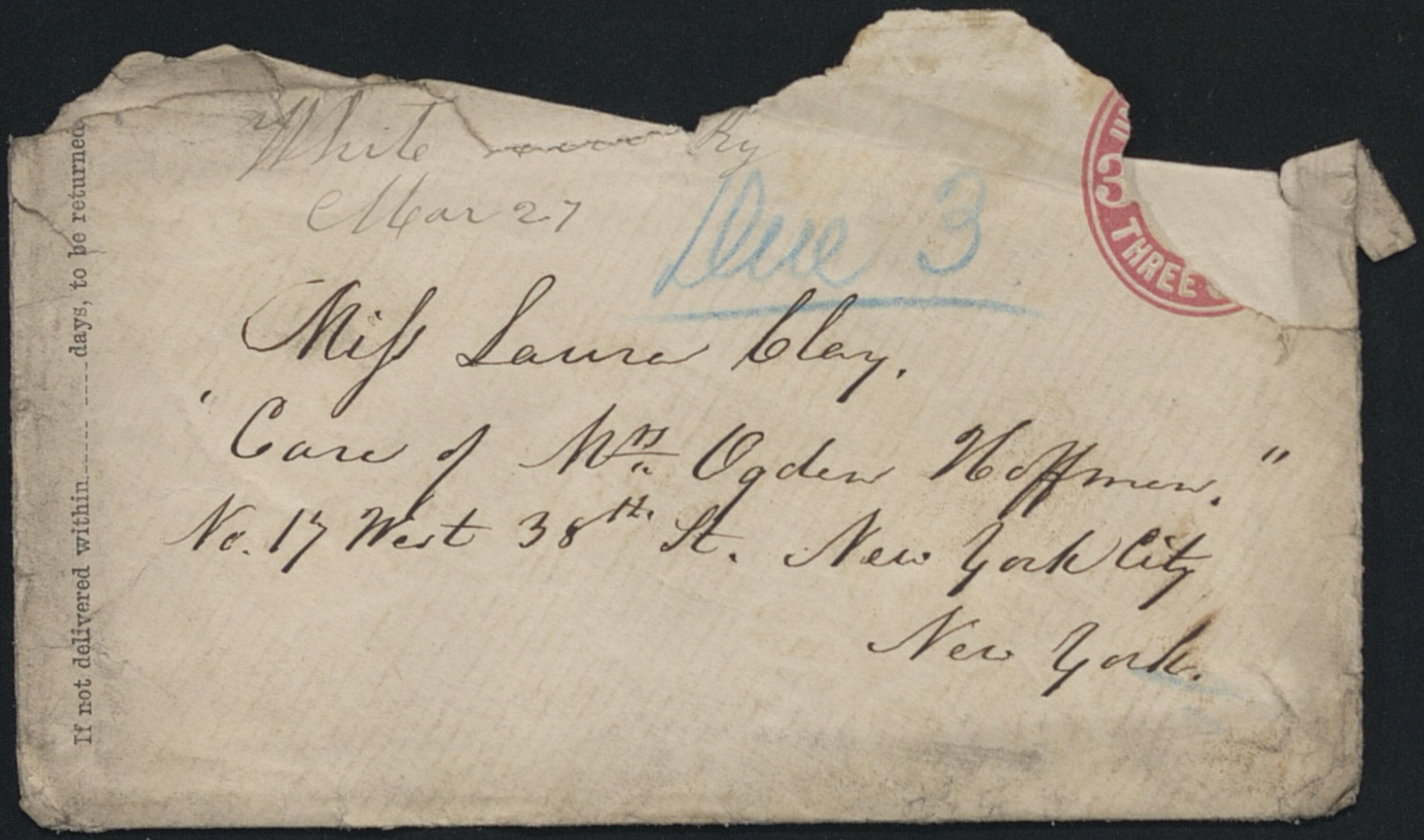
It was dark by the time we reached the toll gate coming home. We rested as much as possible going home I got apples & nuts ready for the club company & wind had supper & I went to bed. Nete Walker, Sally Stone, Pauline Beck & Mary Reen staid all night. The Misses Rollins & Miss Barnes & Sue Bennett were all the girls & there were nine gentlemen & they all passed a charming evening they said. The Misses Rollins are uncommonly handsome girls. They expressed much regret in not seeing you. Mr Tutt is with them & I think is to be married to Miss Laura Rollins. She is much

prettier than his first wife I think. I saw
a close letter of Mary's to you which you must
keep & bring home with you. Do not let any one
see them. You can read portions of them aloud
if you see proper. Dear child! she appears to be
very happy. Your Father has just paid backets to
her morning. Sister Anne did not mention the
oil well. How did you hear of it? Yes, if there
is any money in it, I must put my finger in
the pie. I ~~like this best~~ enjoying my rest & the
quiet so much, so much. Do not feel the least
desire to put my foot out of doors, any where.
Ginsey went to Ap. last Friday. I asked her
when she would be back? She said not until
Narcissa could come with her. I will not em-
-ploy Ginsey again as cook, but will wait to see if she
brings Narcissa here. If I can get her, I will em-
ploy her & have Ginsey to take charge of dairy &
raise poultry, at small wages — if not — not.
Lucinda is cooking whilst Ginsey is away. What ways
does Laura give this fine weather? I have
been packing butter to-day & covering chairs. I'll
try & get the old sofa covered & all the chairs.

I wish you would learn to crochet of Sister Anne & make me some pretty tidys for my large chairs & rocking chairs! I will look out for the falling stars to-morrow night, if I can keep my eyes open so long. The Misses Rollins were here to-day, dressed elegantly. Sally Burnem looked quite insignificant by their side. Sally Clay & Kate Walker went to Clark Saturday afternoon. 'Tis a pity you did not go. I understand Mrs. Groom is the most enthusiastic admirer of yours. It appears, you bewitched the people, the night of Mary's marriage! Not one gentleman has been to see the Misses Rollins! They are very dignified, quiet girls, such as would not attract, Tom, Dick & Harry. They'll have to marry widowers or bachelors! David Irwin was not here Friday night. I do not know why, neither was Howard Neal. Have you gotten all your dresses yet & how do you like them. I wish you would go to Mrs. Shipman's & get my clock to come from there the morning after Mary's wedding. Do bring it home! I did not send your purse, because the carriage or the truck would buy your calico dress almost & I thought you had best save all the dimes you can. Love to all

Yrs. devotedly

M. J. Clay.



If not delivered within _____ days, to be returned.

White Sulphur Springs Ky
Mar 27

Due 3

THREE

Miss Laura Clay.
"Care of Mrs. Ogden Hoffman."
No. 17 West 38th St. New York City
New York.

Jany 28th. '66.

Dearest Jennie,

I have just found the Ball ticket that I wrote you I would enclose in my letter, so I determined I would write you a few line & enclose it. I rec'd a letter from you two nights ago. You ask about taking dancing lessons. If you feel that you need instruction in the art, why, take lessons — but — I do not expect you would learn any more than Sally or Mary could impart to you in a very short time after your return & every thing I can pave I desire to do. I have just written Brutus & yourself a long letter & my hand & head both need rest & as I only sent off a letter yesterday I will close now enclosing a letter from your Mother which you will please return as Mary & Sally have not read it. Never mind returning it — destroy it, with all of mine & write me that you have done so. Mary is still in Cincinnati, Sally in Lex. I am very lonely without them.

Good by

Yrs. devotedly M. J. Clay.

Grand Opening Ball,

AT PHŒNIX HOTEL,

You are invited to attend the Evening Ball, at the Phœnix Hotel, on the Evening of Tuesday, January 30th, 1866, at 9 O'clock.

Committee of Invitation.

E. BRENNAN,	EDWARD TURNER,
H. B. HILL, Jr.	JNO. H. MOORE,
JNO. T. BRENT,	J. C. COWAN,
JNO. MASON BROWN,	S. H. ROBINSON,
DR. D. W. McCARTHY,	FIELDER C. BARNES,
JNO. W. COMBS,	W. C. WOODSON,

D. V. WOOLLEY.

Committee of Reception.

T. J. BUSH,	T. D. BALLARD,
W. R. FLEMING,	P. B. HUNT,
W. D. GILMORE,	H. B. BARCLAY,
JNO. S. CLARK,	B. F. PETTIT,
W. T. SCOTT,	W. CASSIUS GOODLOE.

Floor Committee.

JAS. F. ROBINSON, Sr.	H. D. McHENRY, Jr.
M. C. JOHNSON,	THOMAS MITCHELL,
R. A. BUCKNER,	W. S. DOWNEY,
J. R. BRUNER,	CHARLES NELSON,
S. S. GOODLOE,	GEORGE W. MONROE.

LEXINGTON, KY., JANUARY 18, 1866.

my staying so little with her — but indeed it is all I can do to go as often as I do. My heart's desire is to stay with her all the time — but circum-stances prevent it — beyond my con-trol. How very kind Mrs Estell & family have been to you. I will write to Mrs Estell in a few days. Which of the family do you like best? What kind of young men is Rodes Es-tell & what do you think of Mr Gar-rison? Do you like Mrs Garrison or Josephine Estill best? I am glad you accepted the invitation of Florence Estill & prize to spend the evening with her. Mixing with dif-ferent society will tend to call all your powers into play, for I hope you endeavor to make yourself agreeable to all persons with whom you are thrown. It is a Christian duty of first magnitude I think. I believe I wrote you that William had run off whilst in Sept. & we all regarded it as a happy deliverance supposing he was bound to me. I went to See Mr Johnson about & found that I as a mar-

Jany 14th '66.

Dearest Jennie,

I cannot get Sally & Bonnie to write to you tho' neither of them are engaged at any thing. It appears to me that my labors increase every day but I know it is only that I feel them more for I have much less to do & of a great deal more agreeable character. The new order of things is growing easier to endure, we are beg-inning to order things more in corresp-dence with circumstances &c. I have now four women in my employ & am get-ting on very smoothly, having no com-pany. I now feel unable to attend to household & farm & never again ex-pect to be able to endure what I have done. I hope your Father will be con-tent to come home & attend to his pecu-liar duties & allow me to attend to mine only, for which I would be truly

thankful. I was saying to Sally to-day that when Mary returns they must manage the household between them, for I could not do it. I can attend to the farm & must do that if every thing else is left undone. One year more of effort will I hope enable me to spend the remnant of my days more at ease than I have had for many years. Mr. Johnson quite excited me about my oil lands again, so I expect to send Green to Cumberland river to look after my interest there next week. If he does not go I will send Mr. Bayne who is now on his way to Cincinnati with a lot of ~~hogs~~ sheep. I feel great anxiety to know how my trade in sheep will turn out but I will not know the finale of it before March. Poor Green's debts are troubling him & me! I think if I was strong I could see his way out — but, as it is I am pretty disturbed about it & full of fears.

I hope Shendon will employ him as agent in shipping oil from N. York — if he does not — I do not see what he is to do — except toil for years with but little heart. Poor child, how much I suffer for him. If he was out of debt he could do well. I have done all I could do for him in justice to my other children & to myself. Carrie & Green are to-day at Dr. Walker's. I thought they would be at home to-day. I know Green ought to be here. I send you Mary's letter. I was at your Grandma's last Tuesday till Thursday. Sally went to a ball in Hartsfort Wednesday night & returned Thursday. I was in hopes that she would enjoy it exceedingly. She says she enjoyed it very much, but there are so few beaux &c. & I know it was not what she hoped it would be. Your Grandma is walking into the dining-room but is still low spirited & is discontented with

& it is a source of trouble to me that I cannot be all the time with her — but — I have a large family to support & heavy bills to pay for our house which I must attend to, for no one else is there to do it so I am constrained to stay at home & work early & late. Another year will see me thro' with it I hope & we all can then decide upon all outlays & then I will be more comfortable & have leisure which I think will be essential for me. I think your Father is getting desirous of change of scene & will be likely to return home next fall. He will not endure another winter in Russia. He finds it very irksome this winter. The court is in mourning & he has but few amusements,

Good by my darling
yrs. devotedly
M. Selby.

Jany 20th '66.

My poor, dear homesick child, my heart aches for you! Selby is down in the parlor with Kate Walker, Sally Stone, Sue Bennett & a Miss Adams of Leg & four beaux, enjoying herself, I hope & I am sitting here waiting to send her some cream cake — fruit & nuts in due time & feel like writing to you & sending you an agreeable letter, to-night said, poor dear Kate Reid, who has been on a visit to her Mother in Leg, lately & whom I had the pleasure of seeing there, whilst she was in Ny. I read your letter of the 12th ult. this evening, also. You shall be kept in news from home hereafter more regularly, for I know how terrible home-sickness is & nothing alleviates it, like frequent news from home. I am very comfortable in the way of servants now & would enjoy it, to the fullest extent, if I had not so much fear of its not lasting. I was never more

more comfortable & that is saying a
great deal. I hire Joseph, to drive the
carriage &c. but do not expect to be able
to keep him longer than April, I think
Scott will then put him to ploughing.
I sent off a lot of 211 Sheep to Cincinnati
last Saturday by Burgin. He returned to
-day bringing me $500 & I had expected
to receive $900. If I do no better than
this with the rest of my Sheep I will
make no money on my Sheep trade.
I am cleaning up around the house some
& if I can continue at it for two weeks
I will be much more comfortable. I hung
the portraits, & candelabras in the dining
-room & library to-day & am very much
pleased with the arrangement of them.
I have Wallibord doing some jobs which the
other carpenters left undone which is mak
-ing me more comfortable. I must send
for the workmen as early in the Spring as
they can work so as to have the house as
nearly completed as possible by the time you

and Brutus return home in June.
I hope you will have opportunities of going
to Central Park many times before you
leave N. York. It is such a beautiful place
I suppose you would like to be familiar
with it. I will be very glad to have Miss
Chandler & Mattie I still wish you kept summer,
indeed. You can make it very pleasant to both
of them, if you kept yourselves. What is Miss
Chandler's age? It would be most pleasant to
have them here together. Mary is still in
Cincinnati. I suppose will be home next week
sometime. Your letter to her was rec'd also to
-night. Sally Stone is expecting her brother
Rodes to come from Missouri to take all
[illegible]

debt. That oppresses him, at times & has troubled me very much. I am resting myself more now than I have done for four years & am feeling better for it. Your very diminutive letter took Mary & my by surprise last night. I was completely mystified by it for a moment. The last letter came without your signature & addressed to Beatie — we supposed this scrap of paper came. Well, we exclaimed, she is an original!

My dear child, how are you improving in your pencil & music? Will you ever be able to speak French? Suppose your Pa is made minister to France, would you like to visit Europe again? I will like Mr. Hoffman to send me receipt for all bills if she has cancelled the checks I sent her which I presume she has, else your pride would have induced you to have written me about the bills. Good by, a longer letter, if you please, next time. Did you not write me at one time that you were taking writing lessons? Good by, my sweet child, yr. devoted M. G. Clay.

March. 24th. '86.

Dearest Lewie,

This will be the fifth letter written to-night after a day of unremitting attention given to several hands removing the litter of our building from around the house, upon which occupation I have devoted many days & will need devote many more before the job is completed. I will get stone & brick enough to me adorning a great portion of the carriage way thro' the yard. ~~Did~~ Have I written you that I have again moved the yard gate & am now for the first time satisfied with its position. The place was suggested by Mr. Murray & at first I thought it would not do at all — now I am delighted with it. The yard appears to fine advantage which it never did before & the house produces a much finer effect. From the side towards Grace's

the house appears to greater advantage than any other position & from the timber house I think it is beautiful. I do enjoy my house so much, even in its unfinished state, it is a pleasure to me. Now, if our oil well turns out to be of account how grateful I will be, I can finish my house, pay my debts & have an independence I hope if nothing more. You know Sally owns half my share. If it is valuable how she will strut. She does that now when she is dressed, when she feels herself rich how she will enjoy it. I rec'd a letter from Mr. Fox to-night saying the well is producing ten barrels of superior oil a day & slowly increasing in quantity & desires to purchase our share or have the refusal of it if I wish to sell. Sally is in fear. I do not know that she will say to it. We have another fine adjoining this well, which I hope will be valuable. Would it not all enjoy having a plenty of money. One thing I will indulge myself in, giving you all opportunities of perfecting yourself in music vocal & instrumental. Mary's singing & playing is such an enjoyment to me. I will have to be making some plan of procuring you a piano for I suppose Mary will take hers with her so soon as she is settled anywhere. Col. H. will be here the last of next week if he is not thwarted by unforeseen accident. I will write you if any engagements are made all about them for I know you will be anxious to learn them. I suppose by that time you will receive a letter from your Pa concerning the engagement. I rec'd a draft on Dawes, Sherman & Co. for your Uncle Brutus, which with another small amount will liquidate your Pa's indebtedness to him, for which I am most thankful. Now, he has a heavy debt to pay the contingent fund but, that has never troubled me & I hope it never will. Green & Annie are at home. Green would be very happy if he was out of

May 5th. 1866.

Dearest Jane,

Enclosed you'll find a letter to Mattie Estill. I did not know how to direct it, so thought best to enclose it to you, as I am exp-ecting to hear her receive it. We have found thro' Leane White that your birth-day is 9th. of Feb'y 1849. She looked in Dr. White's books & there saw it noted. Aren't you delighted to know it? I am. I hope Mattie Estill will come home with you. I have no doubt we will enjoy her society very much & she has so many relatives in the county that she may enjoy the summer very much. She must come. I am getting quite impatient to see you & Brutus, as the time draws near for your return. God grant each of you a safe journey! Mary & Sally went to Richmond this after

-now, or their by to Mr. Smith's next Monday. We were all invited to Ezekiel Clay's wedding which is to take place next Tuesday night, 8th of May. He is to be married to Mary Woodford a ~~[illegible]~~, daughter of a near neighbor to your Uncle Brutus. All the kin are going from this county I believe. Mary Weem went to Lex. with Mary & Sally last week & Mr. Redes came for her yesterday to take her home to make preparation for the wedding. I reckon your Aunt Anne will give them a party. The invitations were done up in very handsome style indeed. I believe I wrote you that I had two Irish-men making the terrace. They have nearly completed it & it is very pretty. I have the two vases on each side of the steps & a statue on ~~the~~ three corners of the terrace & one on the pedestal in the circular bed opposite the Conservatory. I have never seen any of them shew to such advantage as they do now. The approach to the house is the greatest

home when school was out. I will see Mrs. Burnem son & Senor when & her Sally will return & make my arrange-ments for your return. Remember if there is any alarm about cholera, you must come home if necessary. Mrs. Hoffman will I suppose make all arrangements in case of need. I will write to Mrs. E still inviting Martha to make you a visit, to ~~return~~ accompany you home. They have all been so friend to you that I will be indeed pleased to return their civilities in any way that I can equally to them. Green came over & dined with me to-day Cornie went up to her Father's. They both appear to be very content & happy, much more so since they got to their own house. Your Father has now paid his debt to your uncle Brutus which has relieved me of a burden, if Green succeeds in paying his I will be so much grateful to God. He is making great effort & surely will succeed. We cannot afford to do any more for Green than we

April 27th. '66.

Dearest Laura,

To-night I rec'd your letter of April 14th it having been mispaced to Whitehall N.Y. which mistake I used to observe made frequently in your Father's correspondence from the and Kentucky not written in full Ky. being taken for N.Y. so here-after be careful to write Kentucky. Yesterday's mail brought Mrs. Hoffman's bills in which I think there are two mistakes, I ~~think~~. 1st. dancing lessons she has charged sixteen dollars; I rec'd the bill ten dollars; 2d Third term for singing lessons the men send in a bill of one hundred dollars & for his 1st term & a portion of the 2d term, the music his charges are eighty-one dollars, twenty-five cent. I send you all the bills, so you can see if they are correct & you must return them as I keep all such account. I send Mrs. Hoffman by this mail a check for the amount she calls for if there is a mistake, doubtless she will

rectify it. ~~Before now I suppose you have rec'd my letter enclosing your Father's in which he says he will.~~

I have never rec'd the ring your Father sent to Brutus. He has written me several times about the ring, as we now have a clue to it perhaps it may come to hand. Mary & Sally are now in Sep. They went over last Thursday. I do not know how long they will remain. Annie & I are here alone & I am thankful to say I do not feel lonely altho' we are in the house all alone except Nellie. Ellen refused to stay in the house the first night I was alone & I have said nothing to her about it since. I am very much entertained just now in having the terrace made by two good Irish-men & Jerry is dressing up the walks & flower beds. I am now delighted with my yard for the first time. The change in the entrance is the greatest improvement. It is beautiful! I will have these Irishmen to lay stone on the carriage drive as soon as they finish the terrace & clear out the cellars & will go on to complete the house as fast as I can get the workmen to do it, except the cistern & bath room & closets connected with it. We can be comfortable without that being done so will wait a more convenient season. It is all beautiful & delightful; if I can afford to keep it in order, I will be much gratified. You do not say whether you need any money. Always let me know in time, for I do not now always have money in bank & I would be distressed to have you there without money. I do not think you spend much money on your dress, my child. I expect you dress very badly. Your uncle Frank did not pay you any compliments on his return. I heard of his saying that "your hair was very rough," so he saw nothing to approve I suppose but something to condemn. I judge he is very kind in his manner & attentions certainly. He is a good man I think & much to be admired. Anna Gray was here two weeks ago & she told me that she did not expect that Patty Field would come directly

 April 27, 1866

have done & if our oil leases do not prove a success we will have done more for him than we can do for any other one of our children. I hope your Father can give Mary a portion of land in the Fall. He has speculated in a gun patent which I trust may be a success. I have heard nothing more of our oil well. If I had the strength I had five years ago I could make a handsome income on the farm — but, I am in the decline of life & can never expect to do what I have done, so I will endeavor to be content with what I can do. Your expenses will not be so heavy hereafter & Brutus' will not continue many years longer & your Father, if continued in Congress, will be able to contribute something to the support of the family, I hope. I am becoming so anxious for his return — but — he does not speak of it — on the contrary says it is best for himself & family that he remain where he is. He has a debt of $13.000 yet to pay his Father's estate, & I know he desires to liquidate that as soon as possible. How we will miss Mary this winter! It will go very hard with me — but —

such is life. Change, change, change is marked on every thing. To-day the girls rec'd invitations to Ezekiel Clay's marriage to Miss Woodford of Bourbon county. I understand that Green Clay will be here again this summer. I am sorry for it. I hope he will not. Mary Rene went to Sep. with Mary & Sally. She is not as pretty as she was last summer. I believe she will make her home at Mrs Rodes. You & Sally will find Cleveland a pleasant place to visit I hope.

I do not think you do Brutus justice, Lucie. I never saw such great improvement in any one's letters in my life, in composition, spelling, & hand-writing. I expect his manners are likewise improved. I love him very much complimented. Oh! how I thank God for my children! God bless them! I rec'd a letter from Brutus to-night & I think one from you to Mary come to-night also. Oh! how I long to have you & Brutus at home. In nine or ten weeks you will be here, I trust.

Good bye, my child

Yrs devotedly M. T. Clay

May 18th 1866.

Dearest Jane

Your letter of May 12th containing Mr. Hoffman's receipts bill was rec'd last evening. Last Monday I went up to see Mr. Burnham relative to your returning with Sally. She had asked Mr. Adams to request his son to bring Sally home with his sister who is in N. York at Mr. Mecauley's school. I expect Sally & I will go to Sep. to-morrow for the purpose of receiving my portion of Papa's household & kitchen furniture & I will call to see Mr. Adams & make the same request. Mr. Burnham ~~said~~ ~~he~~ came in while I sat with Mr. Burnham & said if there was any difficulty about Sally having company home he would go for her himself so you I trust will be well provided with company home. The time will soon roll round now. I think your school is not later than any other but you will have to learn whenever Miss Adams or Miss Burnham require it so again I beg you will make all arrangements for it such as paying bills, having all your clothes properly marked &c. &c. &c.

I hope you will take an affectionate
leave of all your school & class-mates & teachers &
have won the friendship of all. Oh! I have so many
questions to ask you. Did you send to your Father
the last Quarterly report which I sent you? I
hope you did, if not, send it, as I meant to have
done it only, you desired not to send it yet. I fear
we will have unknown heat all summer & then the
house will not be finished. It is a grand house &
so delightful. It really is, quite palatial. I hope I
may be able to keep it in repair & keep up the
grounds & fruit & garden. They are all just now in
good order, not so nice tho' as I used to have it. I
think we will be more comfortable in the way of ser-
vants next year than we are now tho' I have nothing
to complain of in that regard, now have had, since New-
Year, Bernie & Green prove here Monday & both in
good spirits. Green has speculated largely in Mules with
Talt. Emley & I believe it will be a successful opera-
tion, if so, I will be truly grateful. He feels debt
as much as I do & suffers from it. He does not like
to work for money, he loves to spend it, is improving
his place, Your Father writes me that he hopes to come
home next year. He has still debts to pay I
do not know the amount & he thinks by remaining
another year that he can pay them & have something
left to live on. I have no doubt, but that he will engage in
politics whenever he comes home & most likely will be
successful politician hereafter, as slavery is at an end
& it was the opposition to it, which kept him down.
Col. R. will make Mary a visit next month. I think
they will be married in Septr as it will be more conveni-
ent to me, then later. Mary has another beau in
Louisiana that will be dreadfully disappointed. I am
sorry for him. You do not say any thing of Miss
Chandler visiting you. Do you suppose either of the
Misses Estill will return with you? I invited all
of them. They have been so kind to you! I will never
forget it. I will write you again as soon as I re-
turn from Sep. & tell you all I have gotten &
done. (Saturday morning)
I go to Sep. this morning as, I read
a letter from your Aunt Carrie saying
William had come. So good bye.

Yrs. devotedly

M. G. Clay.

Mrs Lucy Gardner
Yrs. truly
M. J. Coy.

April 13th 86.

Dearest Laurie,

Sally & I went over to see your poor Grandma last Sunday. I expected to return Monday or Tuesday at farthest but found her so sick that I could not leave her until Mary wrote me that Annie had measles. We came home yesterday as soon as I paid the letter at noon & have found two letters from your Father. One I enclose to you & one I will send to Brutus as each one of you is particularly interested in the letters. Brutus will send you the one he has & you send him the one you have. I am much engaged having the yard cleaned up & get on slowly & at much expense. I am so weary, or lazy or something, that I do not feel inclined to go out of the yard at all & I feel all the time that I will rest myself after each job is completed but each one is so long being completed that other things are pushing to be done continually. Fredy & two other stone masons are here at work & I believe all the stone work

will be completed next week. Then I will send for the plasterers & then another slow season to lay the floor of the vestibule & portico, after which I do not calculate upon having any other outlay. I may be able to get the pantry papered & painted this spring but will attempt nothing more. Your Father will send some carpeting for halls & stairs, all other furniture we can do without & will & furnish as we can afford it. Your Aunt Jane is getting over all her broken bones &c. as well as can be. She is cheerful & looks well. Your Uncle Frank designed going to see you whilst he was in N. York last week. I hope you had the pleasure of seeing him. You must have your photograph taken this Spring & send me, I wanted it last winter, do not fail. Buy the clothing you need my child, certainly. I can send you money after next week. So write, as soon as you want it. I will try & write you a longer letter next week. I am so much occupied all the time & cannot get the girls to write to you as often as I desire them. Green is busy working & Carrie too. It was a good move their going to their

April 13, 1866
p. 2

Your Father you perceive says you must write to him hereafter for all the money you need in N. York. I do not think you will be able to get money from him in time. However if you can, ~~write to him~~ do without it, until you hear from him, write to him at once & ask him for a plenty to pay for your clothing, all your school bills & your travelling expenses home. For you cannot write & receive a check from him, more than <u>once</u>, before it will be time for you to come home & if you do not hear from him before you leave N. York, why, ask Mrs. Hoffman to forward your letters, giving her your address in full. I fear you will not get it in time but I will prepare myself to furnish you, so you need not be in trouble about it. You had best write to your Father to understand what bills he means to pay, for nearly all your bills are paid in advance you know. It is well, that I detain

mind that you should go ahead with your music & you with your dancing &c. for I am glad to hear you profited by all tuition you could have whilst in N. York. If you could continue your music lessons after you get home I would be glad. Marie Hunt sings elegantly indeed & plays also, as well, I would like you to excel. It is such an exquisite accomplishment. Marie promises us a visit. I will enjoy her music exceedingly.
Now here go Sally came running to say that a carriage was coming. It turned out to be your Aunt Ann Clay & Mrs. Burton. They are very agreeable & of course I enjoyed it very much. The boy is ready for the mail so I must stop writing. Good bye again. Annie says you must come on home. Good bye

Yrs. devotedly
M. J. Clay

Gently
I'll write
again in a few days.
Yrs. devotedly
M.G.C.

March. 2[illegible] 1866.

Dearest Laura,

In answer to your request I give my permission to you to visit Miss Scott & Miss Dudley & to go out with them on Saturdays, also to & with Mrs. Bodley & the family of Mr. Estill. I rec'd the letter addressed to Brutus from you I supposed, as there was no name signed to it, but we guessed at your hand-writing. Do give my love to Mr. Estill & the young ladies & my respects to Mr. Garrison & Mr. Garrison also. I shall ever hold in grateful remembrance their uncommon kindness to you. The girls are both in Lex. & Annie with them. Carrie came out & stayed one night with me & last night Nate Walker came out & is here & will remain all day as it is raining. I am very busy having the yard cleaned & laying out the carriage drive. I feel that I am neglecting every

~~than~~ business to this pleasure. I feel that I am getting very lazy about business & it is becoming very irksome to me. I am yet without workmen but am anxious to have the stonemason come & finish his work & would like the plasterer to come as soon as practicable to finish his job. Sally wrote to your Pa to send us carpeting for all the house & he answers that he will so perhaps we may get the house carpeted. If he can do it without going in debt I will be very glad, for it would be very uncomfortable looking to have naked floors for years. I shall add furniture very slowly. I feel very comfortable now, I suppose it is the result of having been so very uncomfortable for so long. I have just sent your Pa a letter so have nothing to add. I believe I told you in my last letter, that our oil well is yielding ten barrels a day of superior oil & slowly increasing & Mr. Hop wishes to buy out our interest & wishes me to name my price. I pray that it will yield us wealth.

13.50 [probably between May 27 - Nov. 26, 1866]

Dearest Jane,

I rec'd your Aunt Ceo's letter last night for which I am delighted. It was such a good long one & containing much interesting matter to me. If you still want your clothes pins &c. Sally can get them up perhaps & send them. I could not now find anything. Get your dresses & then come home. I herein enclose you a check, with which I wish you to pay all your indebtedness & Mary's bill at Mrs Mott's & bring the remainder of the money home. I feel so sad that I want the comfort of having my children with me. You will not go to Cleveland this winter nor any where else. I cannot afford anything & must economize in every practicable manner. I can perceive no aid from your Father as he is making effort to get out of debt before he returns & it is all proper that he should be benefited to all interested. I do not think Green is well & his debts are greatly oppressing & worrying him. I cannot aid him & am miserable about it, & want you to comfort & support me in my trials. I do not feel that I have seen you at all since your return from N. York. It

is seldom that I can command my time & now I am so much exhausted by previous effort that I am not always able to sit with any one. I hope you & Sally will resolve to engage yourselves profitably at home for some time to come. I know the clothing of both are suffering for attention. If I were you I would never expend money on fancy bonnets. All your means will be much more judiciously expended on your dresses. One who lives in the country has very little use for a dress bonnet. Just so it is sufficiently genteel to appear in in church is all that is necessary in my opinion. When you visit, it is generally on always social visiting sometimes & your bonnet is thrown down on some bed or dusty table & so on. I enclose two of Mary's letters. You can bring them home with you. Read my letter to Sister Anne if you choose & then direct it to her to Phila. I do not know the address of the Misses Biddle. I enclose a letter from Mattie Lytle I presume. Son to Cousin: Brutus did not describe the stove to me tell Cousin. Ask your Uncle for the address of some butchers in Leg. I wish to sell them my sheep.

Yours lovingly
M. J. Clay.

Dear Laura, Please look for my memorandum of expences. Also two pr. of shoes I left at Aunt Sarah's. Bring over my shoes from the Church & my hat. Mary Aunt Rebecca

Be certain to bring shoes & every thing else Sally left behind.

Nov. 26th 1866.

Dear Husband,

Sally & I are going to make a visit to Mr. Smith & when I return I will write you, that you may come & find us at home. Make your visit out to Leg. as I do not suppose you will go out again for some time. Do not be forget to go to Mr. Shipman's for my clock as I am in need of it. You can pack it around you in lieu of your furs as very likely you will need something more than the little sacque you have any. Sally is at Mrs Bennett's to-night. When she starts there is no such thing as her stopping. I am very sad & gloomy & need recreation & must make an effort to get it. I hope when you do come home it will be with determination to make & feel yourself at home not all the time on the wing, but settle yourself to accomplish something. Love to Sister's

Yrs. devotedly

Is Mr. Johnson in Leg? M. J. Clay

I suppose, you said an invitation to the Ball, which I meant to have sent you — but I do not see any thing of it, which I regret, as you could see the mangers &c. Your dear Grandmama is better, but still greatly depressed. Old Reid got your Aunt Laura to write me that William was ill & not likely to recover & desired to see Nelly & wished me if possible to send her over. Sally was just ready to go, so she took Nelly over. When Sally reached there she found that he had a fever, so I will not allow Nelly to come back. We are all getting rather tired of our bargain with Nelly as well as William, so we see nothing to regret in her departure yet. Annie does not miss her as much as I have she would do, I hope she will continue to do without her as comfortably. I have not got used to doing without my old servants at all, yet. I wonder if I ever will. Dear me! I begin to long for your Father's return. I am so sorry of attending to so much business. Household & business matters continue as too much for me. The girls do a great deal but they do not fill my place. Good bye, my child. I hope in a few days I will be able to write a more cheerful letter. Yrs. affectionately

M. J. Clay.

Cincinnati Jan 18th 1861

Dear Ma,

I received your letter this morn have just returned from down street. have the furniture sent or rather will be sent to memers, to care of Dowden I got bed, bureau, six chairs rocking chair, and lounge, amounting to $74.40 seventy four dollars the carpeting I sent to Rankin & Bance by express, they to pay upon delivery and charge to you. they without express are two carpets 26 & 34 yds at $1,80 & $1,65 one oilcloth for stove, two rugs $11,50 amount to $112,05 the whole $186,45. now I think that is good shopping don't you. Now about the mantle pieces the mantles he has made are too large for

for your jambs he can alter the mantle in two weeks, but the grates are only 16in high and he cannot make them differ; by setting the basket on the lower hook you can make them 18in. The hearths of slate for the fire places in Sallie's room with shelf will come to ten dollars a piece, the slate hearths ~~in these prices~~ at five dollars, he says they are more durable than marble, those in these prices come lower.

I shall leave here Monday, Georgie will have no wedding and as she wants her sisters with her I shall not repair to her marriage. I will stay in Dec. until you come over my trunks can stay until again. I have a letter from Mr. Chandler all are well here. Good bye yours lovingly

Mary.

Mary Barr Clay Herrick

Dear Sarah,

I write this evening only because I think you will expect a letter & be cheered by receiving news from home. I have felt very low-spirited for a week past. I sent my stock to market did not get more than half as much money as I expected to get for them and I have still such heavy bills to pay for erecting our house, it greatly distresses my for I have got to furnish it, which I despair of doing for a long time to come, I can now hope for quiet, quiet success in our oil speculation. If it succeeds all will go merry as a marriage bell. Hope is a great comforter. Green's affairs distress me more than my own do, I see no way for him to get out of debt. He I fear is becoming disheartened. I have so much on my shoulders that I can not attend to him more. if our oil lease are valuable it will make all thing right. Mary remains in Cincinnati a week longer, in which time Georgie Williams is to be married. There is to be a grand ball in Dep. the night Miss Williams is married in Cincinnati so Mary will miss it. Sally will remain in Dep. to attend it I expect as she returns from Frankfort ball which she attended last night

White Hall Ky
Nov 24

3

UNITED STATES 3 THREE CENTS

Miss Laura Clay.
care of Dr. Fartlow,
Lexington.
Kentucky.

[1866?]

If not delivered within ___ days, to be returned to

Paper & Indorsement
Annex
Mr. Adams.
Mrs. Kirsey.
Mary's Mother
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Spring Garden
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Hand Rec'd 2 o'clock