

and you will agree with me, that it was well bestowed. I have not seen the new hall yet, have been waiting for it to be entirely furnished.

We had communion this morning, and do you know I thought it was a good way to begin the new year, and wished you were with me to engage in the same service. Robbie, dear, let us make new resolves for the future, you and I, and pray that we may honor the name and cause of our Savior by a consistent walk, and trying to influence others for good. We know not whether we will see the beginning of another year. God grant we may have many years still to serve him, and do with much love to you from all that you love
your affectionate mother

Mayville Jan 5th 1879

My Dear Son.

I have thought of you so much this bitter cold spell of weather we have had the past week. Two days ago, the thermometer, in some places was 20° below zero. It was 14 on our front porch at eight o'clock a.m. We have not suffered with the cold in the house, as our grates and hall stove keep us comfortable in doors, but it requires a great amount of courage, in one particularly, to venture out, and I have wondered how you could stand it so much farther north. I hope you manage to keep from suffering at any rate.

Your Pa has just taken the boys down to see the river, as they have not seen it since it froze over. This is Horace's birthday. He is six years old. He want-

-ed to have a party yesterday, but I told him, he must not expect to have one every year. You know he had a little company on his last birthday. Do you recollect your six year old party? Willie was quite sick the first week of his holiday. He thought his Christmas a dull one, more so than yours, as he was so sick.

There has been fine sleighing, but the boys have not been able to enjoy it much on the pike, as the Mayor put a stop to it, owing to an accident which happened to a wagon by a sled running into it. The boys have just gotten back from their walk, quite elated, saying, "Papa took us across the river on the ice". I am glad to know, the weather is moderating some this afternoon. You must excuse me for writing so much on the one theme, but we have not been able to think

or talk about any thing else. I hope your skates reached you safely. Take good care when you are on the ice. Sallie Hodge is still with us. She had her trunk packed last Sunday week, expecting to go to Ashland, but the boats stopped running that day. She does not know now when she will get off. Cousin William Austin dropped in upon us last night. He remarked, that there was a slight difference in the weather now, and when he was here last summer. You remember his last visit was during that terrible spell of hot weather.

You will see by the Republican of this week, a notice of a surprise given your Pa by the Odd Fellows at their last meeting. It was the presentation of a silver water service, as a token of their appreciation of his services as Treasurer. It is very handsome,

Jan 4th 79



R. Cochran Jr
Amherst

No. A. C. No. 13 S. C. Mass

for want of room, consequently they have to adjourn to a larger house, and to night the meeting begins in our church. Mr Mitchell of the South Methodist Church is to preach. So much interest is manifested, and I trust great good may be done. Oh! Pottie let us honor our profession and our Master by a more consistent walk and conversation. Let us not be ashamed of Jesus, that dear friend, on whom our hopes of heaven depend.

I had a letter from Cousin January the other day. He wrote to tell us of the birth of a daughter. He wanted me to decide for him, whether to call it for his mother or grandmother. I wrote him to call it Sarah January for his mother. I am glad he wrote to you, it was kind in him, and I hope you have answered. Did you get Miss Hallie's letter and the photographs last week? and how did you like them? Our united love to you, and a prayer for God's richest blessing upon you
 from your loving Mother

Maysville Jan 19th 1879

My Dear Son

Your last letter reached me Wednesday noon, instead of night. By some change in the railroad, the mail gets in earlier. This is pleasant, for it seems to take a letter so long to come, when we know there is one on the way. I am glad to know that you are standing the winter so well, which you show in the fact of your having gained so much in weight.

Cold weather is healthy, when the temperature continues equal, it is our frequent changes that are trying on the constitution. I think you are right about not wrapping up your neck. If you commence you have to keep it up, or make yourself sensitive to the cold. It is the ears I think of, you know they sometimes get frost-bitten. I believe one of

mine was slightly frozen one of those severe days we had. There was quite a thaw yesterday and day before, but there is still a good deal of snow left. The young folks have had a fine time sleighing. The river is open, and a few boats running, but there is more ice expected from above. It is very cold again today, and we may have the river closed again.

I hope we may not have any more severe weather. It causes so much suffering. There was a hundred dollars raised in our Sunday school, and by a few outside, to purchase clothing for poor children. The idea was a double one, to clothe them, and get them in the Sabbath-school. Our Society has been meeting here three times a week for two weeks to make up the clothing. About forty children have been supplied, and I expect the most of them were at Sunday school this morning, as the number reported was a 149. Don't you think this is a good work?

Mr. Barber commenced a Bible Class a few Sabbaths ago. Your Pa and I are members of it. He teaches the Sunday school lesson, and makes it very interesting. The lessons are now in the book of Nehemiah. This Nehemiah is one of the grand Bible characters. I wish you would read it. Robbie, can't you get the International series and study them yourself? There is so much that is valuable in the study of the Bible, every thing I may say. It is worth more than all the learning beside. I never enjoy any spiritual advantages, that my heart don't yearn for you to have the same privilege. I suppose the week of prayer was observed in Amherst as it was all over the country and world. The meetings were well attended here, and the ministers of the different churches concluded to follow them up by a united protracted meeting. The services were held all last week in the Baptist church, the congregations increasing so from night to night, until a great many had to turn away

Jan 20th
'79



Robt A. Cochran, jr.
Amherst,
Mass.

M.A.C. No 13 S. 6.

J. F. Barbour, Cashier.

R. A. Cochran, Vice President.

James Barbour, President.

Bank of Maryland

Mayville, Ky.

to us all, to forgive and by his Spirit to lead you in the way that will make you eternally happy. My hearts desire and prayer to God is that you may grow into a true Christian man here, that you may with the armor of the Christian soldier, fight valiantly for the truth as it is in Christ Jesus, and overcome all the wiles of the devil that assail you in your pathway. You rather pride yourself on your capacity for commandings, if, my dear child you will turn this attribute of your character within, and storm the citadel of your heart, with the view of subduing everything that comes between you and your God, then will you show yourself the true hero.

Accept these words, as they are sent, warm and tender from the heart of your loving Mother
Your Pa and brother
Send you much love

Mayville Feb 16th 1879

My Dear Son,

I think I hear you exclaim on opening this, "well, letter paper must be scarce at home". The fact is, this is the only thing in the way of writing paper that could be found. Jamie and Willie use so much, that my supply is exhausted before I know it. But I reckon you will be glad enough to hear from home, not to take any exceptions to the style of paper or writing. I expect you are getting some what impatient about your table cover. The delay has been unavoidable, I am at work at it, and hope to get it to you some time this week. We were quite amused with your description in your last letter, of your haste to get yourself in position for the Lieutenant in his tour of inspection. I am going to send you some dusting cloths to use instead of your towels. I ought to have provided you with them before this.

We feel quite ~~lost~~ without Fannie. She returned to Ashland last Thursday night. I am afraid we will hear that the trip has made her sick. She had been suffering for some time with cold, and had housed herself so closely, and the night she left the weather turned so much colder, she would feel the change so much. But she seemed so anxious to get back, and John Wornall had written that he would be on the boat so that she would have good company that night. Her cousin January is with us now, arrived on Friday night. He came by way of Cincinnati to take Lilly and Lettie McElroy that far on their way to school. They are at Oxford. January looks so well, says he will only stay until Wednesday. He and Andrew took dinner with Lizzie and Foster to-day. Mrs Barber is still suffering a good deal with her arm sprained by her fall. It seems to be very tedious in getting well. Mr Barber has changed the time

of his Bible class to Monday evening, to suit the convenience of some that could not attend on Sunday afternoon. The lessons for to-day and next Sabbath are the first and second Psalms. There is so much of beauty and instruction in the Bible, that we fail to see by a careless reading of it, and we should make it a book of study. It is truly the book of life, and one cannot fail to be benefited, if it is perused in the proper way, and with the right spirit. I wonder who you have heard preach to-day. Do you forget, that I asked you to tell me about the preaching you hear? Remember it another time. Robbie, my dear boy, don't allow yourself to get in a careless way about going to church. We all need all the helps we can get to keep us in the right way. Don't let any body or anything influence you to show any irreverence towards the Sabbath-day, and sacred things. Dear Robbie, remember you have taken the name of Christ upon you, and if you have failed heretofore to honor him rightly, it is time now to repent in earnest, and to ask your Heavenly Father who is so merciful

Feb 17th
1879



MISSENT TO
WORCESTER, MASS.

Mr. Robt. A. Cochran, Jr.

Amherst

Massachusetts

M. A. C.

from home may be a season of pleasure to you. Are you particular with your eye as you ought to be? Take good care of it. Your Aunt Emma writes that she expects to return home the first of next month. This will be a month sooner than she thought of, when she left home. Has Anna Douglas ever written to you? Your Uncle Horace was here all afternoon. His family are all well. Mr Alderson expects to begin a protracted meeting this week. Mr Lapeely from Lebanon will be here. The Methodist Church took received about forty members this morning.

I must close and take those wispy boys up to bed. With love from them all to you, as well as from your Pa and older brother, I am with a heart full of love
Your affectionate Mother

Waysville March 9th 1877

My Dear Son

I have let two sabbaths pass since writing to you. I resigned in your Pa's favor last Sunday, as I had written you something of a letter the week before with the box. We were glad to know you were so well pleased with your table cover, also, with the other little things.

I felt worried when I found the size of the box it would be necessary to send, that I had not something more to put in it. I thought until I came to fix up the things, that a much smaller one would do, but finding it would crumple the table cover too much, had to get a larger box, and then had no time to provide any thing more to put in it.

Your letters reach us, irregularly, lately. Week before last, it was Thursday night.

before we got your letter which sometimes comes Wednesday morning. I get quite impatient when it is delayed a little.

In your last, you gave a description of a visit the College had from the Legislature. This must have been quite a pleasant diversion for you all. You say they left with pleasant impressions concerning the institution, but ^{you} did not give your opinion of them. Were they a distinguished looking body?

This extra session of Congress takes Judge Plister from home sooner than he expected to go. I believe he starts tomorrow for Washington City.

I see from your catalogue that your holiday begins the 15th of this month. I hope you will be able to spend the time profitably and pleasantly. You ought to employ a good deal of your time in reading and practising. I see in looking over the list of books and papers taken

in your reading room a good deal that might profit and entertain you.

Have you joined the Literary Society yet? you spoke of doing so. I would like you to connect yourself with the Christian Union if it is properly conducted. You ought to make use of all the appliances within your reach for your advancement in every way.

If you do not see fit to join this association yourself, be very careful not to be unjust in your feelings towards any who may be trying to do their duty in this way. Young men may sometimes be turned aside from the right, by any insinuations that they are not sincere in their motives.

You say the time has passed rapidly with you this winter. I am glad you have felt it so, and hope your duties and studies may grow in interest with you, and the time you are necessarily away

Mar 10
1879



Robt A. Cochran Jr.,
Amherst,

M. A. C.

Massachusetts.

[1879]



Maysville March 20th

My Dear Robbie

I wanted to have sent you a box the beginning of your holiday, but have been so much engaged, I could not get it ready until today. I hope you will enjoy what it contains, and that it will help you to pass the remaining days of your vacation pleasantly.

To-day is Jamie and Willie's birthday. They are eleven years old. Georgie and Jamie Barbour took dinner with them.

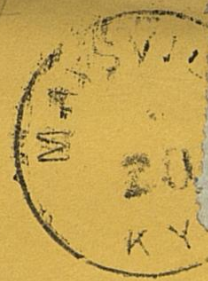
They are invited to a party tonight, given by Miss Pella Hechinger, it being her sixth birthday. So it will be a pleasant way for them to celebrate their own. I have not time to write more. With much love from all,

You will find in the box a neck scarf, which I hope will please you
Your loving Mother

Mar 20th
1879

Robt A Cochran, Jr
Amherst
Mass

Mar 20th
1879



Robt Adams Jr
Amherst
Mass.
M.A.C.

weeks ago, of one of your classmates being quite ill, I felt concerned about him. I hope he has recovered by this time. Your Pa received your letter yesterday containing the receipt.

It is about supper time, and I must close. Your Pa and brothers send much love to you. Kind friends inquire often about you.

Praying God's protecting care, and richest blessing upon you,

I am,

Your loving Mother

Maysville March 24 1887

My Dear Son

I hope you are being able to pass the time of your vacation pleasantly, so that it will not seem long to you.

You will be almost ready to begin again, by the time you get this letter. I am glad to think you will be entering upon your the last term of the year, and that it will be only three months more, in God's good providence, before we have you home again. I hope this last term will pass ^{as} rapidly to you as the past.

You speak of there being a deep snow with you, when writing your last letter. The winter has been a long one to us, but we have not had any snow for some time.

We have had great deal of wet weather lately. Today has cleared off beautifully, and I hope we will have some nice spring

weather. It has been too wet to do any spading in the garden yet; but Anderson has his hot bed all ready for seed. I suppose it will be some time, before you can do any gardening so far up North. Are you going to do any ploughing? You speak of having been so interested in Prof Stock-bridge's lecture on the plough. It will be well for you to test, practically, your interest in the subject. It will be such fine, healthy exercise. I am glad you called to see President Clark, and am sorry he has resigned his position. Do you know yet, who will fill his place?

I suppose your Pa told you of the meeting we have been holding in our church. It closed on Thursday night. There were no accessions to the church, but I think the members were much benefited by the services.

Mr Lapeck assisted Mr Alderson and he gave us excellent sermons. He is an earnest zealous preacher, and I think

impressed professing Christians with their duties and privileges, in a way, they will not forget very soon. Robbie, it would do you good to see the change wrought in Mr Campbell. He looks like a different man since he united with the church. He seems greatly in earnest. Wicked men of course, will do all they can to draw him aside from the path of right, and impugn his motives for the stand he has taken, but I hope the grace of God will enable him to persevere, and put to silence all their scoffs and jeers.

Writing the word "their" just now reminds me that you make a mistake sometimes in spelling the two words, "there" and "their". Also the word Tuesday, you generally spell it Tensday. Your spelling is always good, with these exceptions.

We expressed you a box last Friday, which I hope you will get by tomorrow. Robbie, you spoke in a letter about two

Mar 24th
'79



Mr. Robert N. Cochran Jr.
Amherst
Mass.

I want to try and get to Lexington, some time next month, with Horace, and make a little visit. When we go to see January, we will take the three boys, and you don't know the pleasure with which they are looking forward to this visit. As I took my seat to write this afternoon, Horace says "Mama, you going to write to Robbie; just tell him to hurry up and come home, I want to see him".

I was down to see Aunt Louie yesterday. Her little folks are all complaining. Andrew was quite sick last week, threatened with pneumonia, and Mary, Austin and the baby have terrible colds. Horace inquired directly when I had heard from you, and Aunt Louie always inquires for you so affectionately.

Your Pa received the paper you sent him, we are glad to know the prospect for the College getting the necessary appropriation from the Legislature is so flattering.

Pa and brothers send much love to you, commending you to the care of our loving Heavenly Father. I am your affectionate Mother

Wayville April 6th 1879

My Dear Robbie

This is a beautiful, Sabbath-day, clear and bright, but a little cool. For three days last week it was disagreeably cold. It seemed so pleasant the first part of the week I thought I would do some house cleaning, and as we had had no fire in the parlors all winter, concluded to begin with them. After turning them inside out, the weather became so cold, that it was rather unpleasant work. Fortunately, we do not need parlors much, and there is no great hurry to have them straitened. We have used the library altogether this winter, and have found it very comfortable and convenient.

We had communion at the chapel to day. Mr Alderson held three meetings

there during the week, as preparatory services. One lady united with the church, a Mrs George Child. She lives up by the depot. The church is slowly but steadily gaining. Mr Alderson has fine congregations at both churches.

The Sunday school has increased wonderfully. This morning there were 199 scholars. This growth is mainly owing to the effort made by our church during the winter, in visiting the poor, and clothing the destitute children. All the children thus assisted have come into the Sabbath school. I hope great good may result from it. As the weather gets more favorable, you can attend church regularly, and my dear Robbie don't neglect this duty and privilege too. As you are attending to the cultivation of your mind, and your physical development, both of which are of great importance, recollect the immortal part

the soul, which is in greater need of culture and nourishment; and we ought to make use of all the means of grace, given us for this purpose. This is not idle talk, my dear boy, but demands sober thought, and is worthy of the effort of every manly nature.

We were quite well satisfied with your last term's report, except the number of absences marked. How do you account for so many? and were they absences from recitations, or what? You do not speak of having been sick at any time.

Andrew had a letter from January last night, in which he speaks of he and Mr McCreary contemplating a trip to Colorado. He wanted to know when we expected to make our visit to them, so that the two arrangements may not conflict. Our idea has been to go to see them some time in the month of June, if nothing prevents

Apr 7th
1879



Robt A. Coolman Jr.
Amherst.

M. A. Co.

Mass.



tea for supper, and says, "are you writing to Mr Robbie? Tell him I am mighty glad it will soon be time for him to come home".

Our yard looks quite pretty now. The hyacinths have been out for some time, and the tulips are now beginning to open. Nicholas has been spading my flower beds, and I want to put in some seed in a few days. Nicholas always inquires for you.

Andrew is busy with his chickens, He has forty young ones. He spends an hour or two every evening in the garden, spading, has just come in, and desires me to send you his love. Circuit Court is in session now, and he and your Pa have a great deal to do. Love from all to you, and praying God's blessing upon you, my dear child, I am, your affectionate
mother



Wayville April 20th 1877

My Dear Son.

I am left alone for a while, (the boys having gone with Pa for a little walk) and take advantage of this time, to write you. The weather is inviting out to-day, it is bright, and though the wind is a little cool, it is pleasant for walking. We find fires still very comfortable, but would prefer the weather warmer, as we have commenced house cleaning. We are in a good deal of confusion just now, having three rooms turned inside out, to have them repainted and papered. These are, the spare room, my room and the library. Your Pa and I went to Cincinnati, and bought paper for these rooms and the lower hall. We also got carpets for the library, hall and spare room. Mr Smith;

found, after he had partly finished one room, that he would not have paper enough. He had to quit work, and wait until we could send for more. This causes a good deal of delay, and I don't know when we will be straitened again.

I feel willing to undergo some inconvenience through, to have the house nice and clean when we are through.

We were looking for your Aunt Emma and family back next week, but I had a card from her this morning saying they had concluded to wait until the first of May, as the weather keeps so cool. I think she is waiting also to see Nina, who is going to Louisville to make a visit.

Aunt Louie and children went to Fleming the first of last week to stay several weeks. Uncle Horace will stay with us during her absence. He went up yesterday to stay over Sunday, will

be back tomorrow. I had a letter from Cousin Willie Grundy, this morning. She is expecting us to make our visit to them about the first of June.

I wrote her, I was afraid I should impose upon her by taking so many, as we are expected to take the three boys.

Her reply was, "not at all, and she wished you could be at home, so that you and Andrew could be of the number". I had timed our visit, so we could be at home before time for your return. I don't know how you are feeling about it, but I am counting the time as it rolls by and, till you will be with us again.

I have no doubt you will enjoy pleasant spring weather when it comes. The winter has been such a long one, every letter you write, you speak of having had another snow.

Aunt Charlotte just came in to get

Apr 21st
1879



R A Cochran Jr.
Amherst
Massachusetts



we are quiet again. I have about
gotten the-upstairs cleaning done.

I am glad you like your flute,
and hope you will practise a good
deal upon it.

There is no news, that I can think
of, to tell you, so I will close for
the present, with the usual amount
of love from all to you.

From your affectionate
Mother

Mayville May 4th 1879

My Dear Robbie

The spring is advancing
rapidly with us now. This morning we
had a refreshing rain, and since then
the face of Nature looks lovely indeed.
The trees are out in full leaf, the grass
luxuriantly green, and the flowers dis-
playing their rich colors. The severe
winter we had killed all my flowers
in the pit, except the-tub plants. I have
had to buy a new supply of geraniums
and verbenas, have had them set out,
though we may yet have a frost that
will nip them. I was glad to know through
your last letter that the weather was
getting pleasant-enough with you, for
you to enjoy being out of doors. Every
thing in nature seems to unite in praise
to the great Creator and Giver of all good,

how much more should we as rational creatures, endowed with such capacities for enjoyment, acknowledge our obligations to him for all his goodness. Not alone for the gifts of his Providence, but for the "unspeakable gift" of his Son, through whom, and for whose sake alone we are permitted to have any of life's enjoyments.

I hope you have heard a good sermon today. We had a first-rate one from Mr. Alderson, at the Chapel. His subject was the blessings connected with a regular attendance upon ^{the} services of the Church. The Church is the place appointed by God for the manifestation of his presence. The descent of his Spirit is promised upon those who attend regularly upon the ministrations of his word. How much we all need this blessing, and how important what we should all place ourselves continually within its reach. Dear Robbie, you

don't know how much good it would do me, to write one word that you had been to Church. I take it for granted you go, of course, but it would give me pleasure to have you speak of it, and give me some account of what you hear.

Your Aunt Emma and family returned home Friday evening. They stopped with us, took supper, staid all night, took breakfast and dinner the next day. They are all looking very well. I expect it will seem rather dull and lonely to them for awhile, after being in such a large family for so long. Aunt Louie and family are still in Fleming. Horace went up yesterday, to stay until tomorrow.

I am still thinking of making a visit to Lexington, about the middle of the month. I want to get settled at home first. We have been turned up so long, I shall feel glad when



Mayeville May 18th 1879

My Dear Son

We have just returned from the funeral of Mr Mike Ryan. He died Friday night, was brought down this morning, and buried at the Cemetery. His disease was dropsy of the heart. He has been in bad health for several months. John Ryan and Mr Richeson were all that came down with the remains. Mrs Ryan, Lizzie, and Miss Mollie are all sick.

This is a sad death, as it leaves the family in very reduced circumstances. I suppose the boys will try to support their mother and sisters.

We expect Mr Richeson to stay all night with us.

It has been so warm today, and is so dry. I hope for a rain tonight.

I have set the last of this week, as the time to go to Lexington. Your Pa will go up with Horace and I, and stay a day and return for us. He will come home and stay a few days, and then start for Lebanon.

I feel as though there was a great undertaking before me, but our word is out, and I suppose we must fulfil it.

I see through the papers, that the Woodruff expedition has proven a failure, and that President Clark is in what a situation. He better have held on to his position in the College, don't you think so? and I am afraid the College will not get along so well without him.

What are you studying this last term? I don't believe you have told us, and which of all your studies do you like best? Do you find it

easier now to study than when you first commenced?

Don't forget that it is important to make good use of your time, and learn all you can while you have the opportunity. And remember the wise man's injunction, "Take fast hold of instruction, (meaning the wisdom from above) let her not go, for she is thy life".

I am trying to finish my letter before lighting the gas, and I can not see the lines. I think I hear you say, you had better stop, and so I will, with a bushel of love to you. May you forever abide under the shadow of the Almighty, is the prayer of your loving Mother

May 19th
1879



Robt A Cochran jr
Amherst,
Mass.
M. A. C.

to leave home. I rather dread the trip in warm weather.

Mr Alderson and party have not yet returned from their eastern trip. They will get home some time this week.

I hope your next letter will tell us of your arrangements, and about the time of your leaving for home. We don't expect to be away more than two weeks, and will be at home to receive. Till then may God keep us all safely, and grant us his love through Christ our Saviour. Love from all to you.

From your affectionate

Mother

Mayville June 8th 1879

My Dear Son

It seems a long time since I wrote to you last. My being from home a little while, interrupted my regular habits. Your Pa told you of our trip to Lexington. We had a pleasant time. Our friends thought it a very short visit, but it was as long as I could make, under the circumstances. It was well I got home when I did, as we found Jamie quite sick. He had taken a violent cold, and it was necessary to send for a doctor immediately. He has about recovered now. Your relatives all inquired particularly for you.

Lady Shropshire called to see me, and had a great deal to say about you. She graduated this term, and insisted

very much upon my staying to
Comencement.

Cousin Jennie Alexander goes to
Chicago this week to make her home.
Mr Alexander has gotten a situation
there. Jennie seemed delighted with
the idea, and did wonder, as she has
been separated two years from her
husband.

If we all keep well, we expect to
leave Thursday for Lebanon. You will
think I am getting to be quite a
cow about it. It does seem like it was
too much visiting at once, but we
have ^{been} promising both visits so long
and felt it would not do to make
one without the other.

The children are particularly anxious
to make this visit. They want us to
be in the country. We will leave
Andrew quite alone. It will give
him some experience in house-
keeping. As the time approaches

for your return, I get more and more
impatient to have you home. How is
it with you? You don't express any
desire about it, but I know you are
anxious to get home. Willie, I
suppose will be at home the last of
this week. Thursday is Comencement
day, and that is the day we
will pass through Danville.

Cousin George and Jane Ann were
up this week to Mrs Doby's house.
They have been very anxious to get
up town, but I am afraid the
change will not suit Cousin George
so well. Mrs Doby and Babe
are boarding at the Hill House.
I don't know what has become of
Rees.

We have had quite a cool spell of
weather this last week, so cool that
I felt tempted to open a grate for
a fire. I expect it will be warm
enough by the time we are ready

June 9th
1879



Robt A. Cochran Jr
Amherst,
Mass.



Robbie, bring home all of your clothes,
 so that we can see what you need,
 and be sure to bring your table
 cover with you. Your bed clothes
 you can leave, if they will be safe,
 and I suppose you will be able to
 get every thing else in the trunk.
 Your Pa says use your head, and
 dont forget any thing.

A. L. B.



Net-Hiry June 23rd 1879

My Dear Son

This, I suppose, will be
 our last communication by letter, as
 another week will bring you home.
 It is one week today since we left
 home. We reached Danville at one
 o'clock on Monday, and had to remain
 there until Tuesday morning. The
 train brought us to Lebanon at 10
 o'clock, and since that time then
 we have been having a delightful
 time in the country with Cousin
 January and family. You have been
 here and know all about the country
 and people, but you would not
 recognize Cousin January's house.
 The old house forms a small part
 of the new building. It is a beautiful
 house now, and handsomely furnished.

Your Pa^{and I} are much pleased with
the Country, have been agreeably dis-
appointed in it. We spent two days
last week with Mrs McElroy & L-
ack. She had several of the relatives
to meet us and Friday evening,
Cousin Willie had quite a little com-
pany, and an elegant supper for
us. Thursday we are to spend
with Mrs George Grundy. It
will be as much as we can do to get
off this week. They all seem so
anxious for us to stay longer, but
we must start for home Friday.
We will return by Lewisville and
Cincinnati. The boys are delighted
with the Country, and would like
to stay longer.

Andrew is having a quiet time at
home, but I expect he enjoys it.

We want Lucy and Ella to make
us a visit, and want them to come

while you are home, which I expect
they will do. Lillie and Ella returned
last Friday from their school at
Oxford.

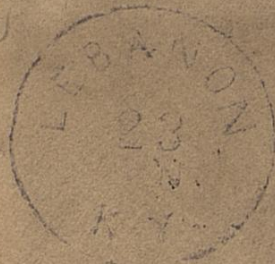
You will be busy this week, I
suppose, preparing for your closing
exercises. We will expect a good
report from you.

You seem to have made a great many
friends in this part of the Country.
Every body we meet, inquires so kind
ly for you. Mrs McElroy speaks
of you with great affection.

I cannot take time to write more.
Cousin January is waiting to take
this to the mail. We will reach
home in time to receive you. We have
all wished you could have been with
us here. May God protect us all,
to meet again in our own home, is the
prayer of yours,
Everybody sends love. Loving Mother.

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

June 28th
1879



Robt A Cochrane, Jr
Amherst,
Mass.

she was in Lexington, but left it on Belle
Blay's writing table, forgetting to mail it,
and she is afraid you did not get it. She and
Uncle Horace remained until Saturday eve.
Willie got off Saturday morning with several
of the boys, but Howell Barclay was not one
of them. He is still sauntering about the
streets, as though he did not know what to do
with himself. Captain Davis is recovering.
I dread his going away. Mrs Nelson and
Lezzie will, when they are left alone, realize
more fully Mary Thomas's loss. Aunt Louie
and children are in Fleming for a few days,
I don't know of any news to tell you, and
will close, hoping this school year upon
which you have entered, and your eighteenth
year too, may be a happy and successful one,
and to this end, I pray our Heavenly Father's
blessing, and to his safe keeping I commit you
my dear, darling children. With best love from
all to you,
Your loving Mother

[OXFORD]

Wayville Sept 7th 1877

My Dear Son

I felt the time long to hear
from you, after you left us, yet we received
your card and letter ~~and~~ promptly, telling
of your pleasant trip and safe arrival.

You did not speak of ^{your} cold, and from this
fact, we hoped it was much better, and
hope by this time it is well. I was glad
you met with such pleasant company on
the boat, in the person of the old lady you
mentioned, and wished she could have
been with you all the way. Little incidents
like this, furnish an opportunity for us to
cultivate the better parts of our natures,
and bring out whatever of the milk of
human kindness there may be in them.

By this time, you are fairly underway
in the routine of your studies and duties.
Likely you may have felt a little reluctance

to begin work, but don't yield to such a feeling. Push on with a vigorous determination to overcome all difficulties. Your stay at home, seems now like a pleasant dream. Though it was so short it has left many pleasant recollections, and while we have to linger about these bright spots, we must press on to prepare for the stern realities of life. These pleasant recollections serving at the same time to cheer us on in the performance of our duty. Your birth-day has passed since you left us. How hard it is to realize that seventeen years of your life have already passed. Let us try to make each succeeding year of our lives yield some and more of substantial fruit.

You speak of the country looking so beautiful about Haveret. I wish I could enjoy looking at it with you. The fall of the year is the most beautiful season of the year to me. We have had a great deal of

rain since you were at home, and every thing looks fresh and beautiful. The flowers are blossoming in great abundance. Mr. Richeson has been with us since Thursday. He has determined to take the house Louise George left, and Mr. Newell is to have it put in good repair at once. The school will begin the first Monday in Oct, and until that time Jennie and Willie are going to Miss Chambers, studying nothing but Arithmetic, to prepare themselves for the High School.

Your Pa had a letter yesterday from Maria Nelson. She is Principal of the High School in Paris, Ill. She told us Belle Warren had gotten a divorce from her husband. I suppose your Aunt Emma will soon begin packing for her removal. Mr. Jim O has rented the house. He is to be married next Thursday, and will board with Mrs. Dimmitt until he can get the house. Anna Douglas says she wrote you a letter while

Let our prayer be that of David. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Emma, Anna Douglas and Louie and children spent Thursday with us. Horace was not here, as he went to the Ripley Fair. I suppose your Pa wrote you about he and I going to the Germantown Fair, and taking the children. We went in our own carriage, driving two horses. The ride was delightful going out, but it was terribly dusty, returning. The boys were delighted with the day, but it was a little tiresome to me. I went to the country one day last week to call on Mrs Underwood and Miss Kitty Lee Poyntz, the latter stranger. I did not see Lottie, as she was over with Julia. She had not been well lately, has been having chills. Julia was in and spent a day and night with Anna D., says she wrote to you, and hopes you received her letter. You must not encourage many corres.

OXFORD

Mayville Sept 2/45

My Dear Son

We sent you last week, your blankets, and within them a rubber coat, the kind for which you expressed a desire before you left home. I hope the bundle has reached you safely, and the coat will prove the right size for you. I also sent enclosed in the package your shaving apparatus, pocket dictionary, handkerchief and gold pen. The latter, I did not know you had left until you mentioned it in writing, but I soon found it, in looking through the little bureau drawer. Your military gloves, I put in the wash, intending to send them in the bundle, but forgot them. I guess you can get another pair without much trouble.

I am sorry to know the college has fallen so far short of last year with regard to numbers. You did not have even enough to make a rush over. This I did not regret, as the rush was something I was dreading upon your return. The students ought to feel it incumbent upon them to strengthen the reputation of the school by aiming at a high standard of study and character. I hope you, Polbie, dear, are determined to make this the best year of your life, and so improve the golden moments, that they may leave their impress upon you for aunch good.

You speak of the weather being so cool with you. It has been here too, and I am now enjoying myself in the dining room corner by a fire. It is a beautiful, bright day and your Pa has gone with the boys to the upper pasture

The "Old Lady", as the children call her, has been ailing for several days, and we have not been able to use her milk. Your Pa had her left in the pasture to see if she would not recuperate. I think she is suffering from the effects of old age, as she is about 17 years old. She has done us good service, and I would dislike to see her pass away.

We had service at the chapel this morning, and a good sermon on the parable of the tares. Matt-13. How often do we hear the church blamed for having hypocrites in it. Polbie, never let any one, in your presence, reproach the cause of religion with this or any other objection. It is of divine arrangement that the good and evil should grow together. It is the enemy, the devil, who sows the tares, and it is for the Sower of hearts, to make the separation, which he will do at the harvest, which is the end of the world.

[OXFORD]

pondents; though it may be pleasant to receive letters, but I am afraid it will take too much time from your duties to reply. Your Aunt Emma will begin packing tomorrow, with the view of leaving that day week. Anna Douglas expects to go up in the meantime to Lexington, to attend Miss Lily Bassett's wedding.

Mr James Shackelford has rented Emma's furniture with the house, and will take possession immediately upon her leaving it.

Capt. Davis left last week. I have not seen Mrs Nelson or Lizzie since then, but I know they are feeling badly enough. I believe I have given you all the news Puffie, and have written my hand stiff, will close with love to you from every body, and wish more than words can tell from
Your Brother

Sept 22nd
1879



Robert A. Cochran Jr.

Amherst

Mass.

M. A. C.

Maysville Oct-5th 1879

My Dear Son

While your Pa is napping
in the big arm chair, I will write
you. We have with us Cousin Lizzie
Norton and Lizzie Sharpe and her
daughter, Anna Davis. They came
on the train last night. Cousin
Lizzie was anxious to see Cousin
George, and took advantage of the
nice weather we are having now
to make a little visit. She suffers
ed with asthma, she cannot go out
in cold weather. Cousin Lizzie
Sharpe is not in good health, looks
thin and badly. I hope the change
may be good for her. Speaking of
the nice weather, I cannot say I
enjoy it, because it is ed very warm.
For a few days it has been like

summer. It was so very cool last month we had to make a change in our clothing, and now we find it oppressive, yet afraid to make a change again.

Emma and family are now in Chicago, left last Monday. The impression seems to be with every one that there more is a permanent one. Emma did not say so much, but I would not be surprised, if they did not come back to live.

The house was not vacant long. Dr James and his wife moved in two days after Emma left. I have not met the new Mrs Shackelford called to see her, but she was out in Emma's house has been painted on the outside and looks very pretty.

We are painting now. Dr Shackelford's house is already painted, and Mr Johnson and Mr McGranaghan

are going to paint, so our neighborhood will look much improved.

Pattie dear, I will have to cut my letter short. Kinch^{Horace} is in to see our Cousins, and Lizzie Barbour is just coming, so I will have to close.

I am ashamed of my writing, have such a miserable pen.

Cousin Lizzie says to give you her love, and say that she was sorry you did not get to see them this summer. Your Pa and Brothers send you much love, and accept a bushel from

Your affectionate
Mother

Oct 6th
1879



Robt. A. Cochran jr
Amherst
Mass.



AMHERST
MASS.
OCT 1879

TRANSIT
JUL 11 11 30 PM
1879

behind. I appeal to your reasoning
faculties now, and beg of you to cleave
to the good in all things.

We hear that Emma and Anna Lang-
let are quite pleased in Chicago.

I have had no word myself.

Robbie, the long talked of engagement between
Hed Gray ^{and Babe Doby} is about to be consummated.

Report says, the 8th of next month is the
day for the wedding. Andrew tells me that
Miss Mary McConnell and Nat Chiddister
are going to be married in about two months,
but this is strictly confidential. I know
of no more news, I believe. Cousin Lizzie
sends you her love, as do the rest of the
family. May the blessing of heaven rest
upon you, my dear child.

Your affectionate Mother

Wayville Oct 19th 1879

My Dear Son

Today is more like the fall
of the year, than any we have had for
some time. We are now sitting comforta-
bly by a fire. It is more pleasant to me,
than to have it so warm. Our cousins
are still with us. Cousin Lizzie Norton
expected to have gone home last Friday
afternoon, even got as far as the depot,
but finding the train would not leave
until 6 in the evening, concluded to wait
until tomorrow morning and go up with
Uncle Horace. He is going to Louisville,
to attend a Masonic meeting. He has
been staying with us the past week, as
Aunt Louie and the children are in
Slemingsburg. Lizzie Sharpe expects
to go over tomorrow to stay with Lizzie
Barbour until after the meeting of

Synod. She expects Cousin Jack will come down as a delegate. The Synod convenes Thursday evening. January and family, I suppose will be here by the middle of the week, and we expect to entertain four preachers, so you see will have a full house for a while. If all are well, we will enjoy it.

The painting is about done, and the house looks very pretty. It is of a lighter color than ever before.

Mr. Richeson and family are settled in the house Cousin George Taylor occupied, until Spring. They then expect to get the one in Chester built by Foster Barbour. Mr. Richeson is delighted with the school, has no trouble at all, and thinks say he has a fine set of scholars. Jamie and Willie are very much pleased, say they have such perfect order in school. They have to study harder than they ever did before, which

is good for them. They are old enough now, to be forming habits of regular study. Robbie, you have made quite a change in your programme since you left home. It is pleasant to think that you will not be away from home so long, as at first contemplated, but you will have no time now to waste, and ought to endeavor to improve every moment, and gain all the knowledge you can. Don't let any thing divert your mind from the main object. It is business now, lose no time in pleasure seeking. The greatest pleasure ^{to} you, you will find when you come to mature years, will be the thought, that you made good use of the opportunities and advantages afforded you in your youth. Remember, "all is not gold that glitters", and that what the young call pleasure, vanishes in the grasp, and leaves no good

ceeded in getting out their things, so that they did not lose much. The house will have to undergo a good deal of repair before they can go into it. Poor things, they were frightened nearly to death. Uncle Charley built up a fire in our wash house stove, and brought the children all down to stay until morning.

Our great anxiety now is our low river and scarcity of coal. We do hope for rain soon. It is quite cloudy today, but is so cool, we fear there will be no rain. Unless there should be a rise in the river before the cold weather sets in, there will be much suffering in our midst. But it is not best to anticipate trouble. A wise hand controls all things, and to this same ever-loving One, I commit you my dear child, and all of our interests, knowing that he doeth all things well. With love from all you love,
Your affectionate mother

Wayville Nov 2^d 1879

My Dear Son

Since my last letter to you, we have had a great deal of company. Indeed for six weeks we have not been alone. Mr. Pichman's family were with us first. Before they left our Cousins from Lexington came, then Cousin January and family, and the day after their arrival the Laysons came. So you see it has been quite a rushing time with us. January left last Friday. He said business required him to be at home tomorrow. Their visit was not a very satisfactory one to us, as we could not spend much time with them, but they seemed to enjoy themselves very much attending the meetings of Layson. We had a nice company to stay with us. Mr. Berkes, Mr. Cleland. Cousin

George Norton and Mr Steen. Besides these we had a number to dinner and supper every day. Our table was stretched almost the length of the dining room, and filled. Their meeting was a pleasant one, and we had sermons from our most talented preachers.

Immediately following Grand came the meeting of the Grand Lodge, which was, as they say a grand success. You would have been proud of your little city, could you have seen it in its gay attire. Grand St was beautifully decorated from one end to the other, and a few decorations on other streets. Nicholas displayed his taste in trimming our portico. He had the pillars around with a chain made of different colors of cotton yarn from the factory, also a festoon of these colored yarns suspended from the roof in front, and at the point of the roof

were arranged three good sized flags. It was very pretty. The procession was very imposing, and the crowd of people astonishing. For two nights Grand St presented a beautiful appearance, with its gas jets and Chinese lanterns, every stone illuminated, and the side walks a surging mass of humanity. It was hard to imagine ourselves in little old Mayaville. The papers will give you a better impression of it than I can. Last night we had another excitement, which was a terrible one to us. It was so near to us, as to illuminate the back of our house. Some scamp set fire to Mr Johnson's stable. It was burned to the ground, and Mr Weedon's stable almost destroyed, and most of all Uncle Charley's house took fire and was badly damaged. It occurred between three and four o'clock, and they had to hurry the family out. The roof and upper story were burnt. They suc-

Opened by Thos Cochran

No 3rd
1879



Robt A Cochran, jr
Amherst,
Mass.

to go in with him in the purchase
share and let you take hold
of it with him and farm. I
was afraid it would not suit
you and declined. What do you
think of it?

You must be well pleased with
the recent elections. The thing is
started with a boom that will
elect the next president in
1880 unless the Republicans make
some terrible mistake which
they are not likely to do.

I neglected getting a check for
you to meet your call for more
money in your last letter will
send you some during the
week. Recollect my injunction
about not spending any more money
than you can actually help. You must
see that your board bill is made
out & sent to me at end of term so
that it can be promptly paid. You must
look to the papers for the legal news. Our Court
is still in session. Have got Charles' house about repaired
since fire. All well & send love from affectionate
W. H. Lockman

Maysville Ky. Nov 9th 1879

My dear son

The weather has turned warm
again threatening rain yesterday and to
day but this morn'g it looks like
clearing off without it. It will be
terrible here and at Cincinnati and
indeed all along the river below
if we do not have a rise be-
fore cold weather sets in. Coal
is selling here at 18 + 20 cents
per bushel and there is very
little at that. At Cincinnati
it is 28 + 32 cents per bushel
as quoted in the papers.

Mrs. Nelson has lost her mind
in fact she is entirely insane
to day. It had been coming on
her for several weeks and had
got to such a pitch last Thursday

that we brought her up here and she and Miss Lizzie has been with us ever since. She is worse to day. They had concluded to quit house keeping and rent the house but had no idea that she was going entirely mad. They were about taking boarding at Mrs Pappas' who has rented the Arthur house at Rock Stockton's. How it will be if Mrs Nelson continues in her present condition or gets worse it is hard to tell. She may have to be taken to the asylum. She keeps saying all the time that she must go to the asylum. It is very hard on Miss Lizzie. She holds out very well and was looking better than usual but she is beginning to show the effects to day of her fatigue.

We have had a letter from James since his return home. They got home safely and are well. Saw Willie Jannay at Danville he as they passed through. Your Cousin James has bought land adjoining his place till he has now 500 acres of land in all - running from pike to pike on each side. He bought 300 acres last Monday and that was the reason that he had to hurry home. It was sold at public sale by order of court & he bought it for something over \$14 per acre - quite a bargain. When he was here he was talking of buying a part of it that had been run off next to him and they expected he wanted it & would pay a high price for it but I told him to buy it all and in that way get it cheap. He wanted one

Nov 18th
1879



Robt A. Cochran, jr.,
Amherst,
Mass.

He looks about as well as usual, but I suppose there is no doubt about his not being in good health.

Dear Brother Horace is now a pupil of Mrs Harrison. He seems very much pleased with her. Jamie and Willie are still delighted with Mr Richardson, and Mr P. says he never had a nicer school.

We do not hear anything from Willie January, Aunt Emma or Anna Douglas except on business. Aunt Lizzie is home again, but expects to go back again next month when Mary McConnell and Wat Sudduth are married, and will stay several weeks again.

Robbie you asked me in your last letter to send you a pair of blankets. Didnt you get those I sent, or do you mean you need another pair? Write me again as soon as you get this. I want to send you some warmer night shirts for winter, next week, and I will send the blankets with them.

You have had colder weather than we have had as yet, though it was pretty cool for a few days. I have filled my sheet and must sleep, with much love to your dear child from all.
Your loving Mother

Wayville Nov 16th 1879

My Dear Son

I was so drowsy after dinner, I had to lie down and take a nap, but do not feel much better for it, as I am still very stupid. We were disturbed last night, by the occurrence of another fire. Fires have become very common with us, and keep us feeling rather uncomfortable. The one last night occurred in a stable on the lot belonging to the Pogue & Duke Coal Co, in which we are interested somewhat. The fire was communicated to Ball's Laundry on the corner of Second and Limestone which was considerably injured and no insurance on it. The night was fortunately, calm, or there would have been great damage done. We have been having a great deal of wind lately. Indeed we have had the

the most singular weather I ever knew
for this time of the year. It has been so
warm, and such high winds, regular
March weather. We had a good rain
last week, which has been so much
needed. Our river is still at its lowest-
ebb, but we have accounts of a rise above
which we hope will bring the much
longed for coal.

Did you watch for the predicted
meteoric shower? I do you suffered
the same disappointment of many here.

We sat up half the night, and after going
to bed, your Pa was up and down several
times before morning, so it was a lost
night's rest. Willie's conclusion was,
that Professor Sic was a humbug
astronomer. I understood quite a
company of young people went out to
Mrs Chermich's house to keep watch.
I venture to say, they had their fun any
way.

Mrs Nelson and Lizzie Davis have
broken up house keeping, and are boarding
with Mr Pepper, who has taken the
house Mr Arthur left. They were
with us two or three days, while making
the change. You will be sorry to know
that Mrs Nelson is threatened with
the loss of her mind. Lizzie gave up
house keeping on that account, hoping
the change might have a good effect on
her another. She does not show much
difference as yet.

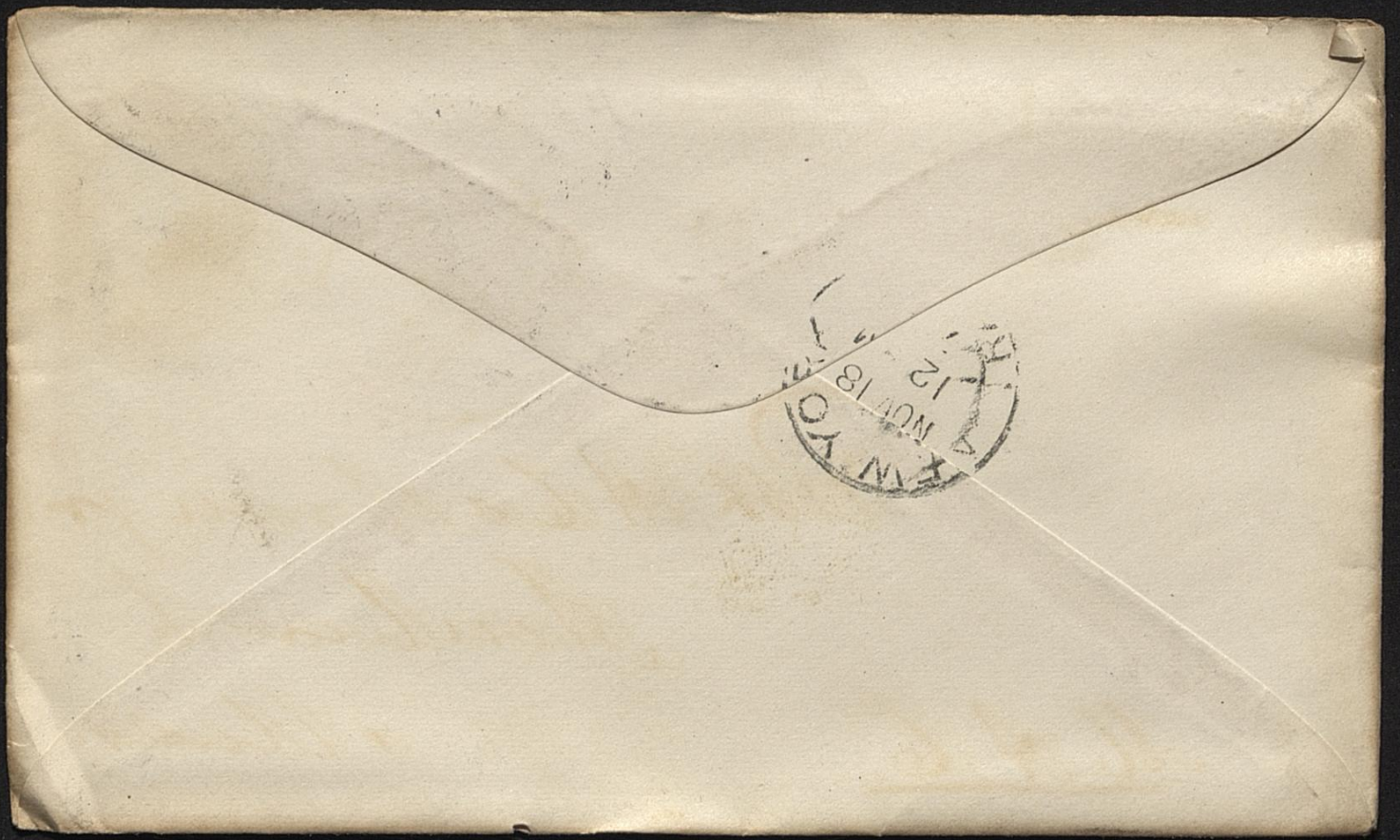
I was in the yard the other day setting
out my fall bulbs, when I was surprised
in looking up to see John Poyatz who
had stopped to speak to me. It seems
his return home had been mentioned
in the papers, but I had not noticed
it. His excuse for leaving the University
was, the state of his health. He says
he suffered so much with his head, the
physician told him he must give up study.

Nov 17
1879.



Robt A. Cochran jr.
Amherst,
Mass.

M.A.C.



the work commenced last winter, clothing
the poor children and getting them in the
Cabbach School.

We have at last had a little rise in the
river, sufficient to bring down some coal,
and we have news to-day, that there is
still another rise, which will let out
another coal fleet. We are very thankful
for this, as it was so much needed.

The children have had very bad colds.
Janie and Grace had to stay home
several days in account of them. I hope
they will be able to go tomorrow. Well.

Robbie, I feel, ^{as} if there was more I wanted to
say, but can't think what it is, as my sheet is
about filled any way, and I will have to close.

Write with me, Robbie dear, in a prayer of
thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for his past
mercies, and implore his love and protection
for the future. Love from all.

Your loving Mother

Maysville Nov 30th 1879

My Dear child

I find myself often
wondering what you are doing, to pass
away the time of your vacation, and
wish you could be with us. I hope
you got the box I sent, and that it af-
forded you some pleasure. Your Pa
wrote you a letter since then, enclosing
money you wanted. Robbie don't fail to
acknowledge your Pa's kindness in
furnishing you whatever you desire.

You know if he was like many a one,
he might deny ^{you} of money, except what
you actually need in the way of your
expenses. He is an affectionate and
indulgent father, one that is willing to
give his children all the advantages
within his power, and while he may
think you are a little too lavish with

your money sometimes, his confidence in you as a boy of principle and integrity of character is such, he does not fear you doing any thing really wrong. Your Pa is weighed down with business cares. It troubles me very much to see him so harassed in mind, and the accumulation of labor he will have this winter as a member of the legislature I dread very much. At his age he ought to have comparative rest in mind and body.

His great ambition is, that his children may all grow up to be good and useful men, and my earnest prayer is that he may be spared to see each one, to the youngest, established in life with characters founded upon the eternal principles of Christian integrity.

We have had Cousin William Austin with us for several days. He is attending to his insurance business. Thanksgiving day we had no one with us but Cousin

George Saylor, and poor fellow! what a day of suffering it was to him. I think he is growing worse. He seems very much depressed, it is sad to be with him.

Mrs Nelson and Lizzie ~~have~~ gone up the river to Mrs Nelson's sister, Mrs Smith. I am so glad Lizzie is with her aunt, as she can assist her more than any one else.

Mrs Nelson was no better so when she left, she had changed in, that she had become more quiet, and inclined to sleep a great deal. You remember the large engraving, Henry Clay speaking before the Senate, which hung in Mrs N's room. When they were breaking up, she had this picture sent up here, and said she wanted you to have it. I know you will appreciate the gift.

Last week the ladies of our church gave a supper for the benefit of the poor. The receipts only amounted to \$84, but this will help a good deal. We are continuing

Peers. Her remains were brought down from Richmond Va, last week. She has been in bad health for a long time. I have not yet heard any of the particulars of her death; as I went to Cin soon after the funeral.

Aunt Louie goes up tomorrow to attend Mary McCannell's wedding, which takes place on Thursday.

We are having a rainy spell now, which we enjoy, as it keeps up the river, so that we are getting plenty of coal. I expect our winter weather will begin about Christmas. When it comes, we will be able to enjoy it more, having there is plenty of fuel. Mr Savage is spending the Sabbath with us. He enquired kindly for you. There will be an annual meeting of the Mason Co Bible Society at our church tonight. All send you love my dear boy, and receive a double portion from your loving mother.

Mayville Dec 16th 1879

My Dear Son

By this time you are engaged in school again. I hope after your rest, you will begin with renewed vigor in your college duties. I am glad you enjoyed your boy with your friends. You do not speak of your roommate, Jackson. What has become of him?

Jamie and Willie have just had a week's vacation, which Mr Richeson gave the school, to enable him to accept an invitation tendered by Mr Haldeman of the Courier Journal to meet his old pupil, Ex President, General Grant.

Mr Haldeman wrote to Mr Richeson asking him to write a piece for his paper, giving his recollections of Grant as a schoolboy. This letter you will

see ⁱⁿ your Republican, I expect. We have not seen Mr R since his return. No doubt his visit was a great treat ~~to~~ to him. Andrew and I went to Cincinnati last week. I had a little shopping to do, and as your Pa was too busy to leave home, Andrew went in his place. We had the pleasure of seeing the distinguished hero of the day, and the procession which escorted him through the streets of the city. Horace is sitting by me, and wants me to tell you that I brought him a crossbow from Cincinnati. He is very proud of it. He says you must bring him a horse when you come home, and that he will send you money in a letter for that purpose.

The time is fast approaching for your Pa to leave home to take his seat in the Legislature. I dislike very much having him away from home. He thinks he

will probably come home at the end of every week, and spend Sabbath. This will relieve his absence considerably.

I suppose your Pa told you in his last letter, that our dear friend Mrs Nelson has passed away, and is now enjoying the rest prepared for those who love and serve ~~the~~ ^{the} Lord. Her death was not unexpected to me. I felt sure from the time she was taken sick, that she would not last long. Lizzie has gone home with her brother, and will likely make his house her home. How strange it is, to think of how completely that family has been broken up in so short a time. It shows us how uncertain is every thing connected with this life. The old and young pass away alike, and we should all heed the warning of our Master to, watch and be ready for whatever awaits us. You will ^{be} surprised to hear of the death of Charlotte

Dec 16th 17



Robt A. Cochran jr.

Amherst,

M. A. C. 13 St. Mass.

Mayeville Dec 28th 1879

My Dear Son

You see to what an ex-
-tremity I am reduced in the way of
paper, but two half sheets can I find.
Janie and Willie use so much, I can
never keep a supply on hand.

Well, Christmas has come and gone,
and wish it came cold weather. We
had had several days of pouring rain,
looked as though we might be washed
away. Christmas morn the rain
turned to snow, and it became sud-
-denly very cold. The water even froze
on the stone pavement, and the boys,
who had been longing for snow and
ice, (thinking it would be a dull
Christmas without it) were even try-
-ing their feet and sleds on it.

Honore slipped and fell, giving his
head a severe blow on the curbing on
the pavement. He complained of his

1870

head hurting him for some time, but he has now recovered from the effects of the fall. Cousin George, Aunt Louie and family and Mr Jaquith took Christmas dinner with us. Poor Cousin George did not take any dinner either, he was so sick he could not eat. There has been no gayety in the way of parties, I suppose the young folks are enjoying themselves in a quiet way. We are having a very high river now, there was some probability of an overflow, but I believe it is now falling. This rise gives us an abundance of coal for the rest of the winter.

I hope you received your boy in good order, and that your pants suit you, both as to the goods, and the fit of them. Mr Heekinger said he

had no more goods like your suit, but it seemed to me, from what I could recollect; the new pants would match very well.

I don't know what is the reason that I fail every time I make candy to send you. I make it sometimes for home, and they all say it is splendid. I had not time to make another trial, as the boy had to be started Monday night to reach you.

The caramels, I thought were pretty good. I hope you enjoyed them.

We have never received any report of your standing the first term of this year, why is it?

It seems Willie January has gone to Chicago to spend Christmas.

Your Pa did not say to him out to go, but gave him to understand his judgment to be, that he had better

stay where he was. They all seem determined to do as they please, however.

Tuesday morning, your Pa leaves for Frankfort: I do dislike so much to have him go away from home. I feel worse and worse about it, as the time approaches, for him to go. I do hope it may be a benefit to him. Andrew thinks the change will do him good, to break off from the continual annoyance he has in the office, of so many people running to him to talk about their affairs.

I forgot to tell you how the boys enjoyed their Christmas. In the first place they all got up at half past one, dressed themselves, and sat up the rest of the night. Their presents were not many, that is, there was not much variety, but they seemed to

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ushered in. Let our hearts go up to a
kind Providence in love and thanksgiving
for the tender mercies and loving kind-
nesses of the past; and a prayer for
the blessing of Heaven upon us in the
future, with resolves, by the help of
God to live lives more in accordance
with his will, that shall bear fruit to
the honor and glory of him, whose un-
"speakable gift" to a lost world, this
Christmas tide commemorates

Your Pa and Brothers send you much
love, dear Pottie, and accept a large
share from

Your affectionate Mother

well suited. Each of them got a box
of tools, (which they had been wanting
some times) and then quite a supply
of books. They have been kept busy
reading ever since. Horace has learned
to read right well, in words of one
syllable. Your Pa has promised
the children to have them a workshop
made in the smoke house. He will
have two windows cut, and an upper
room made, by having a floor laid, and
steps to go up in the inside. I think
it a very good idea, and the boys are
delighted with the prospect.

Before you get another letter from home
the old year will be numbered with
the things that were, and a new year

Dec 29th
1879



Robt A Cochran jr
Amherst
Mass.

M.A.C.