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Title: Letter from Charles Cleveland to Alexander Nisbet

Date: September 5, 1830

Location: I-ClevelandR-1978-1

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Dickinson College, Carlisle Penn. Sept 5. 1830

My Dear Sir.

My last letter to you was upon the subject of our institution, its present state and prospects.

I now write upon a subject, to me, of infinitely more importance, interest and endearment, and which, to you, my dear Sir, cannot be of ordinary regard. I presume that you already anticipate me, when I say that that subject is the mutual affection which exists between your niece Miss ^{McCook} Alison and myself. Almost at our very first meeting I found myself agitated by feelings that I never before had experienced. Those feelings have gained strength day by day, until now she has the full, deep, strong feelings of my whole soul, and if ever man was blessed with the pure, ardent, devoted love of woman, that man, I believe, is myself. I deem it my duty, my dear Sir, to be thus candid and explicit to you, not only, I trust, ^{as} to one who is my friend, but to the only uncle of one who is dearer to me than life. You are bound by nature and affection

to watch over her; to see that her warm feelings, her pure affections, her delicate sensibility, her lofty virtues are not exposed to be ruffled or wounded or blighted by one totally unworthy of her. May I then, my dear sir, in recollection of your past kindness towards me, feel confident that this step which has been taken will receive your fullest, warmest sanction in consideration both of my happiness and the welfare and happiness of your dear niece?

I have had a full conversation with your sister, who has no objections to make to the existing state of things.

But there is no unmingled joy on this side the grave. The delicate health of Helen now and then comes like a cloud over me, and depresses me to the earth. Her breast is quite weak, and I fear that, unless she be particularly careful of herself, and unless something more be done, I may be called to a trial which I pray God to keep far from me. Should I be called to drink the bitterest of all bitter cups, I fear I could not say "Thy will be done". But let me not dwell on this.

Mr + Mrs Mason are desirous that she should go to New-York. This I am convinced would not do for her. The climate is by far too cold + damp for one of her constitution. She feels this herself, and will by no means go. Indeed she is very reluctant to leave home. I know that you have been kind enough to invite her to spend the Winter with you. To this plan I am much more favour-

ally disposed. The climate of Baltimore is tolerably mild,
and the air balmy. But should she conclude to go,
(which I very much doubt) you will pardon me, my
dear sir, for saying that she ought to go as an in-
valid. If she should go and mingle in all the gaiety
of the city during the Winter it would be her death.
I would not, for ~~would~~, have her exposed to the
night air. It ought to be perfectly and fully
understood that she goes as an invalid for her
health, and not as a fashionable to expose it to
ruin. Besides, if she were ever so well, she would
^{not} wish to participate much in the gaiety of the season.
She always was averse to much company
and large parties, deriving her happiness
at home by the fire side, ⁱⁿ discharging her domestic
duties, ⁱⁿ cultivating her mental and moral powers,
and ⁱⁿ contributing to the comfort and happiness and
social enjoyment of those around her.

If I have written too freely, my dear sir, I trust
you will pardon me. The only apology that I can
offer is that my heart is full, and I have given
you its overflowings. Please remember me to Mrs. Kibbet.

With the highest respect and warmest esteem

I am, dear sir, your ~~faithful~~ servant
Charles Dexter Cleveland.

P. S. Shall we not have the pleasure of seeing you
here at Commencement?



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The Hon. Alexander N. S. Bates
Associate Judge of City Court

Baltimore
Maryland

Mail



C. D. Beardsley
Apr. 5. 1830

Dickinson College, Carlisle Penn. Sept 5. 1830

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If I have written too freely, my dear sir, I trust you will pardon me. The only apology that I can offer is that my heart is full, and I have given you its overflowings. Please remember me to Mrs. Nisbet.

With the highest respect and warmest esteem,

I am, dear sir, your [friend and?] servant

Charles Dexter Cleveland

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