

Heard  
B.P. Cox  
yesterday; a  
conciliator  
under Preacher  
without notes.  
Shows his  
Presb. training.

Le Roy, Genesee Co. N.Y.  
May 13, 1865.

My Dear Marvin:

I kind o' feel a desire to write, tho' without any particular reason. The weather has been grievously unpleasant; I can hardly help imbibing some sadness from it; to-day is pleasant.

I live an obscure & quiet, yet an active life, i.e. mentally active. Have received several letters from Cherry, once with me in the East, now Chaplain in Knoxville, E. Tennessee. He proposes to stay there when discharged, & go to Michigan to fetch his family; wants me to go; but offers no particular plan; will be on the look out. It is the "Switzerland of America", as he calls it; the climate agreeable, soil fertile, scenery charming; the Creator has been lavish of his favors, but devils live there. The Presb. ministers are generally disloyal; the other denominations are illiterate & disloyal too. The Colleges, Female Seminaries, &c. are to be built up anew; life will partake of the na-

ture of a struggle & a contest. My only objection is, it is too cold a region; wd rather go further South. Still, if a good opening presents itself, I may enter it.

My attention is more & more turned to this subject of emigration to the South. Have just been reading "In the Tropics", a vol. by a N. Yorker who has settled in Spanish Hayti as a small farmer; the bk is an acct of his first year's work, & the little paradise he has created. His doctrine is, that our race in the warm climates is to produce a new & higher civilization; I rejoice to find so strong a support to my doctrine; the unhealthiness too, of those climates, is a mere superstition, like the bohon apas. In Olmstead's Texas, I find the same thing; even Maine men work there, in the field, & are healthy; Germans, by the thousand, are healthier than at home. Only let the colony be a picked one, & the success will be complete & triumphant.

When a new country is to be settled, it is a grand opportunity; the neglect of it can not be repaired for generations. What say you? At

your age, a few years of diligent, moderate, physical labor, wd produce independence; for children for more; meanwhile, evangelical labors may be carried on, on the Sabbath; in old age, more exclusively. Cherry says \$2000 now in Tennessee wd make him independent. I mean to read, write, correspond, & inquire, on this subject, & send my son to explore. The Southern clergy, most of them, are going to fall under the displeasure of the blacks, & the Northern have their confidence. Congress is going to be urged, soon, to distribute lands among the soldiers; to guide & evangelize that mighty movement is to be a work compared with which the settlement of the West was a trifle.

Gave lately a thanksgiving discourse before Presb. & afterward the same in Le Roy Mh; audience large, of five denominations. Object, to show the war necessary; nothing else c'd save us; also, the changes likely to arise. This is one of the two or three times <sup>in my life, when</sup> I have had the privilege of preaching as I believe, without fear. Love to pour myself out, in these times. Some wince; but I am not now their poor abject slave as before. The

preaching of the Gospel in this manner glorifies God; this I have not understood. This is to be a prophet.

I am pleased to see, in our Evangelist, a re-actioe against the plan, lately popular, to unite Old & New School. We can not work with those Scotchmen; High Calvinism <sup>such by itself is bad enough, but</sup> & Pro-Slavery <sub>n</sub> together, make a mixture which we folks of New Eng. origin can't take. A premature union wd be sure to produce a violent explosion.

The Hours at Home, a monthly got up by numerous leading men of many evangelical denominations, at \$3. is, I think, going to be a fine thing. If you get 5 copies, you have a sixth gratis. It looks especially to the encroaching infidelity. But perhaps you have seen the circular.

To-morrow <sup>ev.</sup> have got to give an account of the Scripture Canon, & the MSS. & early printing of Bible, in a mixed sort of meeting, prayer, conference, &c. The people here are fond of these mixed services, & give a large attendance. You wd find them profitable.

The article in last N. Englander "Old Connecticut," &c. is capital. It smacks strong of Maslin.

The articles in the Bibliotheca by Sears & Beecher are interesting. — Charles Beecher's bk Redeemer & Redeemed I am reading with wonder; a strange bk.

The weather is cold; frosts heavy; a horrible climate.

Yours truly,

A. North.

I am a-  
bout fin-  
ishing the read-  
ing of Miller's  
hist. of postea  
Resolutions  
3 octavo. very  
the style is  
But my blood  
doeth, I see  
is gone too;  
prepar'd  
antiseptic  
a bitter

Le Roy, Genesee Co. N.Y.  
Aug. 7, 1865.

My Dear Marvin:

Your letter of the 4th I have just received; for some days I had that of writing. The Episc. minister of this place had showed me a paper containing an article by Dr. Atgton, unfriendly to the Council; so I wanted to know more about it. I was rather surprised to find him capable of any thing so controversial. I have read nothing except the articles in the last New Englander. The Report you speak of, I sh'd like.

It was a good thought — that National meeting. There is certainly in your denomination a boldness & buoyancy found in no other. One grand use of it, in the scheme of Providence for enlightening this nation, is, I have no doubt, the striking out of sparks of new things, to kindle upon others whose polity is colder. Western N. York is a very different region. Here all is stereotyped, old, fixed; feeling or thinking is unknown.

Your idea of a black school in Memphis I like. Hope your buildings will be fire proof. Nothing wd please me better than to take my sisters & children, counting five or six teachers, & get up a large common school tributary to it, if I c'd get some cotton land to make it self-supporting; but the time has not come. My thoughts, now-a-days, are turned away from the South to California; intend to send son thither to explore soon. Nothing can make life tolerable at the South, except the police of a city, or a large colony of Northern people in the country. There is a very nice <sup>California</sup> woman visiting in Le Roy; her husband is living in San Francisco, but wishing to move into the delicious rustic independence of the country; her eloquence & great intelligence, have taken me captive. I shall never be content with this hideous climate.

The search after funds you are about to make, while a hard, & in some respects a disagreeable service, will have in it a compensation, in the new acquaintance it will give, with men & things. Rest from sermon-composing, you will find, as I have found, wonderfully strengthening. A min-

ister lately hinted to me: You compose now & then, at  
your leisure, a thumper, & then come into our pulpits &  
let it off. Nothing can be more pleasing to my  
malice & ugliness, than to run with my broom a-  
gainst the dust & cobwebs of this place. Lately  
gave a Lec. on Noah's prophecy to a large audi-  
ence, sweeping away their superstitious nonsense  
with my Hengstenberg-ian exegesis, & a historical ac-  
count of Canaan, Japheth's enlargement, &c. with the  
application to American slavery. They were aston-  
ished to hear, that there is not a shadow of proof  
that the negroes <sup>we</sup> descended from Ham, still less from  
Canaan; & that there is some probability of their  
turning out to be Japhet-ites.

A citizen here generously gave me \$3 a few  
weeks since, to pay for the first year of The Na-  
tion, a new paper started in N. York; have re-  
ceived four Nos. all talented. The list of con-  
tributors is highly respectable. The form is  
4to. 32 pages, excellent for binding.

A fine pew, worth \$30, is presented to me for  
the ensuing year, by some unknown friends; &  
I must not go prying about, to find out who  
they are. The Noah lec. I have no doubt had

something to do with it. — It wd be indeed a very agreeable position to occupy, to have independent support, & talk & preach as you please, only have a secret friend in the pastor. Such a man wd be the very worst possible to the Copperheads; they c'd not displace him on some hypocritical plea. He wd influence all the chhs in the place, & in a few years produce a great change.

The singing affair in old Rindge was interesting, as given in the newspapers.

Taylor, of Madras Mission, will be here to-night; shall have a fine time asking him questions about my Hindoo boys: The learned <sup>mathematical</sup> Edellman, Winfred, eloquent Barnes, devout Rowland, metaphysical Edwards, sweet little Willathumby, &c. Being Caucasians, they vary like ourselves in character; they are not like Chinamen & Malays, a dead level.

Our two teachers <sup>for vacation</sup> are gone to N. England: One to Mass. the other to N. Hampshire mountains. — Both have written to me. Western, may Eastern N. York, can not produce such men.

I shall want to hear of yr adventures here & there, in old Massachusetts — how you get into rich men's pockets & the like.

Your very affectionately,  
A. North



Please  
not write  
tell of my  
you of my P.O.

Note by S. H. N.  
Jan. 1909.

The  
expressed herein  
country church  
people

was a  
hobby, and  
did great  
harm to my  
father. It  
wd. have been  
better if he had  
sympathized  
with our  
loved the  
people

Le Roy, Genesee Co. N.Y.

Feb. 7, 1866.

My Dear Moroin:

Common  
Sense  
Pres.  
Lincoln.

This moment I have received your letter; this moment I answer it. Many thanks for the face; it is an excellent one; I'd not help laughing heartily - why I can't tell; you had jumped out of the letter a live man. The portly domine is so unlike the slim little fellow of '32! This will be kept among my family treasures.

I am off for Kansas, Providence willing, by the 20th! The South is inaccessible; such is their rage, I do not venture. The part of Kansas whither I go, is exactly the latitude of Washington, but warmer, & by reason of the cool nights, healthier. The people are all loyal; the Kansas outrage has done a good work; the pro-slavery rowdies are not tolerated.

My noble boy is up the Republican River 15m. from Junction City, on a fine Homestead

lot. I go to suffer hardship with him, & to do hard work, to get him started; the family I leave here, till we make ready for them. He wishes for no separate interest. To plunge into the wilderness, perhaps for two or three years, is a serious thing. Many remonstrates. I ask: "What wd you do? go into one of these mean, jealous, small minded, tyrannical chhrs, of Western N. York? — starved a year or two, & then kicked out?" They are dumb with amazement — the known truth, the irreverent boldness, the unexpected utterance of their secret thoughts — I am amused with their awful silence; not another word of argument.

Then my consumptive children must be got out of this dreadful climate, & my hankering for out-door work must be gratified. And I must have a home. I shall utter voices to you, out of the solitude.

Shall have sent to us three papers: Evangelist, N.Y. Times, The Nation, for which I write a little. It is a magnificent paper.

I watch with the deepest interest our Cou-

gress—the decenterest we have ever had. I have no room for doctrine.

Some rich men near me, owning extensive lands in Kansas intimate that they will do well by me, if I will lead my colony on to their tract. They own on the Osage, the Neo'sho, & in S.E. Kansas, in the cotton & coal regions. Whether any thing will come of it, remains to be seen. Shall report to you my Kansas fortunes.

Campbell has accepted a call from Elmwood's or Central Chh, Rochester, much more important & desirable than his Utica chh. It is more apostolic & excellent than any other chh. Salary, I believe, 2000.

Here in Le Roy there is some attention to religion; 40 children came last Monday to the children's inquiry meeting.

Campbell assents to my ~~idea~~<sup>doctrine</sup> that systematic theology, as the idea of the earlier half the century, is giving place to the Incarnation as the idea of the second half. This will affect his preaching in his new & very high position. We have been corresponding about it. This

idea has of course come in from occult causes & complex; Isaac Taylor has been the chief interpreter: Christianity is historical, he says, not doctrinal. This, once apprehended, has a tendency to generate deep convictions.

Preached lately in Le Roy Presb. Chh; audience very large. Attention close. I sometimes doubt of burying myself; but I go from a conviction of duty.

Hist. professorship in Western N.Y. is an idea  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. before the time; it c'd not be done.

Hope Carrie will get opportunity to read Palfrey, a most pleasant bk.

Keep me informed about the enterprise you are in.

Do not send the volume now; it will not reach me. I shall be absent, too, it may be, from our ordinary place in Kansas, on an exploring trip on the Osage, immediately after our crop is in. Leisure more likely next winter; if earlier, I will give notice.

I go with trembling.

Love to mother & daughters.

A. North.

This letter reveals  
the impractical,  
imaginary, char-  
acter of the writer,  
which is to some  
extent in his  
grandchild's  
perpetrated  
their children &  
day dream, in  
The Optimism  
as to the out-  
come, betrays  
utter is no more  
of the condi-  
tions to be  
met, and  
was fore-  
ordained to  
complete  
disappoint-  
ment.  
S.H. W.

My Dear Marvin:

March 27, 1866.

Gatesville, Clay Co. Kansas.

Here I am, in a log cabin,  
in the land of Kansas, more than 1100 miles  
away from home. Have been here about four  
weeks. Was whirled away, swiftly & comfort-  
ably, on the rail-road, as far as Topeka the capital,  
where the Pacific ends for the present; the rest of  
the way, some 70m. by stage, was uncomfortable;  
one's position unchangeable & aching. At Cin-  
cinnati, found there wd be no train till night;  
the day was before me; took the Walnut Hills  
omnibus & went out to see a cousin; found her  
living on the Theol. Sem. premises; was introduced to  
Pres. Day; he showed me the fine new library build-  
ing, with its excellent new library; took me in his  
buggy back to the city & showed me the public  
library; here we found Bp. McIlwaine; had a good  
talk. He is exceedingly affable. Talked of Bp. Wilson  
&c. &c. — Went through Southern Indiana in the night;  
saw nothing of it. Southern Illinois is a disgusting

region; the prairie a dead level; a sea of mud; the villages made up of hovels & filth; the people half savage; by census one third can not read. — St. Louis is magnificently built, but very muddy; in the summer, the mud becomes suffocating dust. The Cathedral is a very ordinary & small affair. — Kansas City is an execrable mud-hole, the last town in Missouri. When we had crossed the river, & fairly <sup>got</sup> into Kansas, the snow disappeared; the air was soft & warm; the prairie not like Illinois, but rolling, & frequently interrupted by woods & limestone bluffs; scenery good. At Topeka, Rev. Mr. McVicker, Congreg. minister, took me from the filthy hotel & its \$3 a day, to his own house; inquired into my history; made me address his people Sab. eve. on *Gaudia*; large chh full; many members of Legislature present. In the morning, Prof. Bowker of Topeka College, occupied the pulpit; a nice young man, but his elocution needs tinkerling. — McV. seemed to wonder at my going into the wilderness; hinted at unoccupied pulpits round about; I told him I was set on an independent home. The Congregationalists have possession of the State; N.S. Presb. hardly any chhs. At Junction City, fortunately found a man going up

i.e. West

the Republican River, on our <sup>side</sup>; took me straight to Tommy's cabin. He came out with a broad smile; hair, moustache, & beard, shaggy; but the same soft-spoken & kind Tommy still. Has grown tall & muscular. We lay awake most of the night, talking of plans & labors. In the morning, got me a breakfast of "corn dodgers", a rube Johnny cake, fried pork shoulder, & boiled potatoes, all good; but we can not eat potatoes at \$2 per bushel; must keep them to plant. Prices here are enormous; onions \$4 per bushel; you wd laugh to see me in a German knit monkey jacket, for weeks dropping onion seed; & in the fall a smoky fellow boiling sorghum. We are putting in corn, potatoes, sorghum, onions, <sup>also</sup> melons; beets & carrots for our horses & cows. Our lot is finely situated on the river, soil astonishingly rich. A State road is surveyed to run just west of us, from June City northward; we shall be a mile or two from it; the Pacific rail road 20 mi. from us, & probably a branch <sup>rail-</sup>road in sight of our windows. This road afterward cut our dooryard in twain. G. H. N. All garden stuffs find an eager market at June City, at incredible prices; men in our neighborhood bring home \$100 for a single load. In the spring of '67 we hope to have a large hot-bed;

early tomatoes bring \$4 a bushel; melons are grabbed especially at Fort Riley. Our Homestead land, which we get for nothing, is 176<sup>2-3</sup> acres; to this I expect to add 143, of which 80 are valuable timber for \$1200, a splendid possession for Kansas; this will make 320 acres on the river. Next fall we break up 50 or 60, & fence it during the winter, Tommy splitting the rails, & I nailing the durable red cedar posts; in the spring it will be soft ploughing, & produce a fine crop of corn, sorghum, & potatoes, worth 2 or \$3000; that fenced field, with a plank house, will be the independent home we seek, Providence permitting. Tommy aims at wealth from stock-raising; I tell him I dare not think of wealth; I only seek such a competency as will enable me to buy an overcoat, a riding pony, a great history or commentary, to go a journey, or help a sister, without anxious calculations & fears. I want to see my girls & boys ride out, in a summer's morning, across the flowery prairie, & the ponies they prance on, costing only the free prairie grass & carrots of our own raising, 1000 bushel to the acre. But I will not bore you with all these vulgar particulars; remember, the fundamental idea is, escape from the detestable tyranny of the country chrs. There is no tyranny like democratic tyranny. — The people here, (some Vermonters) seem pleased to have me among them. Have preaching every Sab. Alternate with Jacobus, a Congri. minister from Gene. City, a good young fellow, rather green in sermonizing. Fifty heavens will soon be 100, when it is noised further around. At noon, hold a Bible Class. The sweets of teaching, & stand on my own feet, are inexpressible; hope I shall not show it in my manner. — The climate here is so healthy, that they have a rude saying: "It is necessary to kill a man to start a baying ground!" — How do you get along in yr agency? Now you may send me the pamphlet. — Love to wife & daughters.

Yours very affectionately,  
A. North