

HERMAN VEEDER (1830–1895)

DIARY

JANUARY 1, 1858–SEPTEMBER 14, 1858

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Herman Veeder

Florence, Douglass County

Nebraska Territory

Received from N[icholas]¹ Veeder²

(5th)

Jan[uar]y. 5th 1858³

[fly leaf]

THE
POCKET DIARY
FOR
1858.

New-York:
PUBLISHED BY CARLTON & PORTER,
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[title page]⁵

¹ Brackets are used to complete certain abbreviations—in these cases the information is supplied only in the first instance. Occasionally we will also supply a full word in brackets that seems to have been unintentionally left out in Veeder's shorthand and without which the sentence does not make sense. These are supplied as often as needed.

² Nicholas Veeder was Herman's brother.

³ "5" written over "4" in "5th", blurring the number, which is likely why Veeder wrote it above the line in parentheses.

⁴ Information on this page is printed in the diary.

⁵ Not transcribed: 1858 calendar on recto of following page; a list of "Other Periodicals of the Methodist Episcopal Church" on the recto of the page after that; and information about the publishers on the verso of that page. The diary record begins on the recto of the next page.

Nebraska Territory.⁶**Daily Memoranda**⁷**Florence** FRIDAY, January 1. **1858.**

The weather, today, has been very auspicious, so glorious, so befitting the opening of the new year. A bright clear sky, and a cool bracing air, have made it delightful.

The morning was spent in posting my books, balancing cash, and taking off a trial balance, all of which came out right, with but little trouble.

I spent a good deal of the afternoon, in tinkering on my lounge.

There was a fine concert, this evening, at the Willet House,⁸ followed by a very good supper, a pleasant dance, which was kept up until **4 or 5 o'clock.**⁹ in the morning, although Hannah¹⁰ and I left considerably earlier.

SATURDAY, January 2.

The weather of today, like that of yesterday, has been surpassingly beautiful.

My dissipation of last night, made me rather unfit for work today, I've done but little besides a few chores, and looking over some papers.

This evening, I put a pair of boats¹¹ on my lounge.

[p. [1]]

Florence SUNDAY, January 3. **1858.**

As usual, this has been a very lovely day, and as usual, Hannah and I didn't get to church, as we were too sleepy, being yet affected by our Friday night's dissipation.

As our lounge needed a little more tinkering, I attended to it, and then gave the parlor a good sweeping and dusting.

⁶ All font rendered in bold indicates text Veeder wrote out in longhand.

⁷ This header and all date headers are printed in the diary, except for location and year information which appears in bold. Veeder added these in longhand.

⁸ A large residence of some distinction. Many events, including the elections, were held here. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 29.)

⁹ "o'clock", or elsewhere "oc", is Veeder's abbreviation for "o'clock".

¹⁰ Herman's wife, Hannah Adair Veeder (ca. 1835–1874). (1850 U. S. Census, Ohio, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 382B; 1870 U.S. Census, Plattsburgh, Clinton, New York, 509B.)

¹¹ Possibly "buttons" or "boots".

I've been waiting and choring some besides.

MONDAY, January 4.

Commenced getting milk of Driver.

Such¹² weather has, for a long time, seemed too lovely to last, but we are still blessed with it.

The morning was spent mostly in helping Hannah with household matters this afternoon, I put up a shelf in the kitchen, with steps¹³ under it for hanging up our tinware on.

Mr. and Mrs.¹⁴ Parker, McLane, McCosh and Camel¹⁵ spent the evening with us, and we talked and sang and played, to a late hour.

[p. 2]

TUESDAY, January 5. **1858.**

The same record of the weather is repeated day after day, beauty loveliness and genial warmth of this day, has made it one of the finest days, hitherto.

I was busy all of the morning in choring errand, and in splitting up a load of wood, which I got sold.

This afternoon, I finished tinkering at my rack for the tinware, and this evening, Hannah and I went over and spent¹⁶ a pleasant evening at Mr. Parker's.

I had the pleasure of receiving this diary, by mail tonight, and therefore will have but little trouble in transcribing the notes for the first four days.

This evening, the wind has changed, and it promises to be the coldest night, that we've had for a considerable time.

¹² Veeder appears to have reversed the "ch" symbol for its exact opposite, "p", writing "Sup", but "Such" seems to be the probable intent.

¹³ Written "stips", but apparent intent is "steps".

¹⁴ Veeder's symbols for "Miss" and "Mrs." are almost indistinguishable throughout the first half of the diary. Where we have transcribed "Mrs.", it's possible "Miss" was intended and vice-versa. Later on in the diary, Veeder began using a clearer symbol for "Mrs.", which distinguishes it from "Miss". For names that have the clear "Mrs." applied in the latter part of the diary, we have applied "Mrs." in the fore part of the diary as well.

¹⁵ Proper names are often difficult to transcribe accurately. Occasionally Veeder wrote names out in longhand at some point in the diary, which clarifies spellings of certain names written in shorthand elsewhere. And where possible, we have verified many of the proper names through historical records. However, many names could not be verified, and it is possible that some spellings and pronunciations of proper names throughout the diary are inaccurate.

¹⁶ Possibly "to spend".

WEDNESDAY, January 6.

Last night was quite a cold night, and the air has been sharp today, and this evening, it is very sharp, making the ears tingle and the hands ache, being the first really cold night, for nearly a month.

I spent the morning, in choring, in getting in a load of wood.

This afternoon I was in the office, and did a little at getting up an article of agreement with Sinclair¹⁷ in regard to our partnership.

This evening, Hannah and I, with quite a large number of other citizens, made up a "surprise party", at Smith's, he having been selected as the victim; but someone not being able to hold the secret, had given the hint, and a very fine entertainment was provided.

We had a very nice time, and Hannah and I were the first to leave at about **12½ o'clock**.¹⁸

[p. 3]

Florence THURSDAY, January 7. **1858.**

This has been a pleasant day, though rather cloudy, not nearly so cold as yesterday.

Hannah needing rest, remained in bed, I got a late breakfast, and at time for opening the office, I spent a good deal of time, in making the fire, sweeping and dusting, but sat down, to do some writing but have been engaged with visitors, in the office, until nearly closing time, and I haven't done much, accomplished nothing of importance today. After closing, I wrote a letter to Peter, of about four pages¹⁹ in length.

Sinclair came by from Omaha, this evening, and said that there had been a grand fracas, at the **Capitol**.

FRIDAY, January 8.

I've the same story to chronicle of the weather, which has, today, been as bright and beautiful as ever.

¹⁷ Likely George Sinclair, who was on the board of directors of the Cleveland Land Company with Dr. Levi Harsh, James C. Mitchell, and others. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 32.)

¹⁸ A number followed by "½" is the shorthand abbreviation for the half hour, in this case, 12:30.

¹⁹ Veeder has confused the "p" and "ch" symbols, as well as the "b" and "j" symbols, and written "chabes", but the probable intent seems to be "pages".

I spent the morning in choring around, at my wood-pile. This afternoon, and evening, I wrote a long letter to Nicholas of **8** pages.

Florence has been all astir and in great glee, today, both branches of the legislature, having decided to adjourn from Omaha, and to hold their meeting here, where they could be at peace, and be unmolested by an Omaha mob.²⁰

We gave **2** or **3** members, their lodging, until the close of the session, on the **16th** instant.

[p. 4]

SATURDAY, January 9. **1858.**

Our beautiful weather, still continues, and this day, has been pleasant alike with the rest. Agreed to the adjournment of yesterday, the disaffected portion of the legislature came up here, today, and commenced their meetings, in a couple of fine large store rooms, which answer the purpose admirably. After disposing of my chores, and looking over the papers, I set to work and to get up a sketch of the recent evening, in order to send them to the Pittsburgh Gazette, which has about taken up all the time not necessarily otherwise devoted. Hannah and I gave ourselves a good washing all over, tonight.

SUNDAY, January 10.

At last, the magic spell of beautiful weather, for the past **4** weeks, is broken, and, today, we had a steady rain, which turned, this evening, to snow, and now the earth is white.

After a late breakfast, I spent a good while in the kitchen, this morning, in cleaning up some dust holes,²¹ and in rearranging some tinware **&c.**

This afternoon, and evening, after a **3½ o'c** dinner, I spent the time

²⁰ On 7 January 1858, a violet session of the territorial legislature resulted in the majority of the legislature unofficially moving from Omaha to Florence. The new governor, William Richardson, was called on to recognize their action, but he refused to do so, and the legislature adjourned in Omaha. (Richardson, William Alexander, http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/public/state_governors/richardson.pdf.)

²¹ Household waste was often placed in holes called dust holes. It was later collected by dust-men or householders, who carted it away to dust-yards or rubbish heaps. (Costas A. Velis et al., *19th century London dust-yards: A case study in closed-loop resource efficiency*, 2.)

in the office, getting in late matter from Sinclair, for my letter to the Pittsburgh Gazette, and in finishing and press copying it.

[p. 5]

Florence MONDAY, January 11. **1858.**

It seems as if, our weather could not keep unpleasant, and we've today enjoyed a bright clear sky, and gently cold air.

I set to work immediately after breakfast at getting in a good load of wood, both for house and office. This done, and the office nicely cleaned up, I went, at **11 o'clock**, and spent an hour in watching proceedings of the legislature, which were rather interesting.

After dinner, I sat down, in the office, read the papers a little, and then dozed for a time. Then locking up the office early, I went to Mr. Fosset's,²² then picked over my potatoes that are in his cellar.

A good part of the evening has been spent in writing up my diary, and in cash account.²³

TUESDAY, January 12.

The day was not quite so bright as usual, but moderately cold and quite pleasant.

I made up some accounts for Sinclair, to take east with him, and discussed some articles of agreement, with him.

I spent two hours at noon, in trying to get a settlement of account with **O. B. Selden**,²⁴ which I finally succeeded in.

We had McLane and Mrs. Parker at dinner with us.

I spent the evening until midnight in the office, fixing up matters with Sinclair, as he starts east tomorrow.

[p. 6]

WEDNESDAY, January 13. **1858.**

As usual, we've had a beautiful day. The weather can't be anything else than pleasant.

I was busy with sundry business matters until Sinclair got off at about **9½ o'clock**. and then sat at my desk writing reading

²² Likely Charles L. Fosset of Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 28.)

²³ This symbol is badly formed but appears to be "account".

²⁴ A Florence resident about whom there was some election controversy. James C. Mitchell suggested the possibility that Selden voted illegally in the 3 August 1857 elections. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 5.)

until closing time this afternoon.

I then gave the office a good sweeping and dusting out, since which I've done some domestic chores **&c.**

THURSDAY, January 14.

The weather continues as pleasant as ever. We again have enough cold weather, to keep meat, ought to be bracing to the health.

Spent some time in getting up the papers for a business settlement with Smith. I also overhauled some papers and notes, and discovered a note falling due on the **18th**, that would have been overlooked.

I got a letter from Nicholas.

There was a dance and supper at the Willet House, tonight, but I didn't attend.

[p. 7]

Florence FRIDAY, January 15. **1858.**

There was a pretty hard frost last night, followed by a fine day.

I spent a good part of the day, in getting in wood, in choring, and spent a little time in the office.

The citizens gave a supper of champagne and oysters at the Willet House tonight, to the legislature. Governor Richardson,²⁵ with Colonel Parker²⁶ and Gilmore²⁷ of the Omaha land office, were present by invitation, and they had a fine time according to report.

As it was to be a champagne and oyster supper, I refused to have anything to do with it, the men only attending, and there being every prospect of a grand drunk. But they concluded, at a late hour, to get supper short, before they were all too drunk, and to get in some ladies for a dance. Hannah and I went over, and spent a couple of hours quite pleasantly.

²⁵ William Alexander Richardson (1811–1875) was governor of Nebraska Territory in 1858. (Richardson, William Alexander, http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/public/state_governors/richardson.pdf.)

²⁶ Colonel John A. Parker (1804–1894) was appointed Register of the Land Office for Nebraska Territory in 1856. He apparently resigned the post in 1857, after disagreements over President Buchanan's handling of issues in the area. (Virginia Historical Society, *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 13, No. 1, July., 1905, 81–86.)

²⁷ Colonel Addison R. Gilmore (1804–1866) was the first agent in the first U.S. land office, established April 1857 in Omaha. He was later mayor of Omaha, 1865–1866. (Julius Sterling Morton, *The Conservative*, vol. 3, No. 31, 7 Feb, 1901; <http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/gilmore.html>.)

SATURDAY, January 16.

The sun has been very gracious, today, and shone out finally.

I had a call from Gen[era]l Larimer²⁸ this afternoon,

He made quite a little visit with Hannah and myself.

I spent a short time this afternoon, at the legislature.

Mr. Parker had the honorable at his house this evening,

and we had a very good time. At about **11 o'clock** the men went

to the capitol, to attend the closing scenes, which were quite interesting and were

mingled with a good deal of fun.

[p. 8]

SUNDAY, January 17. **1858.**

It was not so sunny as usual, and was moderately and pleasantly cold.

Having been out late, for **2 or 3** nights past, Hannah and I

slept soundly until noon.

I then got most of the dinner, and slept most of the afternoon.

MONDAY, January 18.

Last night was quite cold, for this time, and day has been bright.

between **9 & 10 o'clock A.M.**, Parker got out his carriage,

and took Hannah Ms. Parker and myself, with him, to Omaha.

Having disposed of a little business there, and some dinner, McLane

and I went with the ladies, and made several calls, which took up

most of our time. Getting back in good season, I protested an

unpaid note. This evening's mail brought me a letter from

Hart²⁹ and Norton, from which I hope to get some of my money

from them in a short time.

[p. 9]

Florence TUESDAY, January 19. **1858.**

This has been a lovely day, — one of the finest days of the season.

I spent all of the morning, in getting in wood, and doing a little

²⁸ William H. Larimer Jr. (1809–1875) was a general in the Pennsylvania State Militia and thereafter went by the title of "General." In the 1850s he settled in Kansas Territory near Leavenworth. In November 1858 he helped found the city of Denver, Colorado. The historic shopping and dining center, Larimer Square, in Denver is named after him. (Denver, Colorado, History, http://208.42.235.74/aboutdenver/history_char_larimer.asp; Larimer Square, <http://www.larimersquare.com/history/>.)

²⁹ Possibly "Harte".

choring. I tried to do some work in the office, but was interrupted so much, that I accomplished scarcely anything. I slept a good part of the evening away, while George read aloud to Hannah, the story of the "Virginians" in Harper.

WEDNESDAY, January 20.

Brig This has been a bright and beautiful day.

I intended to devote this day, to writing up my diary, and accounts, which are shamefully behind hand, but Dr. Harsh,³⁰ who is now occupying the office again, after his long sickness, had a great many visitors, and this, with his own talkativeness have kept me from getting anything done. This evening, we all attended a surprise party at Mr. 's.³¹ As in the case of Mr. Smith, someone had given them the hint, and they were ready for us, with a well prepared house, and a fine entertainment. We stayed until nearly **2 o'clock A. M.**

[p. 10]

THURSDAY, January 21. **1858.**

Last night, it froze gently, and the day has been lovely as could be, being quite warm, some of the time.

I spent the morning in scalding the beef brine, in hanging up some dried beef, in sundry other chores.

This afternoon, I spent considerable time, after dinner, in singing and playing on the violin,³² with Hannah and Mr. McLane, after which

I succeeded in getting some minutes for my diary written up.

³⁰ Dr. Levi Harsh (ca. 1827–1885) was a physician living in Florence in 1858. He was also mayor of the city, managed the elections at Florence on 2 August 1858, served on the board of directors of the Cleveland Land Company, and apparently owned a drug store. (Nebraska Contested Election, Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress, 7, 32; <http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15330coll27/id/452467/rec/14> Reports of Committees of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-fifth Congress, 1858–59; <http://history.denverlibrary.org/research/fiftyniners/H.html>.)

³¹ Likely James C. Mitchell (ca. 1810–?), who moved to Florence around 1854 and served on the board of directors of the Cleveland Land Company with George Sinclair, Dr. Levi Harsh, and others. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 5.)

³² Possibly "viola".

FRIDAY, January 22.

The air today has been just like an April day, and towards noon it commenced rain, and has continued almost without stop since.

The day has passed in choring, music, in balancing cash, — which is \$8. short, as I've neglected it shamefully lately, — and in writing up my diary, which I've also attended to, but shabbily, although so far as it goes, it is correct.

This evening, I made out some legal papers, after which I picked up a stray dollar.

[p. 11]

Florence SATURDAY, January 23. **1858.**

The rain, which commenced yesterday noon, continued through the night, and it has been cloudy today, considerable rain has fallen through the day.

I've been at work nearly all day, at doing some finishing touches on my lounge, which I had got so far made, as to be fit for use, and then did nothing more to it, for a time.

SUNDAY, January 24.

We got up late, as usual on Sundays, and I found that considerable rain had fallen in the night, but, although it's been cloudy today, little or no more rain has fallen, and the evening gives promise of a clear morning³³ I've done but little, through the day, besides looking over and reading papers, and cutting out scraps.

[p. 12]

MONDAY, January 25. **1858.**

The weather of today has been very much mixed. The sun arose brilliantly, and the morning was as bright and beautiful and balmy as a lovely spring day, but it grew cloudy in the afternoon, , and we are this evening, having a strong cold northwest wind.

I've written several business letters, today, disposed of some errands down street, posted up my books, and done some chores.

The evening mail brought me some letters, which I've been

³³ Symbol is cut off on right side. The initial "mor" is fairly clear, but the "r" is partially cut off. An "i" vowel following the "r" is visible, but the end of the word is cut off. However, from the context, "morning" seems to be the probable intent.

answering.

TUESDAY, January 26.

This day has been as lovely as the heart could desire.

I commenced work, today, by emptying and removing some meat barrels that I've been standing in the office, and then washed and scrubbed up the floor of a portion of the office.

I then got in some wood, after which, I set to work in Sinclair's bedroom, to take up the carpet, and clean up and arrange things there, which job, I didn't complete, on account of some interruptions.

This evening, Hannah and I practiced music some, together, and I read aloud, a good portion of "Taming the Shrew".

[p. 13]

Florence WEDNESDAY, January 27. **1858.**

The sun arose clear and beautiful, but it grew cloudy, this afternoon, and there was a little rain, and this evening, there is a cold strong northwest wind.

This morning passed away in getting in wood, doing chores, running on errands.

This afternoon, I finished cleaning up and arranging Dr. Harsh's room.

Hannah spent the afternoon with Mrs. Fosset, and I went in time to take supper and spent the evening. We had a nice supper, and spent quite a pleasant evening.

I got a letter from Hart and Norton saying they had sent me up express³⁴ \$150., which I am very glad to know.

THURSDAY, January 28.

The very fine weather we've been having seems to have, at last, yielded to a considerable degree, to more reasonable winter weather, and this has been a cold raw windy day.

The day has passed away, in getting in wood, sweeping out, doing a little papering, and tinkering around in various ways.

[p. 14]

³⁴ Written "extress", but probable intent seems to be "express".

FRIDAY, January 29. **1858.**

The weather now is not so mild and uniform as it has been, and we are having clouds, and rain and very slight flurries of snow.

Choring reading the papers &c. took up the morning.

This afternoon, I wrote several letters, some of which, I dated³⁵ tomorrow. Among others, I wrote to cousin Fanny Alvert.

SATURDAY, January 30.

The weather of today, has been rather mixed. Cloud, and sunshine have alternated through the day. Choring, I've been hard at work, all day, tinkering, and ~~have at last got my lounge done. With a few other~~ which took up the morning, and part of the afternoon, and I then made a shelf above the kindling box, in the kitchen, which promised to be one of the most useful fixtures there.

[p. 15]

Florence SUNDAY, January 31. **1858.**

The weather out of doors, was rather pleasant today.

I haven't done much, today, but to look over the papers, lounged about, &c..

As usual, Hannah and I stayed at home from church.

This evening, we finished reading aloud, "Taming the Shrew."

MONDAY, February 1.

The smallest possible³⁶ flurry of snow fell, today, but it has been rather pleasant.

I was intending to do some office work, today, but got started on my lounge, which I've at last finished.

Among other matters, I also stitched on, rather tied up a comforter,³⁷ to be used as the cover of the lounge.

Miss Kennedy came and practiced on the piano, and George

³⁵ Word appears to be written as two separate symbols: "day" and possibly "ted".

³⁶ Actually written "pobble", but probable intent seems to be "possible".

³⁷ Appears to be written "confert" or "comfort", but possible intent could be "cover".

McCosh also, spent the evening with us.

[p. 16]

TUESDAY, February 2. **1858.**

The day was pleasant, though cloudy, but a cold northwest wind has sprung up this evening, and we will have a bitter night.

The morning was taken up [by] sundry chores, as getting in wood, feeding the chickens &c., and in doing a little tinkering.

This afternoon, I balanced cash, and closed up the books for the end of the month.

This evening, I wrote up my diary, and read a little.

George McCosh, who has been boarding with us about **2 mos.** Started on an eastern trip, and will be absent about six weeks.

WEDNESDAY, February 3.

This has been the coldest day that we've had for a long time, but there was some sunshine to temper it.

I posted up my books, and took off a trial balance, which came out right, — as it always does.

Got out a lot of old business letters, and commenced securing them in the invoice-file book.

Since George has left us, we have commenced taking only two meals a day.

I wrote a letter to Nicholas, answering his letter of December **31st**. I spent the evening, in reading "Measure for Measure" aloud to Hannah.

[p. 17]

Florence THURSDAY, February 4. **1858.**

Last night was very cold, perhaps nearly down to zero, and the day has been rather sharp, and very bright and pretty.

The morning was devoted to hard work, chiefly in getting in wood and water, and a few other chores.

This afternoon, I went upon several errands, did a little office work, read the papers and had a little music with Hannah.

This evening, I again read aloud to Hannah, in

"Measure for Measure".

At about 4 o'clock. Mr. Lemon's³⁸ house caught fire, and there was quite an excitement for a little while, but happily it was extinguished before all was destroyed.

FRIDAY, February 5.

The wind has been from the south, bringing some snow, and it has been getting rather warm.

McLane made a little call upon us, today, on his way down from De Soto to Omaha. He also called yesterday, on his way up.

I attended to a little office business, and then finished the forenoon with Parker, discussing bank matters &c..

This afternoon, I've done nothing, but felt blue all of the time, feeling that I ought to be turning off some little bodes³⁹, they've been on hand, for some time. We had a spiritual circle at Parker's this evening, and had some interesting manifestations by the tipping of a table, through

[p. 18]

Mrs. & Butler medium.

SATURDAY, February 6. 1858.

This has been quite a cold day, and it seems as if we were to have some cold weather, after all.

The mail, which has not been able to get across the river for several days, came up at noon bringing among other letters, the first from Sinclair. He reports money matters as very blue, more so, if possible than in the west even, and much more so, than he had anticipated. I wrote several letters, this afternoon.

Hannah spent the afternoon at Miss Brackess', and I went after in the evening. When we got home, she had great hysteria, which alarmed me, for a while, but I will know another time how to manage it better.

³⁸ Possibly H. Lemon of Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 2, 28.)

³⁹ Possibly "botches" or "budgies".

SUNDAY, February 7.

Heavy Snowstorm

The morning opened very pretty and bright, but it grew cloudy, and in the afternoon, a snowstorm commenced, which came thicker and faster, and has been continuing this, until quite a thick covering hides the earth.

Hannah and I got up late, and as she was too unwell, to do anything, I got the breakfast, washed the dishes and cleared⁴⁰ up the chicken nicely.

Our little girl having, by this time, having returned from a visit home, relieved me from further household work.

Most of the time, has been taken up, in finishing "Measure for Measure," and in reading "Venus and Adonis," which Hannah had never heard before.

[p. 19]

Florence MONDAY, February 8. 1858.

The heavyish snow of the season covered the ground this morning somewhat drifted.

After a late breakfast, as we didn't get up till **8 o'clock**,

I set to work at shoveling paths, getting in wood and water, and attending, to a few other little chores, all of which, took up the morning.

This afternoon, I wrote a pretty long letter to Joe Fleming.

This evening, Hannah and I went to Parker's, to attend a spiritual circle.

It was called more especially for the benefit of Mr. Strickland, who had some very interesting communications from his two wives, Agnes and Sarah.

I also had communications purporting to come from sister Jane, and from a female friend, who wouldn't make herself known then, but promised to, at some future sitting.

TUESDAY, February 9.

Last night was quite cold, and the sun was bright today, but a strong north wind has prevailed, which has become very cold this evening.

I've done but little today, besides choring, reading the papers and loafing.

About all of the office work done, thought to index the letterbook.

Hannah and I had some music together, this evening.

I spent **3 or 4** hours in making a perpetual almanac

⁴⁰ Possibly "cleaned".

for the office.

[p. 20]

WEDNESDAY, February 10. **1858.**

Last night was much the keenest night we've had. Some say that it was as low as **19**, and some say **24** degrees below zero. The day has been very cold, although the sun shone brightly all of the time, and it promises to be a stinger tonight, although it is much stiller, and the wind is in the south. I got the mail that came last night, which contained two letters for Hannah, one from her brother Jim, and one from her mother. Most of the time that was not taken up in getting in wood and water, shoveling snow **&c.**, has been spent in reading the papers that came last night.

THURSDAY, February 11.

The weather, today has been somewhat sharp, but only just pleasantly so. Besides reading the papers, my chief business, has been to get up an answer to the editorial in the Pittsburgh Gazette of Jan[uary] **29th**, casting a slur upon the truthfulness of my letter about the doing of the legislature a month ago. This evening, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Hannah and I went to Smith's, and took supper, and spent a very pleasant evening. Parker got out his rough box sleigh, to take the ladies there, this evening, and then took Smith, Dr. Harsh and myself out on a short ride.

[p. 21]

Florence FRIDAY, February 12. **1858.**

The day has been just pleasantly cold, and a little snow fell, tonight. I spent some time in finishing my letter to the Pittsburgh Gazette, besides which, the same old round of reading the papers, a little office work, talking with loafers in the office, choring **&c.**, has filled up the time.

There was a ball at the Willet House, tonight again for the benefit of the Courier,⁴¹ the funds of which, are in rather a languishing condition. There was quite a fine company present⁴², we had a good time.

⁴¹ Most likely he *Florence Courier*, a local newspaper published by J. M. Mentzer. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 10.)

SATURDAY, February 13.

The weather has been quite cold, but rather pleasant.

I wrote several letters, and dated⁴³ them the **15th** as they were not together sooner. One was to Elizabeth, which I didn't finish.

I've read the papers, done chores, loafed, spent time with callers **&c.**

[p. 22]

SUNDAY, February 14. **1858.**

This has been a very bright day, but the sun with all his brightness could not overcome the keen cut and blast from the north.

Agreed⁴⁴ to an engagement, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Hannah and I got in a sleigh and rode in face of the biting blast **3** or **4** miles, to pay a visit to Miss Samantha Chapman, at her father's.

We found that she had gone to the "Bluffs", and hadn't been able to get back as she expected to. So we merely got warm, and returned.

So Hannah and I got up a nice dinner, Mr. Parker furnishing a **1/2** can of fresh oysters, which were most delicious.

We also had them take breakfast with us, as we had some nice buckwheat cakes. McLane and Camel came up from Omaha, and spent the evening.

MONDAY, February 15.

It was about as bright and cold as yesterday.

I finished my letter to Elizabeth and mailed it this morning, and then spent a couple of hours in indexing Hannah's book of vocal music.

I've also been reading the papers, talking with loafers in the office, choring **&c.**

[p. 23]

⁴² Written "pleasant", but intention seems to be "present."

⁴³ Word appears to be written as two separate symbols: "day" and possibly "ted".

⁴⁴ Possibly "Record" or "Regard".

Florence TUESDAY, February 16. 1858.

The weather moderated a good deal from the keenness of yesterday, and has been quite pleasant.

Dr. Harsh went to Council Bluffs, today. He usually sweeps out the office, but left it for me. After cleaning up nicely, I helped Hannah some, and went down street to get some provisions and ~~did~~ to borrow some dishes, so as to be in readiness to receive a threatened invasion of ladies from Omaha, that McLane is to bring up. After bank hours, I got in a big load of wood.

The Willet House gives an oyster supper, tonight, with fresh oysters.

WEDNESDAY, February 17.

This has been a very pleasant day, and a little snow fell.

After a pretty early breakfast, I busied myself till **10 o'clock** in sweeping out and getting in wood in the office, and then helped Hannah in cleaning up the kitchen **&c.** I then spent some time in talking to Parker and Pyper ~~in~~ about Pyper's refusing Florence money. Just about noon, McLane arrived with his load, seven in all, from Omaha. There were Mrs. Snider, Mrs. Hurfort⁴⁵, Mrs. Black, <the last two being>⁴⁶ sisters, — Anna Larimer, Miss Patrick, Mr. Collier and McLane himself. We all had a merry time together, this afternoon, and a good dinner, and all but McLane left us, just before dusk. In the evening, we had a spiritual circle, and there being new persons added to our circle, it didn't

[p. 24]

pass off very well as it seemed that the spirits could not communicate well, with any members so well as with the original

THURSDAY, February 18. 1858.

We are having nice winter weather now, pretty cold, and bracing.

I haven't done much, today, but to read the papers, do some choring, getting in wood and water **&c.**

I took home sundry articles that we borrowed for use yesterday.

Mr. McLane stayed all day, and he, Hannah and I had some pretty good music together, this evening.

⁴⁵ Possibly "Herford".

⁴⁶ Angle brackets indicate information later insertions, usually above the line.

FRIDAY, February 19.

This has been a fine, pleasant winter's day.

Besides usual chores, errands &c., I've been chiefly busy in writing letters to Sinclair, and to Henry Johns, both of which were pretty long, and which I dated the 20th.

[p.25]

Florence SATURDAY, February 20. **1858.**

The morning was mild and pleasant, but in the afternoon, the wind changed, and has been blowing up cold and strong from the northwest.

I wrote a letter to John Gray of the Copper Rolling Mill, and commenced one to Mr. Funstone⁴⁷ of New York, whose acquaintance I made in Wisconsin a year ago.

In the afternoon, I cleaned up the carpenter shop, and put Sinclair's buggy in, to keep it from the weather.

This evening, I attended a meeting of the citizens, to decided upon what to do with regard to Florence money since its suspension of specie payment, and Pyper's refusal, of which I was appointed secretary. It was with one consent, "resolved" to take all they could get of it.

SUNDAY, February 21.

This has been a sharp cold day.

At about 9½ o'clock, I got up, made the fires, swept and dusted the parlor, got in some wood and water, and worked away until Hannah had breakfast ready, by⁴⁸ which time, it was nearly 12 o'clock, she having lain in bed until the rooms were warm.

After breakfast, I finished my letter to Mr. Funstone, and copied it in the press, and then wrote up my diary. I then made some candy from sugar and water, and helped get dinner, to which we sat down at 5 o'clock. I gave myself a good washing all over, tonight.

[p. 26]

⁴⁷ Possibly "Funsten" or "Fonstone".

⁴⁸ Actually symbol is "j", exactly opposite of "b" symbol, but intention seems to be "by".

MONDAY, February 22. **1858.**

This has been a fair bright day, but the air has been cold.

I spent a good part of the morning in an account of the meeting of Saturday evening, for the press, and in sundry errands down street.

I've also been choring, reading the papers &c.

I read a little, to Hannah, in "Othello", tonight.

TUESDAY, February 23.

There was a strong south wind today, which stopped blowing, by night, and although pretty sharp at first, it moderated a good deal.

I spent all of the morning in getting a good load of wood and water, and in a variety of other chores.

This afternoon, I wrote a short business letter to Sinclair, and a pretty long family letter to mother.

Mrs. Kenedy, Mrs. Niles, and Mrs. Gaston spent the evening, learning to make "tatin".⁴⁹

[p. 27]

Florence WEDNESDAY, February 24. **1858.**

This has been a bright, mild, beautiful and pleasant day.

I've done but little besides looking over a lot of papers reading and cutting out scraps, a trifling amount of business, having helped out some.

Messrs. Pomeroy⁵⁰ and Willoughby spent the evening with us in singing glees songs &c.

THURSDAY, February 25.

This has been a most lovely day, but the frost of the night, was soon dispelled, and the walking was made very bad indeed.

I've done scarcely a thing today, besides cutting out a few scraps, and pasting quite a lot of scraps into my big scrap-book.

⁴⁹ Possibly referring to "tart tatin," a dish caramelized and baked in the manner of an upside-down cake. Could also refer to "tatting," a method of making lace.

⁵⁰ Possibly H. M. Pomeroy of Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 28.)

This evening Hannah and I attended a grand concert given by the Germania band. The music was very fine, and would have done credit to an amateur band in any place.

[p. 28]

FRIDAY, February 26. **1858.**

The day was bright and beautiful, but the warm sun made the walking very bad. It is colder again, this evening.

I've been busy with sundry chores, have read the papers, wrote one or two short business letters &c.

This evening, our spiritual circle met at Mr. Smith's, and we had very good "demonstrations["] since Mr. Butler⁵¹ came.

SATURDAY, February 27.

There has been a strong cold wind, today.

Besides getting in a good load of wood and water, and attending to a few other house chores, reading the papers, loafing &c.

I contrived to make a beginning at a letter to Sinclair.

This evening, I finished reading "Othello" aloud to Hannah.

The tragic end of its chief characters, is very affecting.

[p. 29]

Florence SUNDAY, February 28. **1858.**

This has been a cold windy day.

Hannah and I didn't go to church, but we got up late, and having read last night's papers, got necessary chores done &c., we both wrote letters. She wrote to her mother, and I finished mine to Sinclair. Having several more business letters for Sinclair to attend to, it took me a good while, to prepare all of the necessary papers.

This evening, I read aloud, to Hannah, in Judge Edmonds'⁵²

⁵¹ Possibly L. R. Buttler of Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 29.)

⁵² Judge John Worth Edmonds (1816-1874). Edmonds was president of the Senate and Judge of the New York Supreme Court. Edmonds was also an avowed Spiritualist, who believed mediums could contact spirits without bodies. He eventually claimed to be a medium himself and reported receiving communications from spirits. He was

book on spiritualism.

MONDAY, March 1.

There was a high wind today, and it was rather cold.

I've done quite a variety of chores and jobs, today.

I prepared a good load of wood, and attended to some other domestic chores. I then wrote up the entries for Feb[ruary], balanced cash, and posted up.

Mr. Boyse⁵³ was to spend the evening with us and sing, but he didn't come, and so Hannah and I read the experiences of Judge Edmond[s].

[p. 30]

TUESDAY, March 2. **1858.**

The day has been bright and beautiful, but rather windy.

I got in a good load of ice water from our rain water barrel, as Melissa was washing, and disposed to other chores.

I've been, through the day, sorting and filing away, a lot of last year's bank charge and credit "slips" or "tickets", assorting and pasting scraps &c.

Judge Edmond[s] entertained us again, this evening.

WEDNESDAY, March 3.

This has been a mild and lovely day, and it thawed some.

I've been busy with getting in wood and water, and other chores, pasting a few scraps &c., but most of the time was taken up, with writing up my private accounts.

[p. 31]

Florence THURSDAY, March 4. **1858.**

This has been a bright and lovely day, and it has seemed too bad, that anyone should have to stay in the house.

I've been hard at work, today, at writing up, and honing⁵⁴ up entries for my own private books.

forced to resign from the Supreme Court because of objections to his Spiritualistic beliefs. (First Spiritual Temple, <http://www.fst.org/edmonds.htm>).

⁵³ Possibly "Boyce".

⁵⁴ Possibly "hunting".

I read aloud a little to Hannah, this evening, in "Spiritualism" by Judge Edmonds.

FRIDAY, March 5.

First Thunder

Storm

The morning was very bright and lovely, but it clouded up some, in the afternoon, and, this evening, there was a heavy clap of thunder, which is the first I've heard this season. A few heavy drops of rain fell also.

In order to be personally satisfied, I went upon the river with Harwood, and armed with an axe, and a sharp pointed rod, **20 ft.** long, we cut a large number of holes, nearly two dozen, and sunk the rod down until the unmistakable rock stopped further descent. I was thoroughly satisfied there was a good rock bottom there, and at such depth, as to furnish all needed facilities for all kinds of bridges that Florence would possibly need.

The afternoon was all taken up with my private daybook.

We saw several wild geese flying north.

[p. 32]

SATURDAY, March 6. **1858.**

This has been a mild day, and a gentle north wind has prevailed.

This morning we dismissed our little girl Melissa Wolhaven,⁵⁵ as she got thievish, and did her work badly.

I tinkered some, and have been writing up my diary, reading the papers, getting in wood **&c.** through the day.

SUNDAY, March 7.

As usual, Hannah and I got up extra late this morning, and as we dismissed our little girl yesterday, I have been hard at work all of the morning in helping with the breakfast, getting in wood and water, dusting and sweeping **&c.**, which being done, Mr. and Mrs. Parker came in soon after with baby, and spent the afternoon, and took dinner with us.

The two Brewsters called on us this evening, **Elia P.**⁵⁶ having got home last night with his wife and child.

⁵⁵ Possibly "Wolheaven".

⁵⁶ Elia P. Brewster and Henry A. Brewster of Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 28, 30.)

Anna Hughes came back to live with us once more, this afternoon.

[p. 33]

Florence MONDAY, March 8. **1858.**

This has been a mild pleasant and springlike day.

The ice in the river got a start, today, and has been running some.

I spent a good part of the morning in writing a communication to the paper about the relative proportion of the saved to lost in the next world.

This afternoon, I've written several business letters.

This evening, I attended a meeting for the nomination of city officers. There was quite an exciting and interesting time.

TUESDAY, March 9.

This day has been lovely, in the extreme, was balmy, so bright, so pure.

I had a good many chores to do⁵⁷ this morning, in the way of getting in wood and water, going after potatoes, skinning and cutting up a rabbit, &c. &c. I wrote a long letter to Brother Nicholas, spending a good part of the evening at it, and one or two other letters.

[p. 34]

WEDNESDAY, March 10. **1858.**

This has been a bright day, but a very strong wind has prevailed today.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick of Saratoga with Miss Goodwill⁵⁸ of Omaha called this morning, and the ladies made quite a visit, while Mr. Patrick attended to some business.

I've been busy today, in balancing the firm's cash, and my own, and in fixing up my own accounts.

We had a spiritual circle at Mr. Parker's, this evening, and had a pretty good time, but the demonstrations were not as good as they have been, at times.

⁵⁷ Written "day", but probable intent seems to be "do".

⁵⁸ Possibly "Goodwell".

THURSDAY, March 11.

The sky has been rather overcast with clouds, today, and it looked rather like rain, and it has been cool.

I got in wood and water, and disposed of a few other chores, and for the rest of the time, I've been hard at work posting up my private daybook, and drawing off a trial balance.

I got a short letter from Sinclair, this evening.

Also a letter from Nicholas and Elizabeth, each.

[p. 35]

Florence FRIDAY, March 12. **1858.**

This has been a bright and lovely day, and a strong south wind has prevailed.

Besides reading the papers and doing a few chores, I spent a good part of the morning in rewriting a portion of the piece for the "Courier".

This afternoon, I sent on an order for the spiritual telegraph, for Parker, Smith, and myself.

After dinner, Mr. Parker gave me a ride with his horses and carriage.

This evening I got a letter from Hart and Norton, Henry Holdship,⁵⁹ and Hannah got one from Sister Maggie.

SATURDAY, March 13.

This has been a lowering warm and windy day.

Having a little load of scraps yet⁶⁰ unpasted, I set to work, and after breakfast, and a few chores, I made some nice paste, and finished all of the scraps that were ready.

I then filled up the day, with indexing the firm's letter filebook, and my own letterbook of press copy letters.

⁵⁹ Henry Holdship Sr. (ca. 1780–?) was a paper manufacturer and director of the Pittsburgh Gas Light and Coke Company (founded 1827). His grandson, Henry Holdship Jr. (1833–1897), was living and operating a bank in Decorah, Iowa, during this time, though in 1859 he returned to Pittsburgh, where he eventually became involved in mining and was later a pioneer in the oil trade. Henry Holdship Jr. seems the more probable author of the letter as he was of an age with Veeder. (1820 U.S. Census, Pittsburgh West Ward, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 24; 1830 U.S. Census, Pittsburgh South Ward, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 19; Lewis Publishing Co., *A Century and a Half of Pittsburg and her People*, vol. 2, 365; George Thornton Fleming, *History of Pittsburg and Environs: From Prehistoric Days to the Beginning*, 189.)

⁶⁰ Written "wet", but probable intent seems to be "yet".

This evening, I got some seeds, from honorable Fenner Ferguson⁶¹ at Washington, he having sent them from the **U.S.** patent office.

[p. 36]

SUNDAY, March 14. **1858.**

A high wind from the south, clouds, warmth have ruled the day. Upon getting up, Hannah and I both gave ourselves a good washing all over, and then dressed for the day. I got in some wood and water, gutted a duck, and disposed of a few other chores, ~~which~~ by which time Mr. and Mrs. Parker came over.

We had a nice dinner and pleasant afternoon, talking over spiritualism **&c.** This evening, we were to have a circle at Mr. Parker's, but as Mr. Mr. and Mrs. Butler didn't come, on account of the high wind and dark night, we could not have any manifestations, being thereby much disappointed.

MONDAY, March 15.

Severe Hailstorm

There was a little thunder on the 5th instant, but, today, we had the first downright thunder storm of the season, with very heavy rain, and very large hailstones, that would have broken in all of the glass in front of our house, if I hadn't put the shutters on, in time. I have spent a little time, in the office, but have been busy a good part of the day, in domestic chores. Mr. Black came up, from Omaha, and took Hannah down, to perform in a concert, tomorrow evening. I wrote a couple of business letters.

[p. 37]

Florence TUESDAY, March 16. 1858.

After breakfast, I went to the store after **3** panes of glass, to replace some broken yesterday by the hailstones, which, with a late breakfast, and setting them took a good part of the morning. The rest of the time, I've been reading the papers, cutting and pasting scraps,

getting in wood and water **&c. &c.**

This evening, we had a very interesting spiritual circle at Mr. Parker's (**Parker's**), which Messrs. Bowen and ~~Striland~~ Strickland attended.

WEDNESDAY, March 17.

This has been a cloudy and rainy day.

I pasted a few scraps, but have been chiefly engaged in sorting the expenses entered in my pocket cashbook, and collecting all of the items belonging together, into its proper account, so as to enter them up at the close of the month on my daybook.

In Hannah's business, Mrs. Parker made some cake, as we thought we might have some company, this evening, but none came.

A letter came for Hannah, from Mary Wamble.⁶²

I sat up late, to finish writing a communication for the Courier.

I then read the papers, and it was **1 o'clock A.M.** when I went to bed.

[p. 38]

THURSDAY, March 18. **1858.**

This has been a pretty bright and rather windy day, and the mud dried up fast.

Besides my chores, I've been overhauling my library, and entering my name in all of my books, that needed it.

At about noon, I was rejoiced by the arrival of my "little wifey", whom Mr. McLane brought up, after just **3** days business. She had a perfect triumph at the concert, and was most vociferously "encored".

McLane delivered to me her and Norton's remittance of p. 291 in full of their indebtedness to me, which I was very glad to get.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown, called upon us, tonight, and said they were going east by the first boat.

FRIDAY, March 19.

This has been a fine pleasant day.

I adjusted some accounts, and paid Parker **\$150.** on account of a

⁶² Possibly "Ramble" or "Samble".

note that he holds against the Cleveland Land Company.

I then made up an assortment of money to the amount of **\$100.**

for Hannah to use in paying her passage home.

As it was very desirable indeed that Hannah should go east with Mr. Brown we concluded to pack up, and have been quite busy this afternoon and evening at it, so as to be ready at a moment's notice.

[p. 39]

Florence <Omaha> SATURDAY, March 20. 1858.

The day has been rather bright, and quite pleasant.

I haven't done much, today, besides helping Hannah.

It was well that Hannah got ready, to a considerable extent yesterday, for, about **2 o'clock P.M.**, McLane came up with a carriage for her, as the boat was near Omaha. So we hurried and finished the packing and towards evening, we left Florence. As, for some unknown reason, the boat didn't get up, we could not get Hannah to her, tonight, and are staying with Mr. and Mrs. Brown, over night, at their boarding place.

SUNDAY, March 21.

Hannah starts for Pittsburgh, by first S. Boat.

This has been one of the very loveliest days of the season.

After not a very good night's rest, Hannah and I got up, and took breakfast, with Miss Goodwill, with whom Mr. and Mrs. Brown board.

Mr. Brown and I then went to see about the boat, and McLane and I took quite a tramp down the river, but found her **12** miles down.

She finally got to Omaha at **1½ o'clock P.M.**, and we all went down on the "bus", and got on board. I then spent a last precious hour with my darling before our final long parting, and tore myself away amid many tears, and returned to Florence on foot. The boat is the "Platte Valley", and is a splendid new first class boat of the largest size.

This evening we had some very interesting "manifestations" through Mr. Clark.

[p. 40]

He is a speaking medium of a high order, and two spirits spoke through him.

MONDAY, March 22. **1858.**

This has been a beautiful day, but rather cool, and a little cloudy,
Having been up till **12 o'clock** last night, I got up at **8½ o'clock**.

A.M., and having eaten breakfast which Anna prepared for me, I fixed
up the parlor, swept out the office, and opened up and got in wood.

Then having paid Parker a little visit, it was dinner time, and after
noon lunch, I wrote up my accounts and diary which kept me
busy till nearly closing time, at **3 o'clock**.

I then made out the memorandum of items for a letter to Hannah,
and took a walk with Henry Brewster, to the river.

This evening I read books and papers in the parlor.

TUESDAY, March 23.

Clouds covered the sky, most of the day, and it sprinkled a little, at times.

After breakfast, Mrs. Parker came over, and made some cake,
and stayed till dinner time.

I spent the morning in cleaning up and putting away in the safe
all of the silver, but what I needed for use, and assorted and overhauled spices **&c.**,
tied them up, marked and put them away.

This afternoon, I wrote a pretty long letter to Hannah.

[p. 41]

Florence WEDNESDAY, March 24. **1858.**

This has been one of the loveliest days of the season.

After breakfast, I split and carted in a load of wood, loafed
around a little at Mr. Parker's, to see him setting out some trees,
swept out the office, arranged some maps on the walls, cleaned
up my clothes, blacked my boots, and wrote up my diary.

McLane and Mrs. Parker met upstairs, this afternoon, by stealth, and came
very near getting themselves and me into trouble as Mr. Parker came near catching them,
but McLane got away without Parker knowing he had been up.

This afternoon, Henry Brewster and I took a long walk up Mill Creek
and across to the territorial road. Mr. Strickland having come up from Bellevue,
we had a spiritual meeting at Mr. Parker's, and had some very interesting proceedings.

Mr. Garside, cashier of the Platte Valley Bank, at Nebraska City, and Mr. Harding spent the evening with us.

THURSDAY, March 25.

**<Fred. Heath
burnt out.>**

We are having very lovely weather now.

The chief thing that I've done, today, is to make a copy upon tracing muslin, of a drawing of the rock bottom soundings near the island in the river. It cost considerable labor, but by perseverance, I finished it in good time, and quite satisfactorily.

This afternoon, I loafed around some, and towards evening, Mr. Parker and I went with Messrs. Garside and Harding, to show them our island and landing. I've been spending the evening in reading.

Fred Heath's house, about **3** miles up Mill Creek, with all of its contents, was burnt up, at about **9 o'clock. A.M. (9 o'clock.)**

[p. 42]

Geo. McCosh⁶³ got back to Florence.

FRIDAY, March 26. **1858.**

This has been a fine day, but the wind was rather strong, to be pleasant.

Having got a late breakfast, I sat down and drummed on the piano some, to see if I could not learn to play an accompaniment to the voice, and made such progress, that I felt quite encouraged. Towards noon, I went over to see Parker, and while there, George McCosh drove up, having just arrived from his long travels for the past **7** weeks.

This evening, we took a walk together, on the hills. ~~And he and spent~~ I spent the first part of the evening, at Mr. Parker's, and then George and I finished it, at our house, and he sleeps with me tonight.

SATURDAY, March 27.

⁶³ Possibly "McCush".

This has been a very lovely day.

This morning, I got my own breakfast, attended to some cooking, thrummed⁶⁴ on the piano some **&c.**

This afternoon, I've been writing to Brother Nicholas and to Hannah.

This evening I loafed about some and read the papers some.

George brought his fiddle over, and we played together a little.

[p. 43]

Florence SUNDAY, March 28. 1858.

This has been a beautifully, pleasant, and rather mild day.

After a late rising and getting breakfast, I attended to a few chores and looked at the papers a little, and added a page to my letter to Nicholas. I then got my clean clothes and washing apparatus ready, and gave myself, a thorough washing with soap and soft water from head to foot.

I then wrote out some questions to the spirits, to be used at our circle this evening, and went to see Mr. and Mrs. Butler to secure their attendance this evening.

Our operations didn't go off smoothly, tonight, as we had too many visitors.

MONDAY, March 29.

I was awoken about **6 o'clock A.M.** by a little thunder storm, and getting up, and closing the windows, I went back to bed.

It has been cloudy and a little rainy, through the day.

I went to bed late last night, and got up late this morning.

I made some splendid bread, today, and spent considerable time in working the dough.

This afternoon, I wrote a letter to cousin Mandana⁶⁵ Brown, and quite a long to cousin Johnny Vanbant.

[p. 44]

TUESDAY, March 30. **1858.**

This has been a rainy dull day.

⁶⁴ Possibly "drummed".

⁶⁵ Possibly "Mandaina".

I was rather unwell, and having had the blues so, since I got to the territory. A good part of the morning was spent in running down street to get articles for making "magnetic cord"⁶⁶ for use in our spiritual circles. The rest of the day I've done but little of⁶⁷ anything else than sitting around, reading the papers, and drumming on the piano a little.

WEDNESDAY, March 31.

This has been a bright and pleasant day. I whiled away the morning in reading[,] little chores, errands &c. This afternoon, I went to the outskirts of town, with George McCosh to practice shooting at a mark. He took a revolver, and I took a rifle. I made some very good shots. I spent the evening at Mr. Parker's.

[p. 45]

Florence THURSDAY, April 1. **1858.**

This has been a fine day, and not too windy. I was quite busy all of the morning with making up sundry entries to close up the end of the month business. This afternoon, in the company of a good many others of our towns people, I took an excursion up the river on the ferry boat, which got started yesterday afternoon, for the first time this season, after her winter's rest. We were going to Rockport, but having started too late, and having stuck on a bar for more than an hour, we hadn't time, before dark. We got home at dusk, after the pleasant afternoon.

⁶⁶ A Spiritualism book of the time encouraged "members of these *circles of Love and Wisdom* to provide themselves with a fine magnetic cord," which would "entertain, and amuse, and at last, perhaps, develop their mental powers." The cord consisted of a silk- or velvet-covered rope with one steel and one copper or silver wire wound around it. The members of the circle were directed to keep the cord in their laps and grasp it with their hands. The person "constitutionally most susceptible to spiritual influx of emotion and influence" would then "feel a throbbing in the hands; and ultimately, by repeated experiments, some one among the company may be rendered clairvoyant." (See Andrew Jackson Davis, *The Philosophy of Spiritual Intercourse*, [1851], 98–99; italics in original.)

⁶⁷ Written "on", but probable intent seems to be "of".

FRIDAY, April 2.

This has been a pleasant, but a very windy day.

I've spent most of my time, in making up some entries, posting my books, and in taking off a trial balance, which didn't come right, but being tired, I didn't stop to hunt up the cause.

I was rejoiced with the receipt of Hannah's first letter, since she left me, **21st** of last month. It was mailed at Jefferson City, on the **25th**, and at Saint Joseph on the **31st**.

[p. 46]

SATURDAY, April 3. **1858.**

The sun shone out brightly, today, and it was very windy.

I spent the morning, in attending to the election business of the Florence Land Company. I had several proxies that I used, and we changed **3** of the old directors, and made Sinclair secretary in place of Mitchell.

This afternoon, I wrote out an article for the next paper, on spiritualism, in answer to one from Mr. Collins, in the last paper.

I got a little exercise towards evening in running around, to see about some town election matters, and in getting in some wood.

The faithful of us had a pleasant caucus at Parker's, this evening, to settle upon the Parker ticket for next Monday. We had a good time, and I feel quite encouraged.

SUNDAY, April 4.

We've had, today, mixed cloud and sunshine, and probably⁶⁸ the heaviest wind of the season.

I got up about **8 o'clock** and got my own breakfast, which

I am in the habit of doing now.

I have devoted a good part of the day, in adding to my article for the paper, and in getting up matter for a continuation.

Towards evening, I ran around a little, to see if we could get up a circle, but too many were unwell, and Parker and I busied ourselves with some election matters, and during the evening, I took occasion to read to Mr. and

⁶⁸ Written "proably".

Mrs. Parker, what I had prepared for the next paper.

[p. 47]

Florence MONDAY, April 5. **1858.**

Last night was quite cold, so that ice was formed to the thickness of an inch, this morning. And although the sun shone pretty brightly most of the day, an overcoat was necessary to comfort.

I was about the polls a good part of the day, and this evening, was very much chagrined that Parker and Brewster were both blockaded by a tie vote, each having received **67** votes for mayor.

I spent most of the evening at Parker's.

TUESDAY, April 6.

It was colder last night, than the night before, and we've needed a good fire today. We had some fine hail.

I spent the morning in reading the papers **&c.**, and in loafing some at Parker's, and in our own office.

This afternoon I wrote a pretty long letter to Hannah, and this evening I read books and papers until I was too sleepy to continue.

McLane called this afternoon, and brought with him, a young man by the name of "Strong", who was an old friend in New Lisbon, Ohio. I got a letter from Nicholas, of March **24th**.

George McCosh sleeps with me, tonight.

[p. 48]

WEDNESDAY, April 7. **1858.**

It has not been so cold, today, as yesterday, and an east wind has brought considerable rain, through the day, at intervals.

I got up late, and it was **9½ o'clock A.M.** when I got breakfast cooked, and sat down to eat it.

I spent most of the day in looking over a lot of papers, and cutting out the scraps, and wrote a short letter to Nicholas.

THURSDAY, April 8.

The day has been chilly, and rain has fallen from time to time, to day, and there has been some lightning and thunder.

I got up late, and have been busy, most of the day, after disposing of a few chores, at writing out a second article on spiritualism, in continuation of an article in a days paper.

I then collated and arranged matters for the 3^d article.

I spent the evening in reading Judge Edmonds' "Spiritualism" until I was too sleepy to continue, and then went to bed.

[p. 49]

Florence FRIDAY, April 9. **1858.**

It has been raining from time to time all day, and has been chilly.

After quite a late breakfast, I swept out, piled up some cut-wood, and did a few other chores.

This afternoon, I fixed up some of my private accounts, and made some entries. I lost a good deal of time in hunting up a letter from brother Nicholas, containing a deed that I wanted to enter up.

I spent the evening at Mr. Parker's and had a talk with Miss Malcolm about spiritualism &c.. I then went home with her, and had quite a chat with her and her sister "Debbie".

SATURDAY, April 10.

We've had a good deal of heavy rain through the day.

I got dressed about 9 o'clock, and then returned an umbrella to Miss Malcolm, and went after some milk. I then got in some well water, made a sago pudding, and cooked breakfast, and attended to a few chores.

Through the day, I read the papers, and wrote a portion of a letter to Hannah.

My dear good little wifey sent me a letter from Cincinnati, Sunday March 28th, which I got this afternoon, and I shall send an answer by Monday morning the mail.

[p. 50]

SUNDAY, April 11. **1858.**

A strong wind has prevailed, and it has been quite cold, and this evening we were having some snow.

George McCosh took breakfast with me, he having brought over

some apples, which I fried, and this, with our broma⁶⁹ and potato cakes, made a very nice meal.

I spent two of three hours in reading "Arabian Nights" and then having disposed of a few chores, I washed myself all over.

I then wrote **3** more pages of my letter to Hannah, and having put it into the post-office, I finished the evening at Parker's.

MONDAY, April 12.

Upon awaking, this morning, I was surprised to see the ground covered with **2** or **3** inches of snow. It has not snowed any today, but there has been a strong cold wind all day.

It was **10 o'clock** by the time I had finished breakfast.+

I then set to work at various chores, and swept out the office, got in a load of wood, cleaned out a barrel that had had lye in it, got in some shavings and kindlings, cleaned and blacked up a lot of old books, that had got very muddy, and had been put away, to wait for "a more convenient season" for cleaning them, **&c. &c..**

This evening, I spent at home, by myself, reading the papers **&c..**

[p. 51]

1858.

Florence TUESDAY, April 13. 1858.

A Ghost!!

It has been cloudy and windy, and the mud has dried up fast.

Have got my own breakfast as usual, I left the dishes for Annie, and attended to discounting a note for the Florence Ferrying Co.

The morning then, was taken up in mending a broken window, in writing to Elisabeth weighing out some groceries for Veers⁷⁰ **&c..**

This afternoon I helped Annie pick some ducks, and I then dressed them.

The boat passed us today, going up, and stopped at the port landing.

I spent the evening in reading the papers, which a very good mail brought, and was about going to bed, when a ghost entered the

⁶⁹ "broma" is a light form of prepared cocoa.

⁷⁰ Possibly Thomas Veers or Brice Vers of Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 28.)

parlor "without leave or license", which upon scrutiny looked mightily like a neighboring banker across the street, and proved to be the redoubtable infidel himself. A great racket below took me down stairs, and I found some ladies in the fun, there being Mrs. Parker, Miss Drury, and Miss Arnold.

WEDNESDAY, April 14.

The sun has given us a little of the benefit of his rays, at times, and the everlasting winds have kept up their loud wailing. I've had a busy day. Immediately upon getting up, I made up the sponge that I set last night, into dough, got breakfast, stuffed a duck, got in wood, swept out the office, and dressed up, to attend the funeral of Mr. Smith's little baby. After the funeral, Mrs. Bracken got me to walk with her up to her house, and gave me a lecture against spiritualism. Upon return home, I made a pudding, put my duck in to roast, made out my bread into loaves and biscuits, and got a very nice dinner. My bread having got light, I baked it, and took a little loaf to Mrs. Fosset. I spent the evening at Parker's, where there was a little company. I got Hannah's first letter from home, tonight.

[p. 52]

THURSDAY, April 15. **1858.**

The day has been chilly, and it rained a little. George McCosh slept with me last night, and took breakfast with me this morning. After getting a few chores done up, I sat down in the office, to read and write, and had a little visit from John Chapman. I then put up a couple of papers for Charles Partridge, an editor of the "Spiritual Telegraph", and wrote a little piece for [--?--],⁷¹ about the condition of spiritualism in Florence. I then set to work, and wrote a communication to the Courier on **8** pages, which I stuck to until I finished it, as they wanted it to set up, tomorrow morning. It was intended as the **3^d** and last article of the season, and I had to make it pretty long, in order to close the subject, and it kept me until **10 oc**, this evening, before I had renewed and copied it in the press.

⁷¹ Unknown word. Symbol is written "bl", which may be an abbreviation, but it's unclear from the context what is meant.

FRIDAY, April 16.

This has been a pretty day.

I've devoted the day, to writing up the entries, for the annual settlement of my private books, to March **31st**, and it has taken up most of my time.

I spent the evening, at home reading "Spiritualism".

[p. 53]

Florence SATURDAY, April 17. **1858.**

This has been a rather pleasant day.

I made a few more entries on my private books, and then posted up, and took off a trial balance, which came out right.

I baked a duck for dinner, and had George McCosh, to help me eat it. Mr. and Mrs. Parker, George and I took a little ride into the country, this afternoon, and dug up some little trees and plants.

Miss Parker made me a nice little visit, this afternoon.

Mr. Parker got his certificate as mayor, this morning, one of a double vote having been allowed him, which was at first rejected.

SUNDAY, April 18.

It rained all day, and I haven't stirred out of the house all day.

I rested badly last night, and was sleeping soundly at **9 o'clock. A. M.** when George awoke me, by his wish to see me, as he wanted to take a message for me, to McLane, at Omaha.

I didn't fix up, at all, but read the papers **&c.**, and laid down some.

I gave myself, a good washing before going to bed.

[p. 54]

MONDAY, April 19. **1858.**

It has been a lowering day, but for rain, and being windy, it dried fast.

I attended to some chores, and did a little at some accounts, but spent the most of the morning, in studying out some maps on my plan for a house.

I commenced a letter to Hannah, but Mrs. Parker came in, and sat so long chatting, that I didn't go on with it.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker, and I went down to Mr. Butler's, and had a good evening with the spirits. On getting back, I found McLane at home.

Riordan and Mr. and Mrs. Dudley⁷² got back to Florence, today, after spending the winter in their eastern homes.

TUESDAY, April 20.

This has been a rather pretty day.

McLane slept with me last night, and we had a late breakfast together.

I read the papers some, got up some blanks for a genlogical (genealogical)⁷³ table of our family, and of her two grandfathers' families, and finished my letter to Hannah.

Towards dusk, McLane and I took a walk across Mill Creek.

I attended a council meeting for the qualification of the new city officers, and they got me into business by making me "Recorder pro tem", and by having me administer the "oath of office".

[p. 55]

Florence WEDNESDAY, April 21. 1858.

The day has been bright and warm, but it gathered up clouds, and has rained quite hard at times, this evening.

I employed myself in the morning, in sundry chores, and errands, in reading the papers &c..

This afternoon, I made up the bread and baked it. Once it was out of the oven, Mr. Parker came along with his carriage, and gave Mrs. Parker, McLane and myself a little ride.

This evening, I attended the council meeting, which didn't last very long, and then went to Parker's, where Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Stri[ck]land, (who came up from Bellevue, today) and I had a very good circle. Strickland and I then spent a little time, at a dance of young folks, near the drugstore.

⁷² Possibly J. H. Dudley and his wife. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 28.)

⁷³ Intended word "genealogical" written once in imperfect shorthand and then written a second time more precisely in shorthand in parentheses.

THURSDAY, April 22.

The strong cold northwest wind has prevailed all day.

We all got up late, and after getting breakfast, and clearing up, I took a little loaf of my excellent new bread, to Mrs. Parker, and sat for a time with her, by which time it was **10 o'clock** and time to run up the office.

I've been talking with loungers in the office, reading papers, and getting up several statements of accounts, to send to Nicholas.

We had a spiritual circle at Mr. Parker's, this evening, and had some few general manifestations, but the spirits seemed to be chiefly occupied in developing Mr. Parker as a trans medium.

[p. 56]

FRIDAY, April 23. **1858.**

This has been a nice pretty day, though rather cool.

I have done much, today, besides writing to brother Nicholas, and taking a walk down to the levee, to see the steamboat "Omaha"

I was hoping very much, that Sinclair would be on her, but a was disappointed.

I sat up till **1 o'clock A.M.** Saturday morning, studying over my plan for a house, and trying to improve upon it.

I wrote a little communication of the "Courier", this afternoon, giving an extract from one of Hannah's letters.

SATURDAY, April 24.

The day has been rather bright, but quite chilly.

I was happy in the receipt of another letter, this noon, from Hannah. She is a dear good girl about writing, and her letters are very precious

I spent most of the day, in drawing and studying on my house.

After closing the office, I went about town, getting some butter, cream, eggs **&c.**, and prepared and stuffed some ducks, that I got last night, for tomorrow's dinner, to which I've invited Mr. and Mrs. Parker, and George McCosh.

I sat up pretty late, tonight, reading **&c.**

[p. 57]

Florence SUNDAY, April 25. 1858.

This has been a rather cloudy, and somewhat cool day.

After a late breakfast, and a few chores, I sat down and commenced a letter to Hannah. I wrote a couple of pages, by which time it was **12 o'clock**.

I then spent an hour in giving myself a good thorough washing all over, in getting my ducks in the oven **&c.**, and then continued my letter to Hannah, until Annie came over from Mrs. Parker's, to tell me that Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Parker's mother had arrived, together with Mr. Mitchell, and that she would come over with the rest. I then got dinner, and by the time it was ready they came over, and all pronounced it very fine.

After my guests left again, I finished my letter, which amounted to **5** pages, and in the evening, I went with George McCosh, to Mr. Butler's, where we had a nice time, and I had a communications from Aunt Susan and others.

MONDAY, April 26.

This has been a bright and very pleasant day.

I was cooking, getting breakfast, doing chores, reading the papers **&c.**, until noon, when I was rejoiced by seeing Sinclair drive up in a buggy from Omaha with Mr. Veers, and I've done nothing since he came, but talk and sit around **&c.** He brought me a nice long letter from my dear little wife, that did me much good to read.

I spent the evening at Smith's, in the company of Mrs. Smith, while Mrs. Page went to church.

[p. 58]

TUESDAY, April 27. 1858.

The day has been bright and pretty, and very windy, and rather unpleasant. I've had the blues and been fidgety, more or less, all day, and have done nothing in the business way, or at writing letters.

I've done considerable talking with Sinclair, and have attended to a few chores, run about town some, and read the papers a little.

I spent the evening at home, talking chatting **&c.**

WEDNESDAY, April 28.

This has been a warm, sultry, summer-like day.

Sinclair and I have talked over our matters, a good deal, discussed plans for future action, &c..

I wrote a letter, to Hannah, this afternoon, and this evening, I went to Parker's, to have a spiritual circle, but we were all so debilitated with the heat, and so sleepy, that we could get no manifestations.

[p. 59]

Florence THURSDAY, April 29. 1858.

This has been a warm sultry day, almost like summer.

I've done but little today, but to talk with Sinclair about business matters, to read the papers &c.

This afternoon, McLane, Camel, and Bros. came up from Omaha, and got some canvas for a roof, at Omaha.

I spent the latter part of the afternoon, and the evening in drawing an improved plan of a house.

Anniversary of FRIDAY, April 30. Wedding Day.

This has been a cool, and much pleasanter day, than yesterday.

I spent a good part of the day, in reading, talking &c., and, this afternoon, I made a good beginning at a register of the first titles to Florence lots, which may be useful.

Just one year ago tonight, I had the great happiness of claiming my own little Hannah, before the world as my wife.

That union has thus far proved a blessing to us both, and we are now better satisfied than ever, that we are truly mated.

[p. 60]

SATURDAY, May 1. 1858.

This has been a damp chilly day, and not as "May day" ought to be.

I haven't felt much like work, today, and haven't done much besides working at intervals on my Florence register, which I am getting [--?--]⁷⁴ along with very well.

I spent the evening, in getting up a plan of a house, for Mr. Adair,⁷⁵ and I succeeded in sketching out one that I think will suit.

⁷⁴ There is an "mp" or "md" symbol before "along", which may indicate that Veeder intended to write something else first.

SUNDAY, May 2.

The morning was rainy, and the afternoon, dreary, chilly and unpleasant.

I spent the morning in getting breakfast, mixing up a pudding, a trip after milk, and in perfecting my plan of the house, for Mr. Adair.

This afternoon, I spent in a miscellaneous way, but was mostly occupied in writing to Hannah.

I had a pleasant evening, at Parker's.

[p. 61]

Florence MONDAY, May 3. 1858.

This has been a damp chilly day, but without rain.

I've disposed of quite a variety of business items, today and among other matters, I've written several business letters, more than I have for a considerable time.

John Chapman and I went together to have a little spiritual circle at Mr. Butler's, but as Mr. Butler himself was not at home, we could not get any manifestation.

We had a pleasant evening with Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Pugsley,⁷⁶ who had also dropped in for the evening.

TUESDAY, May 4.

This has been a rather cloudy, and chilly day.

I haven't done much, today, besides cooking, reading the papers, discussing business matters with Sinclair, making out notes for a letter to Dr. Hussey, and in writing a good portion of the letter.

[p. 62]

WEDNESDAY, May 5. 1858.

This has been a splendid day, and the first of the actually loveliest, that we have been favored with for a long time.

The movements of the day have been rather disjointed, and I have been writing letters, discussing business matters, reading **&c.** today.

⁷⁵ Possibly a relative of Hannah Adair Veeder's.

⁷⁶ Possibly the wife of J. F. Pugsley of Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 28.)

Parker took Sinclair in his carriage, and they went together to the bluffs, today.

I finished my letter to Dr. Hussey, and wrote other business letters, but didn't send away the first, as upon consultation with Sinclair, I went to add to it. Towards evening, I took a stroll with George, back of town a little.

I spent the evening at home reading. I got a letter from Hannah.

THURSDAY, May 6.

This has been a bright, warm, beautiful and pleasant day.

It seems as if I could hardly get more than one or two letters written today, at any rate I wrote only one short business letter, and added a couple of pages to my letter to Dr. Hussey, I sent it off.

I got a nice long letter from Hannah, tonight.

[p. 63]

Florence FRIDAY, May 7. **1858.**

This has been a fair and pleasant day.

I've done scarcely anything today, besides writing four or five business [letters] of importance.

One of my letters was to Mr. Leland, in Florence.

I Intended to go to Mr. Butler's this evening, and have a spiritual meeting, but just as I was ready to go, I noticed that a large portion of the sky was very black, and fearing a heavy rain I didn't go. It passed over however, and I might have gone as well as not, and was sorry I didn't.

SATURDAY, May 8.

This has been a raw, and pretty windy day, and threatened to rain, but it was too cold.

At about 9 o'clock, after having tried in vain, to get a horse,

I went out with Harwood to view a piece of land about 6 miles west of town, which we have some idea to buy.

We rode out a good part of the way, but had a great deal of walking

to do on the ground, and as we got no eligible chance to ride back to town, we walked back, and I came back very tired and hungry, as we walked a good long **12** miles, over hard ground for walking and we got nothing to eat from breakfast to supper.

[p. 64]

SUNDAY, May 9. **1858.**

This has been a mild pleasant, and pretty day, but rather cloudy. After a pretty seasonable breakfast, and a few morning chores, I sat down to study upon my plan for Mr. Adair's house.

I got quite interested, and stuck to it till **12 o'clock**.

I then spent a couple of hours in washing, dressing, getting lunch, and putting away things, and at **2 o'clock P. M.**, I commenced a letter to Hannah, and wrote **4** pages.

Then having got supper, I paid the Parkers a visit, and then went to Butler's, where we had a very satisfactory little circle.

I got a message from Aunt Susan in regard to Hannah, which I hope will prove true, as it will be a very convincing test.

MONDAY, May 10.

This has been a pretty day.

I haven't done much today, besides writing letters.

I added **4** pages to my letter to Hannah, and wrote **3 or 4** business letters.

After supper George and I went down to Mr. Butler's to have a little circle, but he was not at home, and she was too unwell, and so we made arrangements to go tomorrow night.

[p. 65]

Florence TUESDAY, May 11. **1858.**

The day has been rather cold and unpleasant.

I've done hardly anything today, besides writing letters, and feel rather tired this evening.

Mrs. Stewart, George and I went to Butler's, this evening, and had a little circle, but it didn't amount to much.

Mr. Butler was very tired and sleepy, and that it seems injured his mediumship.

WEDNESDAY, May 12.

The weather now, is like an attack of the shakes, bright sunshine prevails one day, and clouds and cold the next, and so on alternately. Monday was pretty, yesterday unpleasant, and this day, has been lovely. I spent the day on a trip to Council-Bluffs, to attend to some business. I took dinner at Mrs. Darling's, and saw all of the family except "Losurbah"⁷⁷. I had a pleasant time with Miss Lucy Goodwill, and Mrs. King wife of a merchant of that name in Omaha. We made the trip together, between Omaha and the Bluffs. These places are very dull. I spent a rather pleasant evening at Parker's.

[p. 66]

THURSDAY, May ~~13~~ 20th.⁷⁸ 1858.

Sinclair goes east.

This has been a pretty, but rather cool day. I spent most of the morning in finishing some odds and ends of accounts &c. Towards noon Sinclair started east to spend 6 or 8 weeks. This afternoon some business matters came up, about which I wrote to him. This evening's mail brought me a really nice long letter from my darling little wife, and after reading it, I sat up until a late hour perfecting my plan for Mr. Adair's house.

FRIDAY, May ~~14~~ 21.st

This has been a rainy shiny and rather cool day. Besides sundry chores, and too little business, I've done nothing, but to work at drawing off my plan of a house for Mr.

⁷⁷ Possibly "Losurbad".

⁷⁸ He crossed out the original dates on this page and changed them to a week later. He also changed the dates on the pages for 20 and 21 May to 13 and 14 May. It is unclear why these dates were switched in the diary.

Adair. I spent the evening, in writing up my diary, reading **&c.**

[p. 67]

Florence SATURDAY, May 15. 1858.

This has been a nice pleasant day.

I spent a good deal of time in figuring on cash account, and making up some entries, but didn't get it quite right.

I also wrote to Bliss and Spear⁷⁹, and fixed up a deed for some land bought from Veers for Henry Johns.

I got a nice long letter from Hannah, today, and also got one from Mr. Clark the medium about Hannah's little sister Martha, containing an account of Mr. Deforest's impressions in regard to her case.

SUNDAY, May 16.

Commenced boarding at Smith's, at \$ 3. p. week.

This has been a damp drizzly day.

George and I got our own breakfast, and commenced boarding at Smith's, by taking dinner there.

I spent the morning in doing chores, reading, dressing **&c.**, and spent the afternoon in writing to Hannah.

George and I went to Butler's, after supper, and had a pleasant evening with the spirits.

Upon our return home, we had a nice oyster supper.

[p. 68]

MONDAY, May 17. **1858.**

This has been a rather pleasant day.

I spent considerable time in figuring up cash account, which

I succeeded in getting righty balanced.

I spent the evening, in talking over business matters with Sinclair.

⁷⁹ Possibly "Speer".

TUESDAY, May 18.

The morning was bright and pretty, but it clouded up, and we had a rainy afternoon.

I spent a good part of the morning in hunting up and examining some of Sinclair's lots.

I took off one of the safe locks which wouldn't work right, and having taken it apart and put it together again, it worked very nicely.

I made several entries, and took off a trial balance for Sinclair, from his Cleveland books, which came right without any trouble.

I had a pleasant evening at Parker's.

[p. 69]

Florence WEDNESDAY, May 19. 1858.

We had a fair morning, then rain and hail, which were followed by a strong northerly wind, and clear sky, and this evening the wind has lulled again.

I spent a good part of the day in posting up my books, and then wrote a pretty long letter to Hannah, to have Sinclair take it along, and mail it at Cleveland Ohio.

THURSDAY, May ~~20~~. 13th

(See 1 week back for May 20th)

The morning early brought down a little rain, which cleared up for a time, but at noon it gathered quite thick, which however passed off, with only a little bluster, and the afternoon, was warm and lovely.

At about 9 o'clock the old man Veers and I went out to see his claim. We had a pleasant time, tracing out the lines, and on the way back, I gathered some fine wild flowers.

This evening, I wrote a short letter to Hannah, and copied an extract from "Spiritualism" for the paper.

[p. 70]

FRIDAY, May ~~21~~ 14th. 1858.

(See 1 week back for May 21st)

This has been a bright pretty day, but the morning was rather too windy, to be pleasant.

After breakfast, went to Omaha, to examine Veers' titles to his land, which I found all right.

This afternoon, I've been hard at work making up some entries of accounts.

I got a little letter from Hannah, this evening.

SATURDAY, May 22.

We've had rain, hail and sunshine, today.

Not feeling very bright, I didn't go to Smith's to breakfast, but picked up a little at home.

I've devoted the entire day, to drawing the plans of the second story, and cellar, and the roof of Mr. Adair's house.

[p. 71]

Florence SUNDAY, May 23. 1858.

We had heavy rain last night, but the day has been bright and quite warm.

I spent a good part of the morning in domestic chores, and laid down on the bed for a while and read.

From **1 o'clock** to **3 o'clock**. I reviewed some of my recent letters to Hannah, and made out a list of articles that I want her to get and bring out with her. I then got dinner, and finished the afternoon, in talking and reading, and spent the evening at Parker's.

MONDAY, May 24.

This has been a day of mingled sunshine and rain.

I've done scarcely anything today, besides a few chores, and writing to Hannah.

I spent a little time in adjusting a few cash matters.

[p. 72]

TUESDAY, May 25. **1858.**

This has been another day like yesterday. It rains now as easy "as rolling off a log".

I have been busy all day, in writing sundry business letters.

I whiled away the evening in strolling around some with Mr.

Clark the medium, before supper, and after supper, I loafed around the post-office, waiting for arrival of the mail.

WEDNESDAY, May 26.

First very warm day.

For a wonder, we had no rain today, although it looked very much like it, this evening and it has been the first very warm day of the season.

I've devoted the whole day to drawing the front elevation of my plan of a house for Mr. Adair.

I had the pleasure of getting a letter from Hannah, this evening, which, though short, was very welcome.

I took my little kitten to Smith's, this morning, as it was too much trouble to take care of it at home. She was "at home" without delay, and they were all well pleased with her.

[p. 73]

Florence THURSDAY, May 27. 1858.

This has been another very fine day, but very warm. Hard storm, this evening.

I've done but little today, besides drawing the sectional view of the back stairs from cellar to garret of my plan of a house.

Mrs. Parker and I had a little interchange of notes about a little misunderstanding I had of her meaning on last Sunday evening in consequence of which I hadn't been to see her since.

I suppose she had hinted to me that it was time to go, but it was a mistake.

I was to visit her this evening, but there was a hard storm and I didn't go.

I wrote to Hannah instead, and got six pages written, which kept me up till **10 o'clock**.

Dr. Harsh got back this evening from his trip to Cleveland.

FRIDAY, May 28.

This has been a cool damp day. The storm last night blew over a little house last night, but no one was living in it.

I attended to a variety of little items today, but my chief business was, to draw a carefully detailed plan for a model privy, with the seats and holes all just right.

In the middle of the afternoon, I went down into the field towards Omaha, with Dr. Malcolm and Mrs. Parker to view the new road.

I protested a couple of notes for Parker this evening.
I spent the evening with Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Parker.

[p. 74]

SATURDAY, May 29. **1858.**

This has been another cool damp day, although rather pleasant.
I attended to some business today, and drew a side elevation of my house, talked with visitors in the office &c.
I had a nice ride with Parker and his folks, in their carriage this evening, and spent a portion of the early evening over there.

SUNDAY, May 30.

It has been a rainy dreary disagreeable day.
I spent most of the morning and evening in reading, and the afternoon in writing a letter to Hannah.

[p. 75]

Florence MONDAY, May 31. **1858.**

As usually we've had heavy rains today.
I've done scarcely anything today, besides writing a few short business letters, and finishing a drawing of my plans for Mr. Adair's house. I also inked over a small portion of the original pencil sketch of it.

TUESDAY, June 1.

It is still nothing but rain, rain, rain.
I spent most of the day in inking over all I could of the house plans, but was unable to finish it.
I spent the evening at Malcolm's very pleasantly.

[p.76]

WEDNESDAY, June 2. **1858.**

Very heavy rain fell in the night, and it also rained through the day.
I had the pleasure of getting a nice little letter from Hannah tonight. She spoke of the almost continual rains they were having in Pittsburgh and vicinity.
I was awakened by the storm at **3 o'clock A. M.**, and being unable to

get to sleep again, I got up at $\frac{1}{4}$ of 4 o'clock and inked over two of three of my sheets of my house plans before breakfast. I got breakfast at about 7 o'clock, and getting very sleepy again, I went to bed at 8 o'clock, and slept nearly 3 hours.

This afternoon, I finished inking over all of the portions of my house plans, copied them in the press, and wrote several important business letters.

THURSDAY, June 3.

This has been a pretty day, after the rain.

Not feeling very well, I did but little this morning, besides reading and taking my ease.

I wrote to Henry Johns, and sent him his deed for the land I bought of Veers off him.

I wrote to Father Adair, sending my drawings of plans for the house for him, with explanatory text.

I also wrote a short letter to Hannah.

[p. 77]

Florence FRIDAY, June 4. **1858.**

Anniversary of engagement.

This has been a bright warm day, and, for a wonder, free from rain.

Mr. Black came up from Omaha at noon, and got some roofing for.

I made up some cash entries, and tried up cash account, which came \$ 2.⁵⁰. I also wrote up a portion of my abstract of town lots of Florence.

I took a pretty long walk before supper, and found a few strawberries.

Four years ago, today, Hannah promised to become my wife, a promise which she has fulfilled, and a years experience has proved our union, a happy one.

SATURDAY, June 5.

This has been a bright warm day.

Not having enjoyed very good rest, last two nights, I slept till

¼ of **10 o'clock**. this morning.

I disposed of a few chores, and read papers before dinner.

This afternoon, I discovered the cost of \$ 2.⁵⁰ over in cash balanced the account, posted up, and took off a trial balance, which came through the first time.

Took a little walk after supper, with Smith's folks, after supper.

[p. 78]

SUNDAY, June 6. **1858.**

It has been bright warm and windy, but a very pleasant evening.

I washed and dressed up for the day, before breakfast, which I got with the rest, at about **9 o'clock**. George McCosh, Dr. Harsh and I attended morning service together, at the Methodist church, and heard Mr. Collin's successor, "Brother Birch". It is the first time the doctor has attended church for nearly two years, and I have not attended before since Nov. **1st** of ^e80 last year.

I spent the afternoon, with the exception of an hour or so, at dinner, at **3 ½ o'clock**. on the bed, reading, and studying Hanna's ambrotype⁸¹ with the aid of a magnifying glass.

I took a little walk at dusk with Parker's folks, and spent a pleasant evening there. I gave Parker a strong temperance lecture.

MONDAY, June 7.

This has been quite a pretty day, and pleasantly cool.

I spent a good portion of the morning in doing several important chores, and in tinkering up a rain water barrel so that the cows can't drink the water up, as they have been doing.

I then examined some accounts, and wrote several business letters, and a short letter to Hannah.

[p. 79]

⁸⁰ "of" is written twice.

⁸¹ An early type of photograph made using a silver-coated plate of glass. Ambrotypes were produced between 1855 and about 1865. (http://www.phototree.com/id_amb.htm.)

Florence TUESDAY, June 8. 1858.

Col. THOS. L. KANE, the "Peace Maker,"⁸²

This has been a bright and pleasant day, but we were having a heavy thunder storm, this evening.

Besides the few chores, and some loafing, I have not done much today, only my writing to brother Nicholas, and to Sinclair.

Colonel ~~Robert P.~~ <Thomas L.> Kane, but was sent to Utah by the government, to see what Brigham Young was going to do. He is not very communicative, but says the Mormons are "going south", and that is all they have to say.

I had quite a little chat with him after supper.

I spent the evening quite pleasantly at Mr. Parker's.

Arrived here this noon, from Salt Lake City, via the Platte Valley.

I had a pleasant chat with him, this evening.

WEDNESDAY, June 9.

This has been a pleasant afternoon. We had one of the heaviest thunder storms in the morning, with very severe lightning.

I wrote to Peter, cousin Fanny Alvert, and to Hannah, thus finishing up my unanswered correspondence.

I was greatly disappointed at not getting any eastern mail, tonight. It is a week now since we've had any.

[p. 80]

THURSDAY, June 10. 1858.

This has been a bright and quite a pleasant day.

I spent a good part of the time in writing up a portion of my abstract of town lots, and then in fixing up some of Sinclair's Cleveland Land Company accounts.

This afternoon, Parker got out his carriage and took Dudley, George and me after strawberries.

We had tolerable luck, and I have been eating all I wanted for supper.

The eastern mail got in at last, but for some strange reason,

⁸² Clipping from a newspaper or pamphlet of some sort.

it brings nothing from Hannah

I spent the evening in reading my letters, picking over my strawberries, and in writing a short business letter.

FRIDAY, June 11.

It was quite cold last night, but has been a fine pleasant day.

I spent some time in choring, but my chief business has been to attend to answering various letters received last night.

McLane came up, this afternoon, and got a little roofing canvas. He had a horse and buggy, and took Mrs. Stewart out to Brewster's farm to see Mrs. Butler. They found her suffering a good deal from a fever and ague.

June 26th I learn, by letters received this evening, <{June 26}> that my darling little wife was happily delivered of a nice little boy at 3½ o'clock. P. M. on Friday, June eleventh {June 11th}.

Thus in just four years, and one week, from our engagement, we have [to] be good parents.

[p. 81]

Florence SATURDAY, June 12. 1858.

This has been a fine day, a mild sun, and a gentle breeze.

In order to test the statement made by the "Oracle" of Crescent City, about a discovery of coal over there, I took a ride with Jimmy Pyper,⁸³ starting at a rather late hour this morning.

After dinner I visited the place, and found that Johnson had not told the truth, or there is only a kind of a mixture of what looks like canner coal, and layered, which can be made to burn after a fashion, but a welding heat can't be obtained from it. The wagon being heavily loaded with corn bag, we walked back, giving me a fine tramp, and much needed exercise.

This is my last day at Smith's, as his wife think[s] it is too much trouble to board me.

⁸³ Likely James M. Pyper of Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 28.)

SUNDAY, June 13.

Commenced boarding at Kenedy's.⁸⁴

This has been one of the pleasantest days of the season. The sky was bright, it was not too warm, and a gentle breeze prevailed.

I got up pretty early, and dressed up for the day before breakfast, which I got at the hotel.

I walked about town some after breakfast to get company out to Butler's, and not succeeding, I spent **3** hours' hard work, until noon, in giving my bedroom and parlor a thorough sweeping, dusting and arranging.

This afternoon, I dozed some, and McLane and Briggs coming up, I finished the afternoon with them. After supper we all went to Parker's, and I finished the evening there.

McLane and I came to a pretty well settled understanding about our business arrangements.

[p. 82]

MONDAY, June 14. **1858.**

This has been a beautiful pleasant day, but a little cool.

I spent the morning in sundry chores, as blacking my boots, sweeping out **&c.**, and then wrote up my diary, and looked over some of my old diaries beginning with **1854.**

While thus engaged I heard some beautiful airs, many of them very best operas, on one of the best hand organs that I ever heard.

It was quite a treat for this part of the country.

I took a little walk with George, before supper, this evening.

At about dusk, I went up to Mitchell's, to escort Mrs. Stewart, and Mrs. Parker home. We lengthened our walk, and had a little chat about Parker's doing[s], McLane, and Lena's future prospects.

I wrote a short letter to Nicholas.

TUESDAY, June 15.

This has been one of the warmest days of the season, so far, but the evening

⁸⁴ George F. Kenedy (ca. 1818-?) was on the board of directors of the Cleveland Land Company and was a hotel keeper in Florence at this time. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 8-10, 32.)

is cool and pleasant.

I spent some time in discussing Pyper's dancing party, this evening, with the Parkers, and plans of getting there, which were not finally decided until after 6 o'clock this evening, and it was settled that George go in a hack ~~as the~~ while Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Stewart and I to go in Parker's carriage. After the discussion, I blacked up several pairs of boots, by which time it was time to open up the office.

I passed most of the day in reading works on obstetrics, to get some idea of Hannah's condition and prospects with her, as yet unborn babe. I finished the adjustment of some Cleveland accounts, this morning.

[p. 83]

Florence WEDNESDAY, June 16. 1858.

This has been a sunny and one of the warmest days of the season.

I spent a good portion of the morning in writing a letter to Hannah.

This afternoon, I bought some strawberries, which took a long time to pick over, and then, getting some cement,⁸⁵ I heated them up, and sealed them in a couple of cans. There are 2½ quarts of them when prepared.

I spent some of the evening at Parker's.

I gave myself a washing all over before getting into bed.

THURSDAY, June 17.

This has been a bright warm summer day.

I have done scarcely a thing today, besides reading various books, and papers, loafing around &c..

I spent some time in making paste-board tube to hold one of the object glasses of my opera glasses, to use it in looking at Hannah's ambrotype with.

It improves the picture a good deal.

I bought some strawberries this evening, which I have put sugar on, to

⁸⁵ Shorthand clearly says "cement"—possibly used to seal preserves.

stand on them over night, and draw the syrup.

[p. 84]

FRIDAY, June 18. **1858.**

The morning was bright and fair, but after dinner we had a heavy thunder storm, with a very high wind.

After breakfast, I bought up another can of strawberries.

Which makes the 3^d can.

I worked at my abstract of Florence lots some, and made very good progress at it.

After the rain was there, I scrubbed out the office some, the rain having come in a good deal around the doors and windows.

SATURDAY, June 19.

This has been another very warm day, but a good breeze made it pleasant.

I devoted the morning to writing my abstract.

This afternoon, I fastened letters in the filebook, and took a pretty long walk with Dr. Harsh, and got a nicest little lot of strawberries, which we ate as we picked them.

I spent the evening in putting up six cans of strawberries that I bought this afternoon.

[p. 85]

Florence SUNDAY, June 20. 1858.

This has been a warm day, but a cooling breeze made it pleasant on the whole.

Having washed and dressed up before breakfast, I had a clear day before me. I spent the morning in chores, reading, and in making up a statement showing the cost of the strawberries that I have been putting up lately. The result is that I have got just about three times as much for my money, as I would have had, if I had bought them all put up.

I spent the afternoon on the bed reading and took a very short nap.

I spent the evening at Parker's.

MONDAY, June 21.

This has been a bright and very warm day.

After breakfast and making the bed, I got out my summer clothes,

and put away my thick undershirts and drawers, and woolen socks &c..

I then stopped up some cracks over the middle parlor window, where the rain is sometimes driven in by the wind. Swept out, and blacked my boots, by which time it was noon.

After dinner I wrote to Hannah until Mr. Parker took me out to see Butler and Brewster on the Brewster farm, to be a witness in a business matter. This evening's mail at last brought me a nice lot of letters among which, were three from Hannah. I finished my letter to her and mailed it.

[p. 86]

TUESDAY, June 22. **1858.**

This has been a very warm, almost a sultry day.

I have been hard at work all day writing letters, in answer to last night's mail, and loafed around Parker's a little, after supper.

WEDNESDAY, June 23.

This has been another very warm day, but it promises rain, tonight.

After disposing of quite a variety of chores, I spent the day in writing letters, making out memoranda &c., until about 3 o'clock. when I went with Parker in his carriage to Omaha, and got a few articles that I was needing.

I loafed about the post-office most of the evening.

I sat up, engaged in reading until a late hour, and then wrote part of letter to Mrs. Parker declining any further share in the intrigue between herself and McLane.

[p. 87]

Florence THURSDAY, June 24. **1858.**

There was a pretty heavy rain in the night, which continued at intervals through the day. I carried in considerable water, and then emptied a the barrel, as the water was smelling badly, and disposed of other chores.

I was a good deal shaken at finding that five out of nine of my cans of strawberries had spoiled, and can find no other cause than that the cans were not well sealed.

I wrote a pretty long letter to Hannah, this afternoon.

FRIDAY, June 25.

This has been a bright hot day.

After attending to some chores, I spent the morning in reading the papers, and in indexing my letterbook.

Most of the afternoon, was taken up in fixing up a business matter with Steele.⁸⁶

I spent the evening at Parker's.

[p. 88]

SATURDAY, June 26. **1858.**

I wrote from **3** pages of a letter to Hannah, just before supper.

This has been one of the hottest days of the season, this far.

I spent the morning hard at work, aiding a man in putting a cutting of composition on our roof, which leaks some.

He got a little sunstroke, and didn't come back after dinner.

After **3 o'clock**, I shut up shop, and went to see Charlie Goodrich about buying some furniture, but found nothing that I wanted.

This evening's mail brought me letters informing me that my precious little Hannah had made me a father of a nice little boy, on Friday the **11th** instant, at **3½ o'clock P. M.**

So her great trial is over with, the "mother and baby are doing as well as could be expected." There was a meeting in our office, tonight, to make arrangements for a Sunday school celebration on the **4th**.

SUNDAY, June 27.

This has been quite a warm, but a pleasant day.

I attended to the morning chores, and spent the rest of the morning in writing to Hannah, finishing her letter, by the addition of a page after dinner.

I then laid down on the bed until, pretty late, when McLane and Rankin drove up from Omaha. Mac and I soon⁸⁷ took a little walk together, up street. After supper, we took a walk, together with George

⁸⁶ Likely Robert W. Steele (ca. 1820-?), who was a lawyer and land agent in Florence. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 3.)

⁸⁷ Written "soom", but probable intent seems to be "soon".

up the hill, and then finished the evening at Dr. Malcolm's.⁸⁸

I had the misfortune to have the glass and frame of one of my splendid office pictures broken, this morning. After hanging almost a year, the string broke, of its own accord.

[p. 89]

Florence MONDAY, June 28. 1858.

This has been a warm day, but friendly clouds prevailing, it has been made tolerable

I spent a good portion of the morning and a little of the afternoon, in cutting down some of the tall weeds about the house, with the bush scythe, working till I was rather tired, and my hands rather blistered.

I felt badly, and have done but little in doors.

I sat up late, reading.

The dinner committee for the Sunday school celebration of the 3^d, of which, I am a member, met at the Methodist church, this afternoon, and made some suitable arrangements.

TUESDAY, June 29.

This has been a very warm day.

I have busied myself in writing several business letters, reading, and loafing, with a few chores.

I made a bare beginning of a letter to Hannah, just before supper, with the intention of adding to it, after supper, but getting otherwise engaged, I did nothing more at it.

[p. 90]

WEDNESDAY, June 30. 1858.

This has been another very warm day.

I've done hardly anything, today, besides writing a long letter to Hannah.

I sat up quite late, this evening, reading a novel.

I was delighted at the receipt of two letters from Hannah, this evening,

⁸⁸ Dr. Alexander B. Malcom (ca. 1817-?) was a physician in Florence in 1858. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 6.)

of the 16th & 18th, which are the first since the birth of our child on the 11th. As these dates are only 5 & 7 days after her great trial, which shows that she is recovering fast.

Her accounts of her terrible sufferings distressed and sickened me.

THURSDAY, July 1.

The sky was cloudy, so that it was cool and pleasant, through the day, and this evening, we had one of the heaviest thunder storms I ever saw.

I never knew it to continue to pour down so hard, for so long a time.

I spent a good portion of the morning and latter part of the afternoon, in making purchases and arrangements, for the 3rd of July dinner.

I made a statement with Pyper, and wrote a business letter.

I spent the evening in reading.

[p. 91]

Florence FRIDAY, July 2. 1858.

This has been a threatening ominous day, but the evening sky promises a fair morrow.

I wrote a pretty long letter to Nicholas, and several business letters, and, towards evening, I made some purchases for tomorrow's dinner.

(Observed as the "4th["]) SATURDAY, July 3. **at Florence**

This has been as lovely and pleasant a day, as could have been desired, for the festivities suitable to it.

I've been very busy until the middle of the afternoon, in attending to the dinner given to the Sunday School children, and have had a pretty hard day's work. After leaving the scene of the dinner, I went home, and having bought a large lot of black raspberries, I went to work, and put up nine cans before supper.

Several of us spent the evening at Parker's firing off "crackers, grasshoppers" &c.

[p. 92]

SUNDAY, July 4. 1858.

This has been a fine day, but rather warm.

I've been busy a good deal of the time, in writing letters.

I wrote to Dr. Woods, who attended Hannah in childbirth, asking him several questions about her parturition, and wrote to Sinclair, dating both of the letters, for the 5th. I also wrote a portion of a letter to Hannah, and these, with reading and dozing, have filled up the time.

MONDAY, July 5.

This has been a beautiful day, and not too warm, and a fine breeze has made it very pleasant.

I finished my letter to Hannah, and then, one of the several others to Saratoga, where I spent the time until the middle of the afternoon, looking at the people, listening to the speeches &c..

Everything passed off well, and it was a very fine affair.

I spent the evening in loafing about the printing office.

[p. 93]

Florence TUESDAY, July 6. 1858.

This has been a bright and very warm day.

I intended to devote the day to fixing up some accounts, and some berries being brought me, and also having some to put up that I got yesterday afternoon, I went to work, and have been hard at work nearly all day, putting them in cans, making raspberry vinegar, and putting some out to dry.

I spent the evening in attending to several errands.

Besides putting up fruit, I spent some time in washing dishes and in cleaning up a little in the kitchen, and in the office.

WEDNESDAY, July 7.

This has been an excessively hot day, although a strong breeze has prevailed.

I spent all of the morning in choring and fixing up my pocket cash account, and a few other little matters.

After closing the office, this afternoon, I set George to sweeping out the bedroom and parlor, and I went to work in the kitchen, washing dishes and bottles, cleaning out the cupboards, and arranging their contents, and in sweeping all up clean all of which took me between 3 and 4 hours.

This evening, Dr. Harsh having got some berries and cream, we, with

George and Mentzer⁸⁹ had a fine time disposing of them.

[p. 94]

THURSDAY, July 8. **1858**

There was a very hard storm in the night, but the day has been fair and pleasant, although rather warm.

After a few chores, I wrote a pretty long letter to Hannah, which, with a few business items, kept me employed until after 3 o'clock.

I then set to work, and washed some dishes, scoured knives, washed up some tin pans used in making "raspberry vinegar", scoured and cleaned candlesticks and lamps &c., until done and then gave myself a good washing all over, and put on some clean clothes, by which time supper came.

I spent the evening chiefly in talking with Brewster.

FRIDAY, July 9.

It rained a very little this morning, was very hot through the day, the wind changing, the evening was cool and pleasant.

I have passed the day, in writing letters, fussing with berries and raspberry vinegar, reading the papers, loafing with Veesters⁹⁰ &c. &c..

[p. 95]

Florence SATURDAY, July 10. **1858.**

This has been a nice pleasant day.

After a few chores, I wrote a letter to sister Jenny, and spent most of the afternoon with the preparation of berries for drying, and in finishing the making of all my raspberry vinegar

I now have **12 qts. of** it, that is strong and good.

I had a pleasure of receiving **3** little letters from Hannah, this afternoon, which were very welcome.

⁸⁹ J. M. Mentzer (ca. 1832–?) was the publisher of the *Florence Courier*. (Nebraska Contested Election, The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress 10.)

⁹⁰ Possibly "Visters" or even "Dinsters".

SUNDAY, July 11.

This has been a day of mixed cloud and sunshine, but rather pleasant. I didn't dress up at all, today, as I had considerable work to finish with my berries, and I've been busy almost all day, in bottling up my raspberry vinegar, corking and sealing it, in labeling the bottles, in putting away the bottles and cans, and in washing up the dishes, pans &c. used &c.. all of which was quite a job, but I have finished my berry labors nearly, and only intend to dry some more.

[p. 96]

MONDAY, July 12. 1858.

This has been a rather cool, and a very pleasant day.

I spent some time, after breakfast, in preparing a frame for drying berries on, and then, having a chance to ride down to Omaha with Mr. Bracken, I left the office in charge of Dr. Harsh, and went with him, to see McLane about our roofing business. We returned in good season, bringing a mail pack which gave me two little letters from Hannah.

I spent the evening until a late hour, in writing a long letter to Adair, Grant and Hartman.

TUESDAY, July 13.

This has been a hot windy day, the wind prevailing from the south. Having disposed of a few morning chores, I wrote to McLane, and added a page to my letter to Adair[,] Grant and Hartman. After mailing them I wrote up my diary, and my private cash account. After dinner, I spent most of the afternoon in writing a pretty long letter to Hannah, in reply to her letters received yesterday. Towards evening I took a walk up to the ferry, and engaged some more berries. I got **12** quarts, and ate some.

[p. 97]

Florence WEDNESDAY, July 14. 1858.

The day has been very hot and windy. This evening the clouds gathered heavily, and the heavy storm has been upon us, all of the evening.

After disposing of my usual morning chores, I spent a couple of hours in reading about the female breast, and haven't done much else through the day, but to read Harper, and loaf around.

I got another little letter from Hannah. She writes every other day.

THURSDAY, July 15.

Heavy rain with short reprieves have been the order of the day, and there is no knowing how long they will continue.

I spent a good portion of the morning in choring, and in errands on the street, and then wrote up my diary and cash account.

I wrote a pretty long letter to Hannah.

There was a fine balloon ascension from the Courier office tonight.

It was made of newspaper, was eleven feet high, and well proportion[ed], and being inflated with heated air, it went off finally.

[p. 98]

FRIDAY, July 16. **1858.**

It is yet rain, rain, rain, and the sky promises no cessation.

I wrote some business letters, today, read papers and books, loafed around &c..

This evening, although it rained badly, there was a goodly company at the Willet House, and we had with ease the pleasantest dance, I ever attended; in the territory. I felt very well, and the company was select, and not too large, so that I enjoyed it all.

SATURDAY, July 17.

This has been the third day, that we've been favored with the rain.

I had a lot of berries drying, and having not chosen to do it out of doors on account of the dampness, and having two sacks that were spoiling, I've spent nearly the whole day in making jam, putting up two sacks, and in drying some berries in the oven. This with the washing up all the pans and dishes has been quite a chore.

I've been tramping about town a good deal, to see about getting some shingles for our house, as the canvas doesn't answer.

[p. 99]

Florence SUNDAY, July 18. 1858.

This has been rainy as well as the last three days preceding it.

I spent the morning in the few chores, and in reading.

This morning, I washed and dressed up, and spent a couple of hours or so⁹¹ before supper, at Chapman's visiting with them, Mrs. Allman, and Mr. and Mrs. Duncan.

I spent the evening in reading.

MONDAY, July 19.

At last we have fine weather, and this has been a lovely day.

I spent the morning in choring, in running around to see about shingles for our house, and in sundry business items.

This afternoon, I wrote to Hannah.

This evening I attended a concert by the "New England Bards",⁹² taking Mrs. Phillip Chapman with me.

The music was passable, but our enjoyment was broken up, by some drunken rowdies from Omaha. In the great excitement raised, they were very near killing the intruders.

[p. 100]

TUESDAY, July 20. 1858.

It has been raining again, from time to time, through the day, and it seems as if we were never going to get any more fair weather, but "it is a long lane that has no turn", and we may yet hope.

A few chores, and varied business, reading books and papers, and stroll down street &c. have served to fill up the time.

WEDNESDAY, July 21.

We've had all kinds of rain, today, from the heavy shower to a misty drizzle, mixed up with brief spells of neither.

⁹¹ Possibly "also".

⁹² Durant's New England Bards was a musical group consisting of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Durant and Mr. W. Hayward. They apparently toured the Kansas and Nebraska areas in 1858. A critic in Kansas described one of their performances: "Among the ballads were some of the most exquisitely beautiful pieces which touch a cord in every heart, and they were sung in a style so masterly as to charm the nicest appreciation of the musical art." ("New England Bards," Quindaro Chindowan: A Free-State Paper, Vol. 1, No. 49, 22 May 1858, 4.)

After getting ready to sit down in the office, I went to reading Max Buck on "Females and Their Diseases", which I am now reading consecutively, and studying with the aid of several dictionaries. I then looked over my letterbook to see what letters of mine were not answered, and took notes of them.

After dinner, I distributed vessels through the garret to catch the rain that leaked through, and to prevent its loosening the plaster of the ceiling, after which, I wrote a short letter to Hannah.

[p. 101]

Florence THURSDAY, July 22. 1858.

As usually, this has been a rainy day.

The old lifeless routine of chores, reading medicine, and stories, looking through papers for anecdotes, and anything else to while away time, strolling around &c., has served to fill up the hours, and bring the day to its close.

The consciousness that I must lead a life, like this, of compulsory idleness, while interest and expenses never cease, is distressing, but I still live in hopes that new arrangements may be effected, so that I shall feel as if I were accomplishing something.

FRIDAY, July 23.

This has been a day of mixed cloud and sunshine, and, wonderful to say, it has been without rain, being the first dry day since last week Wednesday.

I spent considerable time in reading medicine, and in looking over a lot of old papers, of which, quite a large pile has accumulated.

This afternoon, a good paper mail arrived, which, with some strolling about filled up the time.

After supper, I took a walk with Jasperson to his claim, which his nearly three miles back of town.

I had the misfortune, to lose one of my safe keys through a whole in my pocket, which will give me a great deal of trouble for I can't find it. I sent a paper to Hannah.

[p. 102]

SATURDAY, July 24. **1858.**

The sun arose beautiful, and we've had a fair and lovely day, and happily haven't suffered with the excessive rain that has been so troublesome. Having hunted all about the house in vain, after my lost safe key I had no other alternative than to retrace my walk of last evening, and I got up at $\frac{1}{4}$ of 5 o'clock, for that purpose, and had the very great satisfaction of finding it on top of the newly broken prairie sod, on Jasperson's claim⁹³. It was a very narrow escape, and was duly thankful. I spent a good part of the morning in finishing the looking over of the pile of papers on hand and in cutting out the scraps.

SUNDAY, July 25.

This has been a beautiful day. It was very warm, but a strong wind prevailed, which made it very pleasant. I washed and dressed up before breakfast, and immediately after breakfast, I went to Brewster's, to get him to walk out to Butler's with me, but as his brother Henry was with him, he didn't go. I went out alone, spent the day, got a nice dinner, had a pleasant time, and returning towards evening. I stopped at Jackson's for half an hour on the way back, and came into town over there, a distance of 5 miles, in an hour and a quarter. McLane and Briggs were up, from Omaha.

[p. 103]

Florence MONDAY, July 26. 1858.

This has been another day of rain and clouds, with a slight occasional reprieve. Mr. Leas (**Leas**) of Des Moines visited us today, and I've spent a good portion of the time with him. Before dinner I took him to the river to see the island, and to show him about town a little, and we then proceeded to Bracky's,⁹⁴ and Dr. Harsh joined us there, we had a nice dinner. Mr. Leas left in the afternoon, for Des Moines. I wrote a long letter to Hannah before supper, and the evening

⁹³ Written "craim", but apparent intent is "claim".

⁹⁴ Possibly "Brackess".

was spent at a caucus for ascertaining the voice of the people on the coming legislative election.

TUESDAY, July 27.

This has been, as usual, a day for rain, rain, rain, to the destruction of crops and despair of farmers who are great sufferers.

I wrote to Nicholas, and disposed of two or three business letters, and passed the rest of the time in reading and loafing.

An adjourned caucus from last evening, was held at the Willet House this evening, to nominate candidates for four members of next winter's legislature.

There was some great excitement, arising from the crinations that [were] thrown out, and some very disgraceful scenes occurred, but finally the business of the meeting was satisfactorily settled.

[p. 104]

WEDNESDAY, July 28. **1858.**

We were comparatively free from rain today, but the clouds always hover over us, and we can't tell how soon it will come again.

I have been reading for a good part of the day.

This afternoon, I paid Mrs. Fosset a visit, as she has been very sick and is yet in a bad way, but is much better than she was at noon time.

I had the great pleasure of receiving several important letters, tonight, which have set me in a turmoil of thought.

One of the letters was a short one from Hannah.

Thurs. July 29. Continued This evening, McLane came up from Omaha, bringing his singers Mrs. Woods and Miss Kellogg, and they gave us a fine concert, which was followed by a very pleasant dance. McLane will spend a day or two with me.

THURSDAY, July 29.

We have at last enjoyed a very fine day, although a couple of showers passed over, which threatened to be bad, but proved of no moment.

I spent the morning in choring and reading until about **10 o'clock.**

and then proceeded to the Methodist church, witnessed the marriage of Mr. Grater and Miss Drury, who have been engaged since sometime in May, as she told me herself, this evening.

After the ceremony, a goodly number of us went to Smith's house, to attend the party. We had a pleasant time, and a fine table.

I left at a rather early hour, the effects of the liquors having become too decided to make it pleasant any longer and also, having slept very badly last night, I needed some rest. **(See above.)**

[p. 105]

Florence FRIDAY, July 30. 1858.

This has been a fair and beautiful day.

I've done scarcely anything today, besides, writing a pretty long letter to Hannah.

The rest of the time was taken with reading the papers, and books, and in necessarily devoting time to visitors in the office.

McLane and I spent a good part of the evening at Parker's quite pleasantly. Parker and Gilmore of the Omaha Land Office were also there, and we had a very good time.

We went out for a portion of the time to listen to some speeches being made at the Willet House.

SATURDAY, July 31.

We have again been favored with a fine day, suitable for harvesting.

I spent a good deal of the day with McLane, talking over private matters of his and Mrs. Parker's, disposed of chores, loafed about, read the papers talked politics **&c. &c.**

I spent the evening at Parker's with Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Parker, chiefly with the latter. We were alone as Parker was out electioneering. She told me of some of the causes of her conduct towards me, and explained several matters, that needed an explanation, and as she seemed to want to "make up" with me, I was well pleased to do so.

[p. 106]

SUNDAY, August 1. 1858.

This has been a fine, and rather hot day.

Upon getting up, I washed all over, shaved, and dressed up for the day.

I spent a good part [of the] morning in fixing up the strings of my violin, which I have not used for a long time.

The rest of the time has passed away in sleeping, reading, loafing.

I took a little walk with Mrs. Parker, up towards Brewster's, and where we found Mr. and Mrs. Dudley, and we all returned together.

MONDAY, August 2.

This has been a beautiful [day], and it seems as if we are at last to have some weather, in which, harvesting may be done, and crops grow.

There has been some excitement in town today, on account of election matters, and the territory at large has been engaged in choosing representatives to the legislature of next winter. It has been conducted very quietly here, but there was some fighting down at Omaha.

I wrote a long letter to brother Nicholas, and sketched a form of a letter for McLane to write to Indianapolis Indiana, to some lawyer, asking for advice about Lena's divorce.

George and I took a walk to the ferry, before breakfast.

[p. 107]

Florence TUESDAY, August 3. **1858.**

This has been a bright warm and beautiful day.

I have done but little today, besides getting off a letter to Hannah, and loafing around to learn election news &c.

I got a very good letter mail, this evening, containing a letter from Hannah, and one from Nicholas.

Nicholas makes some suggestions about applying to **C. G. H. C.**⁹⁵ to return to their office, and take a small interest in the concern.

His letters are more cheering than I have had for some time.

WEDNESDAY, August 4.

It threatened rain a little once or twice, today, but it passes

⁹⁵ C. G. Hussey and Company. Dr. Curtis Grubb Hussey was the owner of the Pittsburgh Copper and Brass Rolling-Mills. The products produced by these mills were put into the market by the house of C. G. Hussey & Co. (Thomas Cushing. *A Genealogical and Biographical History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*, 256.)

off in a few minutes, and the day has been fair.

I wrote up my books, balanced cash, and took off a trial balance. I then made up a statement of the condition of the firm affairs, and another statement of my own affairs in connection with the firm, and this afternoon, I sent them with a letter to brother Nicholas, all of which have filled up a day.

[p. 108]

THURSDAY, August 5. **1858.**

This has been a day of mixed cloud and sunshine, and it threatened to rain with great bluster, but passed off without any.

When not otherwise interrupted, I spent a good part of the day in preparing a letter to C. G. Hussey and Co., which, though short, I spent a good deal of time upon, as it is a very important one. I received several letters, this afternoon, among which, were one from Hannah, and one from Mr. Thomas. I answered Mr. Thomas, and mailed my letter this evening, together with a map of Florence.

FRIDAY, August 6.

This has been a fair and pleasant day.

I disposed of a variety of chores, and have spent the rest of the time in reading books and papers, strolling around &c..

[p. 109]

Florence SATURDAY, August 7. **1858.**

The sky has been overcast, thus relieving us from a heat that would have been intense.

I got Harwood, with his compass, and we traced out a position of some town lots, that I may [be] interested in.

We spent the morning at it, and got half through, but I was not well enough to hunt up the rest this afternoon.

I spent the afternoon in study and reading.

SUNDAY, August 8.

This has been quite a hot day.

I spent a good part of the day, in writing to Hannah, and

to Nicholas.

The rest of the time was spent mostly in reading books and papers.

[p. 110]

MONDAY, August 9. **1858.**

This has been one of the hottest days of the season.

After breakfast, I worked at fixing the roof some, with the aid of a man, and he patched up some broken places in the canvas, and daubed it over with composition, so that it will answer until we can shingle it.

I spent all of the afternoon, in reading the "Court of Naples" a blood and thunder⁹⁶ novel by Reynolds.

This evening, I spent an hour or so with Mrs. Page.

TUESDAY, August 10.

This has been a repetition of the hot days that we are having now.

Under the inspiration of the moment, I spent an hour this morning, in writing an article in regard to "Colonel"

(Hu-et) Huet, and his ridiculous sketches of

Bellevue and Florence, but it is rather caustic, though true, and I don't suppose Mentzer will believe it.

I wrote a letter to Hannah, of **3** pages, and towards evening, I received quite a big mail mostly of papers, as I had been getting none for some time, and with them were two letters from Hannah, but none from Nicholas.

[p. 111]

Florence WEDNESDAY, August 11. 1858.

We are having clear, bright hot weather now, such as should be expected at this season, and this day, has been of that sort.

I got another large mail of papers, tonight, so that I expect arrearages are pretty well brought up now.

I wrote a short letter to Nicholas, and a long one to Hannah,

⁹⁶ A "blood and thunder" novel was a melodramatic, usually western, novel, popular in the mid-1800s.

in answer to the two that I received last evening.

At about **4 o'clock P. M.**, I spent an hour in giving myself a good washing all over, and in dressing up, for a dance.

A large party, were to come up on the ferry boat from Omaha, and taking on some of us at Florence, ride a little farther, and returned to a dance at the Willet House, and didn't get here until a late hour, when we had one of the finest parties I have seen in the territory.

THURSDAY, August 12.

Hot, hotter, hottest, as ever, today, but a breeze helped us some.

Being unfit for anything else, I've done scarcely anything all day besides sleeping.

I slept about two hours in the forenoon, and since **4 o'clock**

in the afternoon, going without supper, and getting up only at about

9 o'clock this evening, to get some fresh water.

[p. 112]

FRIDAY, August 13. **1858.**

This has been a hot bright day like all of the rest we are having now.

I spent all of the morning in choring and reading.

After dinner, getting too sleepy for anything else, I took a nap of a couple of hours, and then went down to Smith's, with ~~several~~ the Parkers and Dudleys, where we were treated to a supper of very nice green corn and peas; or, in other words "succotash", together with a few other "fixings. When it grew dark, the mosquitoes drove us to our respective homes.

The evening's mail brought me a letter from Nicholas, and some papers.

SATURDAY, August 14.

The day has been cloudy and cool, and a northerly wind has prevailed, so that it has been very pleasant.

I read medicine pretty faithfully for a while, this morning.

This afternoon, I took a walk with Jasperson, for a good distance above town, getting back in time for supper.

I got a letter from Nicholas, and one from Sinclair,

this evening.

The evening's mail brings advice that the Atlantic telegraph has been successfully laid uniting this country with England, but I don't believe it is true.

[p. 113]

Florence SUNDAY, August 15. 1858.

This has been, as usual, a bright hot day.

I have done but little, today, besides sitting around, reading, and trying to keep cool.

I haven't felt very well today, on account of a lack of sufficient exercise.

I made a little visit at Chapman's, before supper, this evening, for half an hour.

Mrs. Duncan (the plumber's [wife]) was there, but I am rather out of consort of her, as she had the bad manners, to read a newspaper, when she ought to have conversed with me. She did the same thing once before, and I've had enough of it.

MONDAY, August 16.

This has been a warm, but pleasant day.

I wrote a pretty long letter to Nicholas.

After breakfast and chores, I spent a couple of hours in taking apart, cleaning and examining the big inside safe lock, in cleaning, polishing and oiling the key to it, which had got quite rusty, so that it wouldn't turn.

Before supper, I took quite a long and pleasant walk, with Mr. Jasperson, which made me feel much better than I did.

I had the disappointment of getting no mail at all tonight.

[p. 114]

TUESDAY, August 17. 1858.

This has been a very hot, stewing roasting day, and it looked for a little while, this evening, as if we were to have some rain, but it blew off, without a drop.

I've been loafing, reading medicine, papers &c., dozing and trying to pass off the time in as comfortable a way as possible.

After supper, I had quite a time, and a good deal of trouble in getting up a box from the landing, that a steamboat left this afternoon, but the exercise was quite beneficial.

I spent an hour or so at Parker's, this evening, which is the first visit I've made there, for two weeks or so.

WEDNESDAY, August 18.

This has been a bright hot day, as usual.

After the usual morning chores, ~~I've done~~ I wrote one short business letter, besides which, I've done but little else, today, reading books and papers.

Towards evening I took a short walk, for exercise.

[p. 115]

Florence THURSDAY, August 19. 1858.

~~This~~ A stratum of clouds has covered the sky, today, thick enough to keep the sun out, and not heavy enough to rain, and as a nice breeze prevails, it has been a fine day for out of door excursions. I therefore improved the morning by hunting up, together with Harwood, the rest of our lots in the upper part of town.

I got back in time for a late dinner, but feasted on a fine pigeon pie at the hotel, to which I was prepared to do ample justice.

The evening's mail brought me a letter from Hannah, and a few papers. It has rained quite heavily, this evening.

FRIDAY, August 20.

Sinclair returns from the east.

This has been a nice day, the sky having been covered with a canopy of clouds, just heavy enough to make a pleasant shade.

I sat down and wrote nearly **4** pages to Hannah in answer to her letter received last night (of **Aug 6th**), when Sinclair came along, having got over from the Bluffs, this morning. He has been gone just **3** months, today. McLane was also up, and brought me the agreeable news, that I was released from the roofing canvas engagement, and that they would take McLane for it.

This afternoon, I finished my letter and mailed it.
I received a nice long letter from Hannah this evening.

[p. 116]

SATURDAY, August 21. **1858.**

This has been a fine, cloudy, cool and pleasant day.
I've done but little today, and the time has passed away in writing
a letter to Hannah, in reading, talking to Sinclair,
loafing around, **&c.**
I went down to Smith's to see the folks, this afternoon, but found
the ladies had gone out to visit.
The Smiths and Dudleys met at Parker's this evening, and I went over,
and we had quite a lively time.

SUNDAY, August 22.

The air being nice and cool, and the sky cloudy, so as to
produce a pleasant shade, I started out this morning for Chapman's,
and spent the day. Jasperson was going to visit a friend
beyond there, and we walked out and back together.
I strolled around their beautiful farm, chatted with the folks, and some
very pleasant ladies that came to make a little Sunday visit, and returned
in time for supper, after having had a very pleasant day.

[p. 117]

Florence MONDAY, August 23. **1858.**

This has been a cloudy day. We don't have sunshine enough
to tell the time by the noon mark.
I've done but little today, besides figuring some on some little accounts,
reading, talking with Sinclair **&c. &c.**
Sinclair and I took a walk before supper, to see one of his outlots
and meeting Dr. Harsh with some melons on his back, in a bag,
we stopped him, and saved him the trouble of carrying them any further.
A steamboat having come up the river, and there being a brilliant moonlight,
I went down to the river to see it, this evening.

TUESDAY, August 24.

The day has been cool and damp, although we had a little sun, but we've found a little fire very comfortable today.

I've spent considerable time in talking over matters with Sinclair, and we have about concluded that we will be obliged to go back east, to get a living. I got a nice long letter from Hannah.

I called on Mrs. Duncan by request, this afternoon, and she gave me some nice green corn, that she has been drying, as a kind of an offset to the rent of the house.

I spent the evening at Parker's. Quite a number of visitors dropped in, and we had a pleasant time.

[p. 118]

WEDNESDAY, August 25. **1858.**

This has been a disagreeable, rainy day.

The morning was taken up chiefly with writing a letter to Hannah, amid many interruptions.

We had fire again in the office, to drive off dampness.

THURSDAY, August 26.

This has been a pretty bright and rather warm day.

I spent some time in writing up in a systematic way, and filled⁹⁷ notes taken while looking up our town lots.

I got a short letter from Nicholas, which I answered, after supper Mrs. Page gave a closing exhibition of our school, this afternoon and evening. I attended in the evening, and was very much pleased and interested indeed with the exercise.

[p. 119]

Florence FRIDAY, August 27. **1858.**

This has been a cool day, of mingled sunshine and cloud.

I fixed up my private cash account, ~~made several little adjustments~~ read the papers, wrote a short letter to Hannah, which I have thought best not to send, and loafed a little, all of such served to fill

⁹⁷ Possible intent "filed".

up the time.

Before supper, Jasperson and I took a little walk into the country,
and got a melon to eat.

It feels like frost, tonight.

SATURDAY, August 28.

This has been a cold day, and like late fall weather.

I adjusted a few little accounts, read the papers, talked with Veers &c.

Judge Ferguson⁹⁸ paid us a visit, today.

He came up, to make some preliminary
arrangements for affidavits, to help with keeping his seat in
Congress, which Bird B. Chapman⁹⁹ is contending with him.

I got a letter from Mr. Thomas.

As I was walking out, before supper, with a couple of others, we found
a sick man by the roadside, who proved to be nearly dead with a "congesting
chill" and but for our timely aid, he might not have lived.

[p. 120]

SUNDAY, August 29. **1858.**

This has been one of the loveliest days I have had for a long
time, though rather cool.

I spent the morning in reading "Venetia Trelawney Howe".

After dinner, I shaved, washed and dressed up.

I wrote a short letter to Hannah, telling her not to write any more
letters to me.

I spent some of the evening at Mr. Parker's.

MONDAY, August 30.

This has been a fair pleasant day.

I went down to Omaha, to attend to some business,
and to see the folks.

⁹⁸ Fenner Ferguson was appointed chief justice of Nebraska Territory in 1854. He won this election and was the Democrat delegate to the Thirty-fifth Congress. (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=700080>;
<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C00309>.)

⁹⁹ Bird Beers Chapman was the second Democrat delegate to Congress from Nebraska Territory. He lost this campaign against Ferguson. (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000309>)

I rode back with Mr. Veers, at a pretty early hour, this afternoon, and spent the rest of the afternoon in reading, and strolling around. I went to Smith's and took supper, and spent the evening. I got a nice long letter from Hannah, this evening.

[p. 121]

Florence TUESDAY, August 31. 1858.

This has been quite a pleasant day, not too cool nor too warm. I've done but little today, besides settling some passbooks, accounts, so as to make ready as much as possible for leaving. Mrs. Dudley had a little girl, at **1 o'clock P. M.**, today. Her pains began at about **5 o'clock A. M.**, and she was delivered in eight hours, after a pretty easy travail comparatively, and the baby weighs nine pounds.

WEDNESDAY, September 1.

~~It has been~~ The morning was cool, the afternoon cloudy, and it rained some this evening. I wrote a lot of letters, this morning, ordering papers and mag[azines?] to be sent to me at Pittsburgh. This afternoon, I read the papers, and loafed around. There was a dance at the Willet House, this evening, which I attended. The party was small on account of the rain just at the time people would be starting out, but it passed off quite pleasantly. I got a letter from Nicholas, which brought me to the determination of getting ready to go home as soon as possible.

[p. 122]

THURSDAY, September 2. **1858.**

This has been a rather cool day, and a high wind has prevailed. I spent the morning in writing short letters to Nicholas and Hannah, and in various chores. This afternoon, I nearly finished a copy of a profile of the "Rock Bottom" of the river at this place, wrote some business letters, and then took a walk [with] Dr. Harsh, Avery and Harwood, out to the doctor's claim, and got some melons.

On returning I went to Charlie Fosset's and took supper and spent the evening.

FRIDAY, September 3.

This has been a nice pleasant day, although there was a high wind some of the time.

The day has been spent mostly in discussing some disagreeable matters about some interest on accounts between us, talking over some trades, with Kennedy and Smith &c.. I got a letter from Hannah.

Sinclair's brother "Jim", a doctor, arrived today from Leavenworth.

I took supper at Smith's. We had "mush and milk" and succotash, and it was a fine treat.

I went there for the purpose of looking over his town lots.

[p. 123]

Florence SATURDAY, September 4. **1858.**

This has been a bright and rather warm day.

Smith and I went after breakfast and looked up some of his town lots, to see how they lay, and discussed a trade for some of my furniture.

Captain Kennedy and I at last closed our trade, a considerable time has been taken up in making out the necessary papers and adjusting the details. He took over the piano, this afternoon.

I was sorry to part with it, but think I've a good bargain.

SUNDAY, September 5.

This has been a pleasant and rather warm day, except that the wind blew rather harder, some of the time, than it has before, this season.

I spent a good portion of the morning in reading, and then bathed and dressed up before dinner.

After dinner, I went to Smith's, and spent a good portion of the afternoon.

On returning home, I wrote a short letter to Hannah, asking her to be in Allegheny instead of Sewickley, on my return.

[p. 124]

MONDAY, September 6. **1858.**

This has been both a very hot, and a very windy day.

I've spent the whole day, in writing up a lot

of entries of accounts, for the purpose of adjusting the books to the end of last month.

This evening I wrote several short business letters, and wrote up my diary.

TUESDAY, September 7.

This has been a rather sunshiny day, and a very strong wind has prevailed from the south.

I commenced in earnest, today, to prepare for going east.

I took up the big carpet, and tore down some shelving

&c.. The morning was taken up in posting up the entries made yesterday, and in drawing off a trial balance, which came out right the first time.

I got a letter from Hannah, this evening.

[p. 125]

Florence WEDNESDAY, September 8. 1858.

This has been a day of mingled cloud and sunshine, and rather pleasant.

I have had a busy time of it, today.

I took up the bedroom carpet before breakfast,

and through the day, I cleaned the two carpets, which was a hard chore, sewed them up in a piece of coarse muslin, after having made a

firm roll of it, put up a couple of pictures in books,

and took up my raspberry vinegar in a champagne basket.

THURSDAY, September 9.

It has been a cloudy day, and there was a little rain, this morning.

I spent a good part of the morning in making out some deeds

and other papers in settlement with Smith on account of our trade, which with sundry little matters in connection with moving,

took me till dinner time. Smith took a load of his things away.

This afternoon and evening, I gathered up a lot of things,

and have been packing all of them I could, into a barrel, finding it a very puzzling chore.

[p. 126]

Florence FRIDAY, September 10. 1858.

This has been a pleasant day.

I have done nothing today, but to pack, pack, pack.

SATURDAY, September 11.

This has been a rather pleasant, though cool.

This day like yesterday, has been spent in packing almost exclusively.

[p. 127]

Florence SUNDAY, September 12. 1858.

This has been a pleasant day.

Having sat up with Sinclair's brother last night, I slept, this morning until **11 o'clock**.

The afternoon was spent in overhauling the safe, and assorting the papers, so that I could leave and have them properly arranged.

MONDAY, September 13.

It threatened to rain some, but passed off without it.

I have done a good deal today, and have at last got packed up, as far as my own things are concerned.

[p. 128]

TUESDAY, September 14. **1858.**

This has been a rather warm day, and a little cloudy.

I got up early, and marked all of my books before breakfast, and after breakfast I took a careful inventory of them, as I am going to leave most of them till spring.

The rest of the day, I have been making out accounts, and fixing up the books.

I slept last night, with George McCosh at his hotel.

WEDNESDAY, September 15.

[no journal entry]

[p. 129]

[Pages 130–223 blank]

General Memoranda.

Subscriptions to Papers

	Expire
Banker's magazine,	June 1858
W. Cure Journal¹⁰⁰	Dec. "
Thompson's Reporter	" "

[p. 224]

[END of the journal]

¹⁰⁰ Likely the *Water Cure Journal*. (See Susan Cayleff, *Wash and Be Healed: The Water-Cure Movement and Women's Health*.)