

Letters written from 1855 – 1864, from Dr. Carroll Bates (born in Ft. Covington, NY, July 20, 1830 – died in Auburn, NY, September 5, 1883) to his father, Dr. Roswell Bates (born June 13, 1788, died June 6, 1869).

These letters were typed by Carroll's daughter, Mary Bates Rhodes (my grandmother) (born in Auburn, NY, May 26, 1868 – died in Buffalo, NY, December 19, 1944) from original, handwritten letters from the son to his father. Primarily, they talk about medical cases, and Carroll asks Roswell's advice. Carroll frequently lists the drugs he uses on various cases, most interesting from today's vantage point. I leave these discussions in, for the interest of modern doctors. Often Carroll discusses the crops, his horse, other people known to his father, his future wife Charlotte Clark, taking a coach or a train to Montreal or New York City, and other aspects of daily life. He was a general physician, having studied Medicine in New York City. He performed surgery, set bones, treated infections and diseases (prior to antibiotics), delivered babies, and made house calls as far away as 20 miles (on horseback, often in the winter). Occasionally, he gives first hand observations of history in the making. I have abbreviated some of the letters, and left in large parts of most of them. Where he mentions something of special interest, I have added footnotes as appropriate. A few letters are addressed to his Mother. Compiled by Junia Ruth Gratiot Hedberg, his great granddaughter.

Below are some notes about places and events mentioned in these letters, which might help one appreciate the content of the letters.

**Ft. Covington:** The Franklin Telegraph contained advertisements by the following:... **Dr. Roswell Bates** vaccination in 1820 at a charge of twelve and a half cents per case "ready-pay" or twenty-five cents "trust."

It is interesting to note that besides presiding on the bench **Dr. Roswell Bates** was upon one occasion himself arraigned in circumstances that must seem amazing to the present generation, which apparently holds the Sabbath in so indifferent estimation. The doctor started one Sunday afternoon or evening from Fort Covington to drive to Malone, where he was to spend the night with his sister, Mrs. Leonard Conant, and then get an early start on Monday for a visit in Vermont. At Westville he was overtaken by an officer, who, apprehending him, escorted him back to Fort Covington, where he was arraigned the next day and fined for having traveled otherwise than professionally on Sunday. His church also took him to task for the offense, and disciplined him by denying him the privilege of partaking the communion until he should express penitence, which he did after half a year. At the time in question a State statute prohibited traveling on the Sabbath except in cases of charity or necessity, or in going to or returning from worship, visiting the sick and certain other specified cases.

(Source: <http://history.rays-place.com/ny/ft-covington-1-ny.htm>)

**Vaccination:** In 1788, the scientist Edward Jenner inoculated a healthy, 8-year-old boy with cowpox — a disease caused by a virus that closely resembles variola. Cowpox's natural hosts are small mammals such as wood mice, but the virus can spread to other animals, especially cattle. In cows, the disease causes **lesions** on the udders and teats that can infect humans who milk them. Although rare today, cowpox was widespread in 18th-century Europe, where it was common knowledge that milkmaids who had been infected with cowpox — which is generally mild — were then immune to the far more deadly disease, smallpox. Jenner's experiment was a success. His patient failed to contract smallpox, even when deliberately exposed to variola. By 1800, cowpox vaccinations (the word vaccine is from the Latin vacca, for cow) were commonplace, primarily because they caused fewer side effects and deaths than variolation [vaccination?] with smallpox itself.

(Source: [http://www.iaff.org/hs/Resi/Smallpox/What\\_is\\_the\\_history\\_of\\_smallpox\\_vaccination.htm](http://www.iaff.org/hs/Resi/Smallpox/What_is_the_history_of_smallpox_vaccination.htm))

**Potsdam:** Founded in 1806, Potsdam is situated on an abundant and wide band of well-renowned, reddish-orange Potsdam sandstone located north of the Adirondack foothills in central St. Lawrence County (from Potsdam website). The earliest history of Potsdam unfolded shortly after the American Revolution when the St. Regis Indians blazed the first known trails along the banks of the Raquette River and built hunting camps at the site of the present village. In 1802, David Clarkson and his brother-in-law Garret Van Horne bought the eastern four-fifths of the town. The purchase marked the beginning of the Clarkson family influence in Potsdam. In 1803, Clarkson assigned Benjamin Raymond as land agent to sell parcels to settlers who would develop the territory. Under Raymond's guiding influence, Potsdam became the first settlement along the Raquette River and the seventh town erected in St. Lawrence County. St. Lawrence Academy, the predecessor of the State University of New York at Potsdam was founded in 1816. (source: Potsdam website)

*Potsdam, January 1, 1855*

Dear Mother,

I sincerely wish you a "Happy New Year!" And how can I commence it better than by writing to my mother. I write to you not because I have anything of interest to write but merely as a token of my regard and to show you that I am not entirely destitute of that respect due to a mother or unmindful of the great debt which a son owes to a mother for innumerable kindnesses and cares which cannot be repaid.

The letters which I write to Pa are, I know, not very interesting to you. For we doctors (don't that sound awful big?) like to brag of our business and tell what wonderful cases we have seen and what more wonderful things we have done. If we undertake to strew people's paths with flowers, we are too apt to mingle in stramonium, henbane, deadly nightshade and such like noxious plants which are not very acceptable ornaments to one's pathway of life. But I find this mixture of the pleasant and deadly a very fit emblem of a physician's life. Today we are proud and elated with success; tomorrow, disheartened and humiliated with the idea that we are less useful than we really are: this moment mingling with the cheerful, healthful and happy, the next by the bedside of the sick and dying, trying to relieve their distress or soften the pangs of death. What a responsibility! I have often before this thought of it but now I feel it.

Mother, if you knew how pleased I should be to see you here, this winter, surely you would come and see me. I have many friends here that would like to have you call upon them. Besides, I should like to have you try my horse and see my new harness while bright and clean. I take care of the horse myself now. It would please you to see my barn, a half-roof building, just large enough to hold horse, ton of hay, a couple of barrels of oats, and a little box of salt and that is all. But you would think of John Gilpin in chase if you could see the old cutter that I drive, especially with me in it. It has a broken thill and a part of the dashboard is gone. Besides it is so short that my knees reach nearly to my chin, my limbs tied in a bowknot at that! But I have a couple of good robes that cover nearly all of the deformity. And a fur cap, overcoat and overshoes with a string of bells that reach entirely around the horse, make my rides pleasant and comfortable. Do come and see how I am located.

Society here is much more civilized than at Ft. Covington. If you should wish to spend the Sabbath here, we have a most beautiful, brick Presbyterian Church and a splendid young minister. He has preached but two Sundays since stationed here but he was here a few weeks last summer on trial. The congregation pay him \$800 a year. The singing is called the best in Northern New York. They pay the chorister \$100 per year. The Church is rich. Potsdam has many rich men in it. All pay close attention to their business and the extensive mills spread wealth among the people, the merchants grow opulent and proud and the farms teem with bread.

What more can I write? I should like to sit with you this evening with a great dish of apples and tell you what I have not written!

Again, I wish you "Happy New Year!"

Carroll

*Potsdam, April 20, 1855*

Dear Father:

Just a year ago today, I came to Potsdam, full of hope and anxiety, to win new friends and assume weighty responsibility. My chief effort has been to establish a respectable moral as well as medical character, that what I may build may rest upon a sure foundation. I thought if I could do that and earn my board, I should be satisfied. In the last I have succeeded, have I in the first?

I have charged \$682.69. Have taken about \$100, not charged. Making nearly \$800 for my year's earnings. My expenses have been nearly \$500. This is enormous but I have had much to buy. Since the first of September I have kept an exact record of every cent paid out. It has amounted to \$338.93. I have had to attend some rides etc. to hold a position in society, but I find but little wasted money, I find seldom to be renewed:

Harness \$25; Cutter \$50; Sulkey \$50; Robes, \$13; Bed, cupboard, \$6.00; Fur overshoes, \$2.25; Halter, \$1.25; Fur Coat, \$12.50; Ledger, \$2.50.

Besides board, medicine, pew and priest tax, horse hire, hay \$36.68, oats, washing, mending, clothing, furniture for office and barn rent \$1.00, wood \$6.39, light etc. etc. There is no end to it. I have made this account of my affairs out of respect to you and in accordance with a resolution made when I came to Potsdam. I shall likely not trouble you with any more such.

Business is very dull. The weather today is cold but we have had some fine warm days. We need rain very much to open the ground. People are waiting with great anxiety for the boats to run that they may get something from the West to eat. Wheat is \$2, oats 75 cents a bushel, no corn, butter 26 cents per pound, cheese 14 cents, etc.

My health never was better than now. We had but one case of smallpox. I vaccinated about thirty, most had been vaccinated before. I saved some virus from healthy children. Have the care of two bad knees, one a man aged about forty-five of slightly strumous constitutions, light hair, eyes and complexion. Kicked on the inside of the knee by a horse about four months ago, was not laid up at all but walked with a cane, limped. It improved some then got worse and remained stationary. I saw it March 20<sup>th</sup>, very little swelling only on the inside of the joint, otherwise looked quite natural. Feeling it or pressing or a blow on the knee gave no pain at all. Bending hurt but a trifle and that when the blow was received. There was a continual rather sharp pain in the knee but not severs. Some twinges passed through it, all aggravated by use. The worst trouble, he said, was that it was so weak. Keep perfectly still, blister continually below inside and outside the knee alternately. Keep bowels regular, live on wholesome food. The man is able but so very "tight:" that I did not see it again til yesterday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. (He lives four miles from here). The symptoms had changed scarcely any, not quite so much pain. Iodide of potassium, gr.5, three times a day. Keep tartar sores all open and around the joint except on the inside where he is to continue to apply the ointment of iodide of potash. And mercury. (I should have mentioned this before. I ordered it rubbed all over the joint in my first prescription) otherwise continue as before. What more shall I do for this man?

The next case is a son of Mr. Reynolds and brother of that young lady that you saw here last Nov., aged 11 years. I saw his knee about 8 weeks ago. It was considerably enlarged especially on the inner side. The head of tibia was very prominent and the groove between it and the patella swollen full. He did not complain of it at all but you could see that he favored it some when he walked. He knew nothing about how long it had been enlarged. I merely used the iodine ointment and told him to use the limb carefully and but little. A few weeks ago he rode horseback which made the knee swell some more and it is a little tender to the touch directly over the inner and outer side of the joint. I recommended rest, iodine ointment and a succession of blisters, also to take six drops syrup of iodide of iron three times a day. I saw it yesterday after ten days treatment. The swelling had gone down to what it was the first time I saw it. I gave passive motion to the joint. At first it would not bend at all but it soon gave way. To cure this joint he must keep perfectly still. Will the prospect of a cure warrant me in having him confined to the house or had I better let him use it some? He is young and may be careless. Both are rather serious cases.

Carroll

*Potsdam, May 15, 1855*

Dear Mother,

I cannot help hastening to speak of and thank you for the exceedingly pleasant visit I enjoyed when at home. I think I appreciate your kindness and the pains which you took to make all things uncommonly pleasant. The young ladies often speak in the highest terms of your kindness.

That visit has served a powerful bond to bind me more closely to my good old home.

But every pleasure has its pain. How many recollections came to my mind by that visit: scenes of pleasure, pain, sickness and death crowd upon me and involve me in a whirlpool of gloom. I thought that I had, in a measure, been weaned from home; but the meeting of friends and parents touches the heartstrings and brings "the gentle strain of love." "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." I now feel that I am all along. I intended to have brought Cornelia's likeness home with me but I forgot it.

I shall expect you and pa to visit me this summer.

We had pleasant showers on Monday and Monday evening and it rains a little today, so things do not look as much like a famine. I have no news.

Carroll

*Potsdam, May 24, 1855*

Dear Father,

I was called last Tuesday night to see a patient of Dr. Mullins (suspected smallpox, varioloid). The eruption appeared the day before but they had not decided what the disease was. From the symptoms and the case I had last winter I called it smallpox and had them take the necessary precautions to prevent it spreading. The friends wished me to take sole charge of the case and see it every day but I feared Potsdam would make a fuss and it was agreed that Dr. Mullin should keep the case and that I should see it every other day. I saw here again today. The case is well marked. I keep the face well covered with tinc. of iodine to prevent pitting as much as possible.

I do not know but I am foolish to expose myself but I charge \$3.50 a visit and pay is as good as cash down. Her father is rich and is now traveling for pleasure through the western country.

I do not know what I should do if I should take the disease.

Last fall I wrote after my visit that it was the most pleasant visit that I had ever had. So it was, but my last visit was much more pleasant and I am exceedingly thankful to you and mother for taking so much pains for to make it so. I was quite lonely for a time after my return. I have a few of those apples left . Health is good, etc. etc. It is very dry. Grass is suffering. Looks a little like rain now thought.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Tuesday evening, May?? 1855*

Dear Father:

Potsdam has met with a great loss. Last night about one o'clock, the Town Hall, the District School House, a small dwelling-house, a barn, and the horse-sheds of the Universalist Church were entirely consumed by fire. The Universalist Church was considerably injured but was saved. Some young rascals had a strumpet in the barn which was connected with the church-sheds. They had a light with them and from this the barn took fire.

The body of the young man who was drowned a few days ago has not been found yet.

I am hard at work, wheeling wood, gardening—that is, sowing what little ground I have—doctoring etc.

My health is first rate. In haste,

Carroll

*Potsdam, June 2, 1855*

Dear Father:

I have seen and dismissed my smallpox patient this afternoon. The friends told me that whether I saw her every day or every other day, they should place the case entirely in my hands, also the responsibility. I saw her first one week ago last Tuesday and have seen her eight times in all. Dr. Mullin has seen her twice a day (once with me) and has been perfectly friendly, has not done a thing except as I recommend it, and has shown no jealousy whatever. The case has done exceedingly well. She now sits up much of the time. She has a good appetite and the scabs are falling off.

I suppose you would like to know more about Charlotte Clark. I wish to have you and in my next letter will tell you all about her, but I have not time now.

I saw Mathilda Clark the other day. She gave me your advice which probably will be heeded.

I received a letter from Betsy Bates about a week ago. She is in Louisiana. Her health is very poor.

I hope you will have a pleasant journey to Vermont.

It has rained nicely all the afternoon and evening. The first rain in about five weeks. Riding to Colton in the sun and wind made my face and hands to become covered with the eruption which you have seen me have so often in hot weather. I cured it in 48 hours with a wash of iodide of potassium.

I am now eating my last apple from home. It tastes good! I wish I owned a cellar to put a bll. (bushel) of them in next fall.

It is very healthy yet. I have no symptoms of Varioloid.

I had an invitation to attend a party given by the Misses Reddington at Waddington lat Thursday eve. But my smallpox kept me home.

Carroll

Have attended church twice today. Mr. Plum preached.

*Potsdam, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1855*

Dear Father,

I received your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Was pleased that you had such a pleasant journey and so a nice visit with aunt. I heard from you while at Middlebury by Mr. and Mrs. Watkins, also while on the cars between R.P. and Malone by Mr. Atkins. You must have purchased a very nice carriage and harness at the prices. I shall expect to see you and mother here as soon as the carriage comes. The road is much better by Brasher Falls than by Moira. You will probably go home by Massena Springs. Coming, call at Mr. Holmes at Stockholm. They will be very glad to se you. Mr. Holmes is a lumberman, speculator and farmer, rich, tight, and homespun.

I promised to write all about Charlotte but have concluded that my description would be merely a eulogy, for we are apt to be blind to the faults of our most respected friends.

I have in all things given thought to your advice and endeavored to weigh it well and have generally followed it.

You once told me that some property with a wife was quite an object even if it was not more than \$500. This was very true and well understood by me who am worth nothing and am so much in want of a home. I believe I have given this all proper consideration. Very few ladies inherit that sum even. Is there one in Ft. Covington?

In Potsdam there are several rich men, some of them have daughters but they have sons too who will receive most of the heritage.

Few such ladies are smart and intelligent, less are capable of rendering home happy, and none but have been brought up in idleness, silk and the parlor. They do not expect by marriage to be placed in less independent circumstances or to be deprived of that ease and luxury which they have always enjoyed. They are dependents not help-mates.

Charlotte was born in Ogdensburg and lived there 13 years when her mother married Mr. Holmes. Her father died when she was about two years old. He was a merchant and also carried on the cabinet-making business. He left the mother and children some property. I do not know how much. Charlotte has been in Potsdam and Burlington at school several years, has mostly clothed herself during that time, gave \$300 for a piano, etc. All of which expense was taken from what little she had from her father. I do not know that she has a cent left now. Probably not much, to say the most. Mr. Holmes thinks more of money than of education and proper refinement.

You now see that though I deem property to be very desirable, yet it has no influence in this case whatever!

Charlotte's mental abilities are more than ordinary, which give her much influence wherever she may be. She is general favorite with all her associates and always takes the lead in all their amusements, etc. No one will speak evil of her. At home she is the oldest and the favorite, very affectionate, and her mother and sisters look to her for counsel. At home is where you would learn her most correctly and see her excellent virtues. She has been brought up to all

kinds of housework and knows industry and economy to be necessary to prosperity. She is a lady and always circulates in the best society. Few girls who have been so idolized by a other, looked up to by the family, and courted by all her associates come up so amiable, industrious and faultless.

I believe the most necessary characteristic in a companion is to render home happy. I wish y home, should ever I possess one, to be such a one that you, mother and Louisa, the only ones remaining of the family, may ever feel that you are perfectly welcome and at home in it. Charlotte is capable of making it so and, I believe, will make it so. She has a very amiable and happy disposition and is called a little wild! I think an acquaintance will render you much attached to her.

I have finished my eulogy now. You must judge of its correctness yourself. I believe this to be a very proper letter from a son to a father. But in a few years and even now it will appear very foolish and silly to a person not particularly interested. I should myself by ashamed of it should I se it at some future day, therefore I hope that you will burn it as soon as you have read it.

Carroll

*Potsdam, July 22, 1855*

My dear Lottie,

From duty I devoted last eve to my sister to whom I have not written for three months, instead of writing to you as I usually do.

Augusta just called to say “before it got cold” that she today received a letter from Langdon. In her last she told him that you and I were engaged. He says, “Ask the doctor if he don’t feel better clear to the waistbands.”

But, Lottie – How did you feel after my inexcusably long visit? I hope it did not tire you all out. I had no idea it was nearly morning when I left you. I think Langdon never beat that! But how do you suppose I felt riding home in broad daylight all the way from Sandfordville? I tried to keep ahead of the sun but ‘twas of no u se. The faster I drove, the brighter it few; the more noise I made, the more heads stuck through the windows to see what was up. It seemed to me that every body took particular pains to be up and out uncommonly early that morning and I had an idea that altogether I drew a picture not less ludicrous than John Gilpin in full chase. But, thank fortune, I arrived safe and have not heard a word about “my very sick patient” since.

I am sorry that you were again disappointed in Augusta’s visit. A little of my “setness” or rather punctuality would have saved A. an awful drenching and you the loss of that excellent ice cream that you took so much pains to prepare for them (A. and Homer). Punctuality is an excellent motto and will spare many a disappointment.

I called at Mr. Stevens’ last evening Was it not a beautiful evening? Where were your about twilight? I guessed that you sat reading or rocking on the piazza. Frank guessed that you were writing letters. But which ever was right (if either) I wish I could have been by your side or at least peeked and have seen you.

Louisa McCrea returned last Wednesday. Report at Ft. Covington says that I am to be married the coming Fall. I wish it could be so. Do you?

Lottie, a company called the N.Y. Dramatic Company will play The Lady of Lyons Wednesday eve and the Corsican Brothers on Thursday at the Town Hall. This is an excellent company. I wish you could be here one of the evenings. We would attend. If chance should give a ride out, I would take you home the next day.

Tell your father that the Bank would allow but \$99.14 for his gold. Two of the pieces were worth but \$4.83 each and one but \$3.98.

My dear Lottie, I have left all expression of love out of this letter and in this respect it is different from those I have written before. My love is nonetheless, however, and continually increases. Write soon.

Yours, with very much love,  
Carroll

I have had two calls, one Wm. Knowles, the other the Baptist minister, since commencing this letter. Hence, you will please forgive its looks. It is now twelve o'clock.

*Potsdam, August 5, 1855*

Dear Father:

I could not go to Massena yesterday on account of my business. I saw seven sick ones and earned \$5.

I was in Malone a night and a part of two days, had a very pleasant visit. Stopped at Uncle Conant's over night. They were very glad to see me and Granma knew me although she had not seen me for over a year—a year ago last April.

Mrs. Cox says your carriage has come. Did it come safe? I shall expect to see it soon.

Business is middling good now. I cut out those two wens that I wrote you about. The woman was sixty-five years old, lives about five miles this side of Canton, came to Potsdam and stopped while the wounds healed. I removed the one which had broken and looked malignant on the Fourth of July. In a week I removed the other without cutting the sack which was not thicker than this sheet of paper and I removed nothing with it, so that when I laid it on a plate it was perfectly smooth and was nearly as large as a hen's egg. I could not roll it out but cut entirely around it. It was dissected so nicely that I felt as proud of it as if the operation had been a hundred times as big.

Dr. Reynolds of South Canton sent for me the other day to tie the anterior tibial artery for a man who cut his foot ten days before. The foot was very much swollen, covered with lint, paint, puff-ball and clothes. I gave the man chloroform and tied the dorsalis pedis artery instead of the ant. tibial. The foot was so very much swollen that my incision ran from the ankle to the base of the toes to give room to reach down to the vessel. The man is getting along well. South Canton is nine miles southwest of here.

The weather is warm but far too wet. Crops except hay are very fine, never were better, but if it continues raining, grain will grow in the head.

Hay is not better than it was last year. I have engaged two and a half tons at ten dollars per ton. It will be drawn in this week, if it will only stop raining one day at a time. Some will not sell less than \$12. My horse looks well now and is a very easy traveler.

S.T. Lincoln told you that I was a Free Mason. I am not. A Dutch peddler said you told him that I was a Mason. He was a Mason and soon found that you were mistaken. I told him who deceived you. Lincoln knows nothing of my affairs from me.

I hear that Mother's health is poor. I hope that going to Massena has disproved it.

Dr. Marsh is going into the Academy on the 22<sup>nd</sup> as Chapel teacher, Mr. Plum, principal. The Doctor is hired for two years but intends to practice some in the Village [Potsdam Village].

Dr. Hyde has sold his place and talks of moving west this fall but may not.

Carroll

*Potsdam, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1855*

Dear Father,

I received your letter today. I am entirely well, have a good appetite and feel energetic and strong again. Am better qualified to appreciate health for having been some sick. I was threatened with typhus fever of which we have had several cases here. I had back and headache, black and dry tongue, fever in the afternoon and night and sometimes chilly, very weak and no life. Still I was quite busy all the time. The people were very kind. Mrs. Stevens tried to have me go there and stop until I was better. Mrs. Kilday, Mrs. Stevens' sister, said I must stop with her family if I got sick, etc. etc. But I should have gone home. My business has been very good this month. Have had two cases of typhus fever, one four miles from here, the other two. Both are about the house now though one is quite insane yet. Have a child three miles from here, very bad with dysentery. The father is a fine young farmer, well-off. She was a Wallace, niece of Mr. Wallace. The disease is very obstinate, child may die. Had a case of strangulated hernia in a child three years old. The father had got it very tender in trying to reduce it. I gave chloroform and reduced it in half a minute. Was six miles south of Colton, fifteen miles south of here last Thursday to see a patient of Dr. Mullin's. The doctor wrote me that it was a case of inflammation of the bladder, attended with insanity. I took my catheter and drew off three pints of water, had to press over the bladder to make the water run. No signs of inflammation of any of the viscera. The bladder and rectum seemed to be paralyzed, had to use stimulating injections to get the bowels to move. The boy was in a kind of idiotic, or rather maniacal condition of mind, had been getting worse for a week. I think the disease was located in the brain, perhaps the spinal marrow. No active inflammation whatever. Perhaps softening? I advised mustard blisters, conium and, after a few days, strychnine, etc. Also to use catheter and injections to free bladder and bowels.

No other cases of much interest.

We have had some severe frosts which have destroyed the tomatoes and melons. Have you a good garden this year? Apples are more abundant than last year. I had all the melons I could eat last evening at Col. Clark's. Oats are very plenty, 31 cents a bushel.

Dr. Hyde is here yet. Mrs. Pike remains about as when you saw her. I have not seen that Sanborne's pamphlet that you speak of. St. Lawrence Fair is this week. I shall not be able to attend.

I want to write to mother and I think my next letter will be to her.

Carroll

*Potsdam, October 18, 1855*

My dear Mother:

It is now more than two years since I left home and more than a year since I settled in Potsdam. How time flies! When I merely look back over the space of time, it seems quite short, and yet when I look back with another view, recalling all the events that have transpired during the time, it seems very long.

Fort Covington is very dear to me. Besides my parents, who are of course the center of attraction, there are many other friends and associations that strongly bind my heart to the place. The school, the church, and oh yes, the churchyard, constitute a chain of attachment that can never be broken.

“How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood  
When fond recollection presents them to view.”

It sometimes makes my heart ache to think that ere long father and mother may be no more, that all these things will pass into other hands, that there will be none (should I be allowed to live) to welcome me to my parental roof, my early home.

But thought so many recollections render the Fort dear to me, yet it is no longer my home. I have a new home, new friends, new interests. Potsdam is a much more thriving and pleasant village and a far more desirable home. Don't you think so? I have become very much attached to the place and the people. I wonder what kind of an idea you formed of the village. I wish you would write and tell me. You saw but very little of what constitutes the business of the town. The merchants are but a small part. It is the manufactories [sic] that keep the place most. We have a foundry, machine-shops, hoe and fork factories, etc. etc. besides most every kind of wood factories. What do you think of a saw-mill that can make its policy to build one and a half miles of railroad that an engine may draw the lumber from the mill to the main track, that employs one hundred men at the expense of from one to two dollars per day each; that would saw one hundred thousand feet of boards in twenty-four hours? We have such a mill and others nearly equal to it. We have door, sash and blind factories and a brush factory that turns off several of all kinds of brushes per day.

The school is now in a very prosperous condition there being over 150 students.

You see by what I have written that we have a very busy village and that this is a very desirable location for me if I can only get rich enough to own a home. But it looks very discouraging or a young man to undertake to lay up ten or fifteen hundred dollars besides paying all the expenses of living while everything I so very dear.

I suppose the good people of the Fort would like to know when I am to be married or whether I am to be married at all or not. Well, let them be patient, and they will know. As an obligation to my mother, I would tell her if I knew, but I do not and therefore cannot tell her.

It would be to my business interests if I was married. But I have no home and to hire a house and pay one hundred and fifty dollars a year rent besides the other necessary expenses would eat up all I could earn and make me always poor. Board would cost six dollars a week and no one would wish to board me with people knocking day and night at the door even at that price.

Should sickness overtake me the expense would be enormous and I should be still without a home. Therefore I cannot yet decide but must see my way farther into the future.

Charlotte (everyone here calls her Lottie) is a noble lady, pleasant, intellectual, industrious. You cannot fail to love her when you become more acquainted with her, I would say more but what I have said would sound foolish to anyone but a parent who feels an interest in the welfare of her son.

My health is good except that I have one of my old fashioned colds that keeps my pocket-handkerchief in constant use and would make Pa tell me to take snuff and clear out my head. The weather for weeks past has been cold and wet, spoiling corn and causing potatoes to rot. But today, Thursday, it is quite warm and the sun shines again. September was a busy month for me but October has been very dull so far.

Tell Pa I am reviewing my anatomy again. If "The Park Family" go to Fort Covington, be sure to hear them. They give a splendid concert.

Affectionately,

Carroll

Thursday morn, 8 o'clock.

It is warm but cloudy this morning. Will rain before night. My cold is some better. C.

Now one word with regard to marriage.

You must excuse the simplicity with which I write for I feel that this is the most important step of my life and needs deliberate and candid thought.

I have determined whom to marry but not when to marry, whether in six months or two years.

My practice would be more extensive if I was married. Some females have an objection to an unmarried physician from delicacy, others from fear that people may talk. How much my practice would be increased, I cannot judge. But usually, you know, the mother's doctor is the family's doctor.

I can hire a house about as good as William Streeter's for \$150 per year or I could board for \$300, providing my own fire, lights and washing. Sickness at a boarding-house would be very expensive.

Should I be married next fall, I would have \$250 after paying my wedding expenses.

One thing more. If I should buy a house, how much would you help me, if I should give you such a claim upon it that, if I failed to pay the one from whom I bought, you would have a preferred claim to the amount of your aid?

I do not claim aid neither do I claim the right to ask it. You know what you have done heretofore toward my education, etc. you best know your ability now. I mention the thing now with reluctance and should not have done so but I have heard you speak about it yourself and it is very important that I should know your conclusions because they will in a measure mould Charlotte's and my future course.

Carroll

*Potsdam, November 11, 1855*

Dear Father:

Since last Thursday I have been doctoring a lady from Norfolk. Today she broke out with the eruption of smallpox. I could not board at the tavern or anywhere else and take care of her, therefore I have had to give over the case to Dr. McChesney. This is unfortunate for she is the sister of one of my best patrons. But it is also fortunate because nobody would employ me while I visited her.

I have vaccinated seven today and shall use up what little virus I have early in the morning. If you have any to spare, I can use it with profit, and if it is good I will return as much or more.

I have vaccinated myself as precaution.

Carroll

*Potsdam, November 13, 1855*

Dear Father:

I have been expecting to hear from you for a week past but no letter has yet been received. It has been quit healthy here but yet I see some sick ones every day, have visited four patients this morning and have three visits yet to make. Last week I operated on a child for phymosis—not the child I spoke to you about when you ere here.

Last Thursday I was at Skinnerville to see a patient sick with consumption. Her friends did not know what the trouble was. She was confined ten weeks ago and has not come up since. There is a cavity in the left lung. They had dosed her continually. I told them to give no medicine

but iodine of potassium but to feed her well on rich broths, cream, raw eggs, spirits, etc. Her husband paid me and said I should have more calls in that neighborhood.

Last Friday evening by request of Dr. Marsh, I had the pleasure of lecturing to the students of the Academy on the Wave Theory of Light. It was rally a pleasure, for besides the scholars and teachers the room was full of citizens who seemed to be well pleased with the lecture. The subject is new and interesting. And Mr. Plum complimented me and said that he was one of "the children." You remember I lectured on the same subject at Ft. Covington, but I rewrote and improved my lecture very much. I intend to lecture again on The Similarity of Animals and Vegetables.

Dr. Hyde left here about two weeks ago. Dr. Marsh does some business. He is one of my best friends and sends me most of his patients. Dr. McChesney attends to all of his calls, rich or poor. His health is about the same as when you were here.

Dr. Cole's opposition to me will react upon himself. Mrs. Pike, the lady whom you saw with Mrs. Cox has sent for me several times. I tell her I will go with Dr. Cole but not without him. Last Friday two men came for me, one in the morning and one in the afternoon and said she was very anxious to see me and wished that if I would not call as a physician, I would call as a neighbor. My answer was that I was not well enough acquainted with her to call as a neighbor, and, if I called at all, it would be professionally and with Dr. Cole. He has for several years doctored Mrs. Pike and her children without pay and she is loath to discharge him. I have always advised her, through her friends, not to discharge him. No one blames me for not seeing her under the circumstances but think it hard that she cannot have whatever physician she chooses. Do you think I have taken a proper course?

I must not forget to tell you that I delivered a young woman the other day with forceps of a child that weighed 12 lbs., 4 ounces.

The young lady that I took you to see last summer who has diseased uterus and ovaries is as well as she has been at any time for a year. Her folks are making me some shirts for my bill.

Two weeks ago last Thursday I made a postmortem examination of a patient dead from consumption. The next day a pimple on my left hand inflamed. In a few days the whole hand was very much swollen and would pit on pressure. It was not very painful though one red streak ran part way up my arm. It gathered and broke and left a nasty ulcer which is not quite healed.

I have had plenty of good apples this fall at 50 cts. a bushel. My health never was better. My horse is fat. Oats are 37 cts. A bushel, hay \$12 a ton. I feed a peck of oats and 4 quarts of potatoes a day and just hay enough to eat it up clean. Wheat is \$2 per bu., potatoes are rotting badly.

How do you and mother stand the wet fall weather? How many apples did you gather? How many hogs, hens, cows, etc. do you keep? Tell mother I wish I could eat a Thanksgiving dinner with her. Please write soon.

I received a letter from my New York roommate last week. It made me long to see the cit again. He graduated last spring, practiced somewhere during the summer and is now in New York again.

Carroll

*Potsdam, December 23, 1855 (Sabbath)*

Dear Father:

The weather is warm and the roads are muddy today, no prospects of snow at present. Therefore I have no idea when I shall visit Ft. Covington. When I do, Miss Frank Stevens will visit Mrs. Gilles.

Mrs. Doctor Hewitt died nearly two weeks ago. The right lung was quite healthy. The left lung was a complete mass of good healthy pus. What lung tissue there was exhibited no tubercular deposit, neither was it much hepatized. She died because the pus, a quart at least, pressed upon the right lung so much as to prevent a sufficient quantity of air entering it to support life. What ailed her when you saw her in 1851? Why has she raised pus and what I called tubercle, clear blood, and, at times, pus mucous and blood mixed, for the last six years? Can it be that she had tubercular phthisis and that the tubercular deposit was confined to the left lung and to that portion of the lung which was replaced by pus? Was the secretion of the pus recent? It did not scent.

Mrs. Col. Clark died of an obstruction of the bowels of some kind. No examination was made. When I see you I will tell you of her case which is full of interest to me.

Mr. Stump died of gout. I doctored these three patients. They are the only patients that I have lost in a long while and their diseases were incurable by any skill and the people knew it.

Dr. Cole's patient that you saw is dead. Dr. McChesney is as well as when you saw him.

There is no particular disease prevailing here now. Still I am busy most of the time. Amputated two fingers last Wednesday. About the first of December I attended three cases of obstetrics in three nights – all respectable village women. Have attended two cases since. I call this sufficient evidence of a young man's moral character!

Had the honor of being appointed one of the trustees of the Academy. Am the only young man on the Board. Judge Allen, Judge Clark, S. Partridge, S. Raymond, Squire Knowles and r. Plum are members. Mr. Watkins is the youngest member except myself.

Thanksgiving Day I was busy and could not attend church. Took dinner at Mr. Stevens'. Talked of you and mother and old times. What were you two doing? Christmas I shall be at home I expect. Don't know of any way to celebrate New Years.

My health is excellent and business good. I have reason to thank God that I, the most worthless and slender of our family, am so much prospered and blessed! I do thank Him.

Monday Noon – Everything is frozen up this morning and it looks as though we would get snow soon.

Carroll

*Potsdam, February 25, 1856*

Dear Father:

It is just ten o'clock in the evening and I write. I should have written to you sooner but I have been busy most of the time since my visit to the Fort.

(Mr. Cox has just been in to get advice about a bad cold which he has, so it is too late to finish this letter tonight)

My visit to Ft. Covington was a melancholy one, more so than any previous visit. The office called to mind any circumstances but the truth that they never again would recur and that I was forever to be deprived of the enjoyment of that pleasant place made me sad and everything appear forsaken. While in the office my own voice startled me and made me silent and made me feel like one standing alone amid the graves of the dead. I had no desire to go into the parlor because it made my mind gloomy and awakened a tear of sadness.

The thought of a visit to the graveyard containing the remains of near and dear ones sent a pang to my heart and revived those mournful feelings which time had somewhat ameliorated. It is with an effort that I can appear otherwise than sad and disheartened when at home. My seeming carelessness and disinterestedness at home is all assumed. I have gloomy, mournful thoughts. None but those who are like-situated can realize those feelings which swell in breast at times nearly to overflowing. Truly this is a world of changes, sadness and affliction!

My health is quite good. Business is middling good. The awful roads make my horse grow poor some..The dropsical man (Mr. Parker) fails slowly..I saw Mr. Phillips of Massena here the other day. Bridges had operated on his eye about seven weeks ago with excellent success. He operated twice. There is a little of the lower part of the lens remaining yet unabsorbed.

I have had no surgical cases lately. That broken leg has come out so nicely that you could not tell by the looks which leg was broken.

What has become of Dr. Darling's cancerous (cancroid) lip? How does Mr. Farlinger's leg get along? It is twelve o'clock and I must go to bed.

Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock

Tell Mother that the lady that she heard me speak of as having had very severe neuralgia of the head (Mrs. Higgins of LaSalle, IL) paid me her bill some time ago which was \$34. In a few days after, I found on my office table a splendid pair of purple silk velvet slippers, most beautifully worked with red and yellow silk (twist, I guess) in a manner and figure which I cannot describe. The slippers were worked by her own hands and fit nicely. This little token of gratitude gives me more mental pleasure than the thirty-four dollars.

I must get this into the mail soon. Much love to Mother. Ask her to give my best respects to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace.

Carroll

Potsdam, 1856

Dear Father,

I have not yet found an opportunity to send you that book, Eminent Mechanics. I shall send it the first chance that offers.

The business of our village has been quite bad this winter on account of the bad roads.

The mills here will be in operation as soon as the river opens, notwithstanding the failure. They will not be worked on so large a scale though. Another mill company which commenced, it is said, with a hundred thousand dollars in cash has failed lately and some think that Dr. Hewett is ruined by the failure. Mr. Usher, the president of our bank, is a creditor and the assignee..Probably the bank will not suffer much.

Another paper called The Northern Freeman has just been established here. It is a kind of Methodist and anti-slavery organ.

March has not been a very busy month with me.

During the last five weeks I have a continual cold, which has given my left lung a very serious trial and caused me much anxiety. If I could have given up all business perhaps I might have rid myself of it sooner. But it would be better one day and worse the next. I tried blue pill, dover powder, iodide of potassium, etc. etc. which seemed to relieve but not cure. Of late I have been taking gin three or four times a day with considerable benefit. I now cough but little, have no pain in my side and the cold air does not hoarse me up so. I feel very well.

You know that I have always declared that I never would take spirits, but I saw that I must get better soon or my lungs would become so much diseased that they would be past help and I yielded from necessity. I shall never again risk my life by wintering in this office. I have paid dearly for my past winter's lodging by exposing my lungs to so dangerous a trial. Much love to mother. My sincere regards to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace and Cheney.

Carroll

*Potsdam, April 9, 1856*

Dear Father,

I have sold my house to Peabody Newland of Lawrence. He is an able farmer, coming here to educate his children.

He has paid me %50 to secure a bargain. Is to pay \$300 when he takes possession on the first of May and give me a mortgage on the place for \$650 more to be paid on or before the first day of November with interest, one thousand dollars in all. I have sold well although the place has cost me more than I get. It has been a dear, little happy home. I never expect a happier one on earth, though I know not why we may not have another just as happy and pleasant. Leaving it costs some sorrow but my home and office must be nearer together.

We shall probably board for nearly a year for most houses are rented for that time. I have my eye upon two places one of which I intend to buy. I can pay \$1600 down in the fall. We would like to have you visit us as soon as you can. I shall arrange so that you can visit us at our boarding place.

My business is not affected by the number of doctors. In Feb'y and March it exceeded the previous year by \$39. In the two months I earned \$324.39 though it has not been called very sickly. I have written thus that you may have no anxiety about my prosperity. There is an awful striving for business among the several doctors but I am top yet. Dr. Marsh and I stand by each other like brothers. It is said that Dr. McChesney and Reynolds are in company. I do not know that it is so.

Dr. Mullen was indicted last week upon two charges of producing abortion after quickening. One case was of an unmarried, the other of a married lady. He is under \$500 bail. He was turned out of the Medical Society on one of the cases last winter.

I was at Canton Court last week and testified with regard to the effects of chloroform – a case of rape.

Please come soon. A letter from you is a great pleasure to me. I think of you very often and thank God that he has spared your life, strength and mind so many years. How many years longer will you remain to be my councilor?

We are well and happy. Charlotte sends much love.

Carroll

P.S. I have some thoughts of buying the place just above me on Elm Street. It is a large lot and I could build an office on it. The greatest objection is its distance from Market Street. I wish you could help me decide. C.

*Potsdam, April 13, 1856*

Dear Father,

I do not know but this letter ought to be directed to Mother, thanking her most earnestly for her kindness in sending me those flannels. They are exceedingly warm and, as my body is warmed by them, so may my soul ever be warmed with exceeding love and respect toward her.

The idea that they were made by her and in so short a time that she must have been very tired, renders them more precious to me and creates a feeling of most sincere and unfeigned thankfulness.

I am sorry that my letter created so much anxiety. I do not remember what I wrote but I intended to have you know that my cold had nearly left me and that, although I had been very anxious about myself, my anxiety had also been relieved.

I did not get very much discouraged about myself. I coughed a great deal especially at night and this with other symptoms which I had kept my mind too watchful for my own good. I am now perfectly well and think that my lungs are as good as ever.

I have drunk about half of one of those bottles of brandy, shall use it a few days longer and save what remains til I have more need of it. Spirits have done me much good at this time at all events.

I have nothing o interest to write – no needs whatever.

Charlotte is now in Ogdensburg on a visit.

I have a patient very sick with erysipelas all over the face, high fever, quick pulse, thickly coated tongue. She is not delirious yet. Is about 60 years old, is mother-in-law of two of our merchants, a very fine old lady but I fear she will die. She is Dr. Hewitt's sister.

Oh, I must not forget your visit here. It did me a great deal of good, more mental good than any medicine could have done. So, you must not think that your trouble in coming here was useless!

Carroll

***Mary Bates writes, about the next letter: "The following is a letter about my father's first house. The first part is missing and I cannot ascertain the date."***

...leaving an open lot between my house and Elm St., 34 ½ ft. wide, thus giving us a view from my parlor window onto Elm St. and the Academy green. The east line of the church will strike our house about 8 inches west of our parlor window. I get nine square feet of land more than I give them. They will now have but one row of sheds which will run across the back end of my lot as it stood before the exchange. My lot is not in as good shape as it was before but it appears to me that it is in a shape to make the Baptists want it for now they do not stand on a corner and have not the control of that strip of land on Leroy Street.

The straight lines in the following sketch show the shape of the lots before the exchange (and after). The sketch follows.

I hope you will come and see how we are located. We do not know when we shall be at Ft. Covington but probably soon if your health becomes good.

Two persons have been drowned here within the last two weeks, one a child about six years old, the other a fine young man son of the Methodist minister, Mr. Austin. Pa knows him. He is a book-agent, has been through Ft. Covington. He was at work at some logs just above the dam in a boat. The water is very swift and high. The boat tipped over and both went over the dam, breaking the boat all to pieces. The boy has not been found yet. The accident happened last Thursday. The father stood on the shore directing his son about the work, saw the boat capsize and the boat go over the dam, crying most piteously for help. What a horrid sight for a parent to behold.

*Potsdam, June 15, 1856*

Dear Father, I received your letter yesterday. Had heard that you were not well and am very glad that you are better. I am very glad that you and mother are coming to Potsdam soon. If I were you I would not think of going to Canton, but few will go from here—nothing very interesting is expected. The Fourth will be celebrated here in fine style-- fireworks, dinner, etc. At least that is what we expect and \$500 has been raised to pay the expense. If nothing is going on at the Fort, perhaps you would be pleased to be here. We do not know who will deliver the oration. I wish you could stop at Stockholm a few hours. You and mother are not acquainted with Charlotte. She is a noble girl with a good mind and an amiable disposition. You and mother will like her very much. I know you will.

The marriages at Mr. Stevens are not to come off this month.

You will be disappointed at my house and lot. You ask how it looks. There is nothing on the lot to look at, not even a barn. What there is of it and that is not much—is greensward, planted with potatoes which are not ready to hoe yet and, of course, grass and weeds are the principle feature. I say there is not much to look at but you can not buy much of a place in Potsdam for \$700. However, I have been offered \$100 for my “bargain” since I bought. The wood work will be done this week and the blinds will soon be hung. Next comes plastering and painting what I have done. Do not know whether I shall build a barn and woodshed this fall or not. There is not a bush on the premises but all will come along in time.

My health is good. There are not many sick these days so I have time to see to my house. Money is very close but I have enough for the present and hope I shall have enough in the fall.

I am sorry that Mr. Wallace is so dangerously ill and hope that he will recover. He has always been a kind neighbor and good citizen. It is singular, very singular, that they do not call you to see him. They must be more selfish than I ever supposed them to be. But they are such near and old neighbors that I would say nothing except what would heap coals of fire on their heads, if it touched them at all. You and Mr. Wallace have lived many useful and friendly years together. Few ever live so long—and so near neighbors with less disagreements.

Ft. Covington seems very little like home to me now. Potsdam becomes more and more dear to me and is home in every sense of the word except that my parents are not here. Yesterday I received a very kindly letter from my New York roommate Dr. Campbell – a fine fellow. I hope he will be prospered.

Carroll

Monday morning

I hear that Wallace is dead. We have done nothing with that abscess. The man goes about some and we fear it is lumbar. If so, opening it may hasten death. If you visit me probably you will have an opportunity to see it. The man is a poor Frenchman.

Tell mother that I am very anxious to have her come. She must come. If you come on the cars and take the morning train from Malone or Moira, you will reach here at two o'clock p.m. and leave here at ten minutes past ten a.m. This gives you more time here than if you drive your carriage. I wish you could bring Bell's Anatomy. I wish to see what it has of comparative anatomy. If Mr. Gibson has read physiology, I would like to exchange physiologies for a while for the same reason. I expect to operate on a club foot (Falipes Varus) before long. The child was a seven months old twin, is two months old, very thin as yet and I am waiting for it to grow stronger or die. Both feet are turned in but I think it a very favorable case and hope that it will live that I may try my skill on it.

The weather is very cold this morning. Mr. Cox's people are all well. I shall expect to see you and mother before long.

Carroll

*Potsdam, July 16, 1856*

Dear Father:

You have been expecting a letter from me for some time but I have been continually busy except at night and then after a day's work during such hot weather, I do not feel like writing a very interesting letter.

I was somewhat surprised to hear that Cousin Mary Williamson was at Fort Covington. Am very anxious to see her. I know of no relative on earth whom I wish more to see (though I have never met her or any other of my Williamson cousins). I have had some very pleasant correspondence with Mary. She is my mother's namesake, is nearest my age I think. But how can I visit her now when I am so full of business, have just been to Malone and am particularly in need of all the money I can collect. I feel as though I must see her and it is impossible just now. Please my anxiety to visit with her. I have her picture in mind and have already had a pleasant imaginary visit. Perhaps I will see her in Malone. What kind of a visit is she making at Fort Covington? How does mother treat her?

The scarlet fever patient got well under Dr. McChesney's care. Dr. Mullen of Colton has located himself here in Potsdam. He is a good friend of mine. I am glad to have him come. I am quite busy though no disease prevails. Have had three obstetric cases since Saturday—good pay all.

My house is all done except painting the blinds. All painted and plastered inside.

It is so dry here that crops are suffering very much.

My health is quite good. I shall try to write you again soon when I have more leisure—tell you about the fourth, etc. What did you do on that day? Please give my love to mother.

In haste,

Carroll

Thursday morning. The lady, Mrs. Hosmer, whom you saw with Dr. Doren is just at the point of death. That tumor abscess broke last night. I am just going to see it. Shall learn now whether it is lumbar or femoral.

*Potsdam, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1856*

Dear Father:

On the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. That abscess having opened a little, I lanced it, making an opening about  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long. In one minute it discharged about five pints of healthy but rather thin pus. Bandaged the limb tight to exclude air. It seems to be doing well. Does not scent the least. Yesterday I commenced using stimulating washes with a glass syringe. I begin to think that it is femoral abscess after all and hope to cure it. The town pays me. Good pay, of course.

Mrs. Hosmer (the lady with a tumor in her side) died soon after I wrote last. I made the postmortem as Dr. McChesney had a severe boil on him. We found a large sac attached to the under surface of the right lobe of the liver and long the spine. The adhesions were not very strong, could be separated without the aid of the knife. The sack was about as large as a man's head. The free portion was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick and contained a second sack which would contain an egg, opening into the larger sack. I say the sack was as large as a man's head. I mean when full of water which it contained. The external appearance is not unlike a cow's paunch but very

much smaller. It was not adhered to the parietes of the abdomen except over a space about as large as a cent where we punctured it. McChesney nor Cole did not seem inclined to keep the sack so I told them I wished you to see it. I kept it myself and you can see it when you come. I have it preserved. The stomach, liver, pancreas, kidney, uterus, bowels, ovaries and all were quite healthy.

I have a diseased heart which I wished you to see but you and mother made so short a visit that I thought of nothing until after you had gone home.

I have a very curious sample of phosphatic tubercle which a consumptive here raises occasionally from his lungs. It resembles coral. I also have two beautiful specimens of gallstones nearly as large as walnuts.

I have engaged to lecture once a week in the Academy on Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene, and hope to have some anatomical preparations from your office during the winter to illustrate with. Perhaps I shall want that small tuba and some of those dried preparations showing the arteries, muscles, etc. if Gibson is not to be in the office the coming winter—But more of this hereafter.

Where is Mary Williamson?

The weather is exceedingly dry here. There will not be half a crop of anything except hay and that is ten dollars a ton.

My health is very good. But sick now.

Carroll

*Potsdam, August 1st, 1856*

Dear Father:

The bearer of this note, Mr. Blaisdell, will bring my anatomy to me which can be put into a carriage. You and he can arrange that. He can bring nothing but a stomach, heart and lungs, if you have them to spare. I have a stomach and heart but both are diseased too much to appear natural. I do not know whether I should Like a liver or not. I think that, if a favorable opportunity should occur, I would like to exchange skeletons for awhile. Mine, especially the head, is hardly nice enough to lecture from. That which I have mentioned can be sent without the liquor in a small box or covered tin pail. If convenient to get them here, I should like some part of those injected preparations also. I shall not expect to keep them more than one term, if you should think proper to send them.

I do not know what these lectures will avail me more than a little practice in lecturing. But that alone will pay me for one course. I intend to lecture on the skeleton, the ear and sound, eye and light, lungs and respiration, heart and circulation, abdominal viscera, digestion, etc.

My health is very good. Very dry here. No crops this year.

Carroll

I hear that Judge Parker has been nominated by the Democrats as candidate for governor. Friday evening.

After giving this not to Mr. Blaisdell, I have been out nearly to South Canton and operated on an eye for entropium. I took out a piece of the skin, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch wide tipped at both ends, with one sweep of the scissors, holding the piece with the forceps. The incision was perfectly smooth and regular. I made but one cut. Brought the edges together with two very fine sutures. A nicely performed operation—if it was simple. The man was a patient of Dr. Reynolds who advised him to send for me.

*Potsdam, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1856*

Dear Father:

I should have acknowledged the receipt of that anatomy before but have had no leisure. I was happily disappointed to find much more than I had expected. It lay three days in my office, three days before I saw it, for I was on the following business. One week ago last Wednesday, I went thirty-eight miles into the woods south of here to see one of our citizens who was accidentally shot through the ankle by five buckshot. He sat upon his ankle on a rock in the river, holding the boat. One of the company (out on pleasure) moved a gun which was loaded for deer. The gun went off and this man received the charge in his ankle.

I started from here at eleven o'clock and after walking and riding horseback about ten or twelve miles with the rain pouring in torrents, I reached him that evening (Wednesday) about nine o'clock. He was shot Tuesday.

The next morning I applied the many tailed bandages cushioned with cotton, put the leg in splints shaped to the leg and foot so that the jarring did not cause pain. The men made a litter with two poles, ropes and hemlock bough. We put him on and they carried him four miles to a boat in which they took him four miles more by water and again carried him two miles farther where we put up in a log house for the night. Next morning carried him two mile farther and swung his litter on a one-horse wagon and brought him to Potsdam that day, Friday. He rode very easily after we got onto good roads but through the woods I had to give morphine freely.

When we arrived the limb was perfectly easy and, it being late, I did not remove the dressing until the next (Saturday) morning. I had thus far made no examination. The limb was very much swollen and sore and I could not find whether the bone was broken or not. Had the limb put into a box on a bran pillow, as I have seen you do, kept cool with whiskey and water, poulticed the wounds which were distinct and separate. The swelling has now diminished very much. I find the tibia fractured something in this shape [A drawing here made]. The upper part of the fracture being about two and one half inches above where the shot entered. I am not certain about the remaining fractures but suspect that the lower end of the fibula is broken all to pieces and that the limb will have to be amputated, for gunshots of the knee or ankle are almost inevitably fatal to the limb. The limb looks nicely, is not very painful. The man keeps up good courage and the wound does not affect his health much yet. People who saw him when he came home and see him now think that he will be about in a few days. But I told him and his friends today that from the nature of the injury (not from its appearance) I feared he would lose his limb. I shall call counsel soon that I may not be alone in so a responsible a case. After I get their opinion then I shall take the responsibility.

I have no work on gunshot worth one cent. I wish you would write me immediately all that you know about gunshot. If the limb is amputated I think I shall do it. Therefore give me all the advice you can with the operation, etc.

Mary Wiliamson has told you of my visit to Massena Springs and our exceedingly happy meeting. I never before met a person with more pleasure. It almost seemed as though her mother, whom though I never have seen her, yet Nature makes me love, had risen from the grave. I hope to see her again.

The man that I went to see had dysentery, severe tomina (?) with passages from the bowels once in about 15 minutes of pure blood. He was very sick. Dr. Ripley had seen him twice but they did not like his treatment. I gave large does of acetate of lead and opium, also injections of starch with a teaspoonful of laudanum. At first he did not retain them more than five minutes, but when they came I immediately gave another etc. I was there eight hours and when I came

away he was perfectly easy and slept an hour, drank part of a cup of tea and his bowels were still. I left directions, medicine, etc.

Yesterday I had a letter. His stools are natural and he is doing well. He gave me eight dollars for my visit – I went in the night.

I am quite busy. This letter is written in too much haste to look or read well.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Wednesday p.m. (no date)*

Dear Father,

I received your letter about four hours too late. I amputated that leg at eleven o'clock today. I succeeded in the operation to the entire satisfaction of myself and all present. I was two and a half minutes in doing it. The flap was perfect, the stump looks nice. I never expect to succeed better. I gave the man chloroform which entirely deprived him of sensibility and worked like a charm.

Knives, forceps, bone pliers, needles, ligature, saw retractor, water, sponges, etc. were so arranged that I did not have to prepare one article after I commenced. Dr. Marsh tied the ligature, Dr. Cole administered the chloroform, Dr. Mullen held the sick leg, Dr. Hewitt steadied the patient, Hewitt's son sponged the wound, my student handed the instruments. Dr. McChesney did not arrive until ten minutes too late. He praised the stump!

Thursday Morn.

The patient sleeps a few minutes and jumps so that it almost kills him. Otherwise he would be quite easy and free from pain. Pulse 104. Opiates make him jump more. I give lupulin, comium, hyosciamous but they do little or no good.

Now, for my misfortunes: The day before the operation while sharpening my longest knife, it broke across. There was a large flaw in it. Now I am glad that it broke but I felt like death at the time for I had but one knife left and if, by some mishap, that should break during the operation, what would I do?

Two hours after had the stump done it began to bleed. I undressed it and took up another large artery, no trouble since. I leave the tourniquet on the limb more as a precaution. As I wrote you on Sunday, I told the man he must lose his limb. Monday I became more convinced and immediately called a counsel of all the doctors name save Dr. Mullen. All save Cole said amputate immediately. He said wait, but since the operation, he agreed it had to be.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Aug. 26, 1856*

Dear Father,

My patient, whose leg has been amputated, went into the woods some months ago for his health. He is consumptive. For several days before and since the operation, he has had a nervous twitching which nervousness remedied but little and opiates made worse. This jumping would hurt the limb so as to cause very severe pain. Then it would become quite easy and again he would jump. Now he starts but little. His appetite is craving some of the time and though I did have to give quinia and gin freely I use it sparingly now. His pulse has been 120, now it about 100. So far all is well but I begin to feel concerned about its healing well. I have kept it dressed with a tree-cornered clot and adhesive straps. The stitches became so loose that today, I have removed most of them and changed such straps as were loose. The wound is slightly healed for the space of an inch from each end but gaps some all the rest of the way, and runs considerably. I think too

much. The straps do not hold the edges of the skin in contact. The sore looks sluggish. I do not know how such a stump should look or how much it should be healed by this time. The limb was removed last Wednesday.

Please write soon and advise me and tell me what to do. Must I change the straps and bring the edges of the wound in contact? They won't stay so and handling it works it too much. Do you think it is going to be troublesome?

I reduced a dislocated shoulder yesterday. The man was about seventy years old. The shoulder was dislocated downwards into the axilla. I put my heel in to the axilla and pulled gradually and steadily about ten minutes when it suddenly popped in. This is my first case of dislocated shoulder.

I pocketed four dollars and "went on my way rejoicing."

I expect to go to New York about the last Monday in September. There will be no wedding party made.. More of this bye-and bye. [ Note: Mary writes "I think this refers to his wedding with my mother."]

Wednesday Morn.

That patient vomited up his supper last evening for the first time but felt well immediately after. He twitched the limb considerably last night but did not hurt it or cause pain. The wound looks no better and runs quite too freely. The man looks paler than he did a week ago and is not quite as strong. This morning his pulse is quick and rather feeble. What shall I give to keep up his strength, etc.?

I shall look for a letter tomorrow.

Love to mother.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Sunday, Sept. 7, 1856*

Dear Father,

I received your letter yesterday also one sometime since about the amputated limb. The brandy and quinine I was giving freely enough. I washed with nitric acid which corrected the fester of the wound and made it look cleaner.

That jumping ceased in a few days after I wrote you. I think the extract of Indian hemp stilled him best of anything I tried. Now his health is excellent. He rests well, his pulse is good, about 80, plays on his accordion to pass the time, reads as much as I am willing to have him. He feels perfectly well but the stump heals very slowly, does not scarcely [??] any but seems contented to remain nearly stationary. There is not more than an inch of the scab covered by skin, and just in the center of the wound it gaps a little unless supported by a plaster. I think, however, that it is healing slowly and will, after a time, get well. There are a couple of ligatures remaining yet, though I have tried as hard as I thought proper to loosen them. Shall I pull them out? This case will be a credit to me if the man lives—and he will—for it places me on excellent ground as a surgeon and the gate is open for the performance of any operation, however responsible. The patient is a fine, respectable man, has many friends and some influence, a gun-man by trade and able to pay! He and his friends have the utmost confidence in me. This is a thorn in Dr. Cole's flesh for he has for years been Mr. Tupper's family physician.

A lady was taken sick about a fortnight ago with typhoid fever. They called Cole. He doctored her about a week and they wished me called. He advised them to call Dr. McChesney but they wished me and immediately dismissed Dr. Cole and sent for me and I now doctor her. The pay does not amount to much but it is another severe thorn in Cole's flesh. I think it was a

fortunate move when I came to Potsdam. It is no small step for a young man to come here and amputate a limb beside Dr. McChesney. Could a young man do it beside you? But though such things add much to the confidence of the people, yet I am sure that a very little misstep will shatter that confidence.

The school has opened very well in this town. There are 150 students. I commence my course of lectures next Wednesday. Am to lecture once a week except when away.

My house looks nice since the blinds have been put on, and it has been painted one more coat. It is a much better house than I supposed it could be made. I have money enough to pay all my debts were it not for my anticipated visit to New York.

Did I write you that I have two students, both fine young men, who pay me \$20 per year each for tuition? If Potsdam was a larger village I would try to connect a medical school with the Academy. One of the students now boards at the Academy. There are nearly fifty students now boarding there.

I am very much obliged to you for your suggestion about money but I have about one hundred and ten dollars which I think ought to pay all my expenses to New York and home again. I have paid out a constant stream of money since last spring on my house and for clothes. But all is well so far. I have a note of \$75 to pay next April but I think if prospered I can meet it.

I am to be married on the 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> (the last Monday or Tuesday of this month). If you and mother do not attend the wedding it will be on Monday. If you can attend it will wait til Tuesday so that you may come the day before (Monday) on the cars to Potsdam and ride to Stockholm Tuesday morning early enough for me to be married and take the cars at Brasher Falls at about the o'clock in the forenoon. I should like very much to have you present though the trip will not be a very pleasant one for you since there is to be no wedding party given and none invited to attend but Mr. Homes' family—coarse but very respectable people.

For another reason, I wish you to be present. I intend to be away from Potsdam but two weeks. We have to stop at Troy to buy furniture and a short time at Albany and returning stay at Malone one day so it will be impossible for us to go to Fort Covington and you will not see us for some time unless it be at the wedding. Please write soon that we may know what arrangements to make. Charlotte is quite anxious to have you come.

Monday morning.

My leg patient does not feel quite so well this morning, pulse 112, coughs some, appetite poor—I shall look for a letter tomorrow or Wednesday.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Sept. 12, 1856*

Dear Father:

I find it a great relief to my mind to have someone to go to when in trouble.

This letter is written with a very different tone of mind from that in which my last one was written.

After I received your letter, I probed that leg as you told me. I could touch the end of the tibia without causing the least pain to the patient. Whether the bone is dead or not, I cannot say, for the fact that I could so readily reach the bone sickened me at heart and I cared not to continue the examination. I never felt anything so keenly in practice before.

This is my first capital operation and it has brought me much praise. But if it fails the reaction will be tremendous. It will kill me for years as a surgeon in Potsdam. The wound has healed by granulation throughout most of its extent except about opposite the end of the tibia, but

it has skinned over only about one inch on the out or fibula side. I wish you could come and see the leg yourself. I am sick and discouraged. If you can't come, write me.

The flesh of the wound bulges out considerably. Shall I touch it with nitrate or silver? I fear that the pressure of the flap against the end of the bone will cause it to absorb away. Shall I remove the strap and let the wound gape open? I could ask you a thousand questions about it but I hope you will come and see it yourself. I shall expect you or a letter by Monday. I don't wish anyone to know that I sent for you.

Ask Mother what she thinks about coming to my wedding. Tell her I wish her to come very much. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes say you must come. They saw come to their house directly on Monday, Sept. 29 and remain until next morning. Charlotte wishes you very much also. She is a noble, worthy lady.

With much anxiety,  
Carroll

*Potsdam, Sep. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1856*

Dear Father,

I am very sorry that you and mother could not attend my wedding. I shall be all alone, not one of my friends present. But I know that it is a long distance to come for so short a ceremony.

I dismissed my leg patient yesterday. The stump has healed very fast since I wrote you so doleful a letter. Everyone seems to be well pleased with the result and all contributes to my credit. If the man had died (and all said that if the limb was amputated he would die – Dr. Cole with the rest) you know what a different aspect everything would have assumed: the leg was not amputated soon enough, or, the doctor might have known that he would die, perhaps if he had been let alone he would have got well, or there was something wrong about the operation. Thus they would have reasoned and their reasoning would have started stories for my ruin. But now all is well and everything is right. So my reputation has risen instead of falling.

The patient paid me twenty-one dollars yesterday, which is about half his bill, of his own accord. He is well pleased, wished me as good success with others, etc. He will pay the remainder as soon as he gets to work again.

Is there anything that you wish me to do or to get for you and mother in New York? I intend to get an ear speculum that will open and some kind of obstetric crotchet, perhaps a canula and trocar also. I think I shall get some work on the ear, perhaps Wilder's work..Charlotte intends to buy some furniture in Troy.

We are quite pleased with the idea of a journey. I have too much anxiety about my patients or rather my reputation and success. My mind has been on a continual strain for more than two years. The journey will give it relief.

When I write, I always try to think of something interesting to mother but she is so little acquainted in Potsdam that I find nothing to interest her. Please give her my love.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Oct. 12, 1856*

Dear Father,

I (or I suppose I must say "we" now) are home again. Potsdam looks pleasant to me I assure you.

We took the cars at Brasher Falls at eleven o'clock Monday morning, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>; arrived at Whitehall Tuesday morn at six, at Troy at 10:25 a.m. It rained all day at Troy but we made such purchases as we wished and the next morning went by stage to Albany. Left Albany by cars at 5 o'clock p.m. Wednesday, arrived in New York about ten o'clock in the evening. Put up at the Howard House on Broadway.

Visited Jersey City, Brooklyn, City Hall, Crystal Palace, Nibloe's Garden, Burton's Theater, Chrysty's Minstrels and the Variety Children; the Union and Washington parks. Went to the top of Trinity Church. Attended Dr. Alexander's Church, Grace Church and Beecher's Church on the Sabbath.

Went aboard and all through the Steam U.S. mail-ship, Baltic, and Scotch Steam-mail ship, Glasgow. Charlotte attended all the above and innumerable other places of interest in New York. I also visited the City Hospital and the Medical College – heard Mott and Payne lecture, etc. etc.

At Albany we visited the Capitol, City and State Halls, Agricultural Rooms, Medical college, etc. etc. Charlotte made some purchases.

In New York I bought Draper's Physiology, an ear speculum, a canular and trochar, also exchanged my amputating knife without expense.

Left New York by boat Wednesday morning at six o'clock, had an excellent view of the Hudson, took the cars at Albany at six o'clock p.m. and arrived at Rutland at about ten in the evening. Left Rutland at sic (next morning), arrived at Burlington at ten, visited Charlotte's friends and left Burlington by boat at four o'clock Friday morning, arrived at Malone at about ten a.m.

In the evening, Frank, Mary Williamson, Louisa, Marshall and his wife and son, Sidney, Maria and Agnes, Charlotte and I visited at Uncle Conant's and had an exceedingly pleasant time. We all spoke of you and mother and wished that you could have been with us. Grandma knew me and enjoyed the visit. We sat at one time in a large circle all around her—seventeen of us with her at the head, the great trunk from which so many branches sprung or were engrafted upon. Imagine what a sight!

We arrived at home yesterday noon ---Love to mother. Charlotte sends much love to her new father and mother.

I shall write again in a day or two about the things at Mr. Whitney's.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Oct. 19, 1856*

Dear Father:

We expect to get into our house this week. We ned many things, some of which I shall enumerate, not expecting you to supply them, but that you may know what to supply of what you have to spare. Three wash-stands, one light stand, one dressing-table for front room chamber. The cherry table that you mentioned, five common chairs, one common large arm-rocking chair. One small kitchen table, made of pine and with a leaf to let down when n use for our kitchen is very small..One small bureau for sleeping-room, etc. etc.

We should be glad to get such of the above as you can send. The best way will be to put them on the cars at Moira.. Do not pack much but direct each piece. Do not send by express. Can you send them to Moira by stage? The sooner we have them now the better.

I operated upon a child for club foot yesterday (Tulipes Varus). Charlotte says "Say something good for me to your father and mother."

Much love to Mother,  
Carroll

*Potsdam, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1856*

Dear Father,

This afternoon I have been with my horse to Stockholm and got Lottie's piano. When I returned, Lottie came out to meet me saying that there was something in the house that she wished to show me. We went in and she showed me a nice large rocking-chair which she had just been sitting in, five beautiful chairs, one wash-stand and a very nice light stand and two tables. She thinks the table which you intended for the kitchen is too nice for that use. I am not sure but we shall put it in the hall to lay hats and overclothes on. The other articles were arranged in their intended places.

You cannot tell how welcome those excellent apples were, unless you recall the time when you used to send up to Mr. Duffy's after little hard sour apples to cook. I remember that time well. We have had but half a bushel of apples yet and those small and poor. When yours came we had not had an apple in the house for several days. Dr. Whitney of Massena called on me this evening and Mrs. Cox and Louise McCrea also. We treated them with apples from Pa's orchard. The barrel got broken in some way and half a bushel of the apples were stolen out. The top ones were slightly frozen so that we shall have to cut them to save them. We shall make the remainder last a long time.

We are very thankful and fully appreciate your kindness in sending those articles. Lottie has furnished the rest of the house very nicely. Her mother is very kind; sends cheese, meat, bread, pies, pickles, preserves, soft soap, etc. I have bought but a few pounds of meat so far. The man whose leg I amputated furnishes what I want, however. We have 31 pounds of butter, a bushel of onions, bushel of turnips, 16 cabbages. And I raised about 12 bu. of as nice, mealy potatoes as you ever eat.

It is now eleven o'clock at night and a man has just called to have me go and set a broken arm. I'll finish this in the morning.

Tuesday

The arm was broken at a turkey shoot, three miles from here. The fracture is about two inches above the elbow. This is my first case of fracture of the humerus. The man paid me down.

I have no time to write more now.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1856*

Dear Father,

My last letter was not finished for want of time. We wish you and mother to visit us this fall, the sooner the better. We are enough settled to accommodate you very well and it will give us much pleasure to show you our snug, neat and new little home. The novelty will all be gone soon.

The roads are good and the weather pleasant. If you do not come now you will not be likely to until spring. Can you come this week? Please write us the day before you come. Tell mother her visit will be much more pleasant than when she had to stop at the hotel. If she cannot come, cannot you come?

The club foot that I operated on is doing well. I told them I could not operate on the other til I was secured for my pay, \$30. They are quite anxious and I think the town will help them.

There is another child in the village that has two club feet, also. I shall operate on that when it is a little older. Its father is a blacksmith.

I am treating a fractured thigh on a poor man, 79 years old. No pay. Have been very busy during the past three weeks.

Please write soon.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. 1856*

Dear Father,

It is Sabbath afternoon and I remain at home to write to you for it is so long since I wrote you that I feel as though you would expect a letter from me tomorrow. I presume that you are writing to me and I shall get your letter Tuesday. The mail leaves Malone early in the morning so that our letters remain there over night.

We hope that your next letter will tell us when you and mother will visit us. It was a good deal for me to be married (the most important step, as far as earthly happiness is concerned, which one can take on earth) without one relative, not even my father and mother to witness the ceremony especially in this day when marriage is made so much of by the friends of the married. I think you would have visited me before this if other would have accompanied you. When mother becomes acquainted with Lottie I feel sure that she can not help love her unless she tries very hard to poison her mind against her. Charlotte has an even, lovely disposition and cheerful mind which makes all acquaintances love her.

Mrs. Cox says mother told her that she should not visit Potsdam very soon because I did not go and see her at Sidney's when I visited Aunt Prudy at Malone. I left Malone at ten o'clock in the morning. Mother arrived there about nine the same morning so that I had no time to visit her. Besides, I did not know until I reached the cars that mother was at Malone. Mrs. Cox also says that the neighbors at Fort Covington told her that they thought mother would not visit because she says that I sent you for money to go my wedding trip with. You know that I neither sent to you for nor received any money from you for that purpose. I am sorry to have the people of Fort Covington believe that I should be willing to have you pay my expenses for such a tour. However they may think evil of me if they will, but they must know that my life when with them was nearly faultless.

My health this winter is excellent. Was very busy during the months of October and November. The weather is very cold and the wind has blown a hurricane ever since last Sunday.. We have taken a great deal of pride in showing your present and eating your apples and, although very saving of them, yet they go very fast.

If you and mother will come and visit us as soon as there is snow, we will be exceedingly happy to see you. If mother cannot come, we hope you will come when someone from abroad lectures before the Young Men's Association.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Feb'y 9<sup>th</sup>, 1857*

Dear Father:

I shall write but little for I have little to write. Last Sabbath evening a week ago, I wrote to you but did not mail the letter, hoping to find something ore to write but nothing much has occurred.

When you were here, you remember, I had a patient 75 years old with a broken thigh. He had been eight weeks on the bed and the next day I removed the splints and the very next day I was called to another fractured thigh on a boy 5 years old. The splints have been on five weeks and I shall take them off tomorrow. The limbs of the old man and boy seem to be of full length and perfect form—two extremes of life!..My club feet are doing well. A knot of ligature came from the sore on that man's stump and the sore has entirely healed. There is no prevailing disease here now. I attended five cases of obstetrics in five days a fortnight ago—and all good pay.

Mr. Giles has lectured here twice within two weeks. The people like him very much

We have every kind of weather here this winter. The snow has all gone off within four days. All travel here is on wheels.

My health is good. Charlotte was much pleased with your visit and regretted very much that it was so short and that mother could not come with you. Tell her that she will be expected to come next time.

I have nine cords of green wood at my door and enough more engaged to last a year but I fear that the want of snow may prevent its being drawn.

Much love from Lottie to mother.

Carroll

*Potsdam, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1857*

Dear Father:

It is three o'clock, Sabbath. We intended to visit Fort Covington about this time but, now the snow is gone, we hardly know what to do. Probably I shall not see another so favorable a time to leave as far as business is concerned in a long time to come. If I were sure there would not be a snow storm, I should be tempted to go in a carriage.

We feel quite proud of our railroad now that the cars are running to Watertown. At this depot you can see cars from the northern road, from the Rome and Watertown road, and from the New York Central road. What think you of that? We feel as though we were near the center of the state and very near the great cities, much nearer than Malone or even Ogdensburgh. Cars loaded with corn at Cleveland, Ohio, pass over this road and land in Ogdensburgh without being unlocked.

My health is good but this changeable weather causes a little of my last spring' cough. My life in Potsdam has thus far been an exceedingly happy and, I hope, honorable one.

The Baptists talk some of buying my house for a parsonage. I told them I would take a thousand dollars for it. I do not know as they will give it. I do not know as I would sell it for that for I gave six hundred and ninety-five (\$695.00) for it and have paid two hundred and twenty (\$220.00) to finish it off with blinds and painting. I am not anxious to sell it for one thousand and should not think of it, was the church not to be built so near it. What think you?

I am nearly out of debt and should be entirely so in a few weeks, were it not for that Hopkins note but I can let that run a while yet by paying about 8 percent..I shall build a woodshed soon and a piazza in front. This will add much to the looks of the house from Elm Street.

We are very much pleased with the Bible that you gave us. It is used daily and will often remind us of you, should we see as many years as you have, long after you are gone. I have not copied those records yet.

We shall expect to see mother here as soon as the weather becomes pleasant and the roads settled, whether we go to Fort Covington or not.

Carroll

*Sabbath Evening, 7 o'clock, April 19, 1857*

Dear Father,

Three years ago tomorrow I came to Potsdam. It does not seem possible that so much time has rolled away! Well do I remember when I left my father's house, never to call it home again. You followed me to Mr. McCrea's to bid me goodbye again and later we met at Manning's corner and you bid me goodbye the third time. I did not allow myself to feel the step that I was taking but looked to the future with ambitions, hope and anxiety. My hopes have been fully realized but new hopes have sprung up and my anxiety continues.

I look at the past three years with much pleasure and satisfaction. God has prospered me and they have been the happiest three years of my life. I hope He will give me grace that I may trust to him for the future!

Potsdam has been my home in every sense of the word. Here is my business and here are my friends and my family.

But I love Ft. Covington yet. There was I born and reared and there I feel I have many friends. But there, too, all the unhappy clouds that have ever dimmed my life arose. It is not pleasant to recall them.

I wish that you and mother were better acquainted with Charlotte. It is illy becomes me to speak of her virtues but it is due to her that I say that she is a worthy, tender companion, adding very much to my happiness. She knows my tendency to consumption and watches over me with the utmost vigilance and carefulness.

During the last week I have raised and boarded by woodshed, 17 feet square. Have done nothing to my fence yet, cannot determine what kind of a fence to build. I think that the Baptises may some day buy my house but they are too poor now.

There has been but little sickness in Potsdam the past winter, yet I have been usually busy and earned a living. Have been out nights as much as my health would permit. Have earned \$13.25 since yesterday morning..Dr. Marsh was quite sick a few weeks ago. I took care of him. He is a valuable friend to me.

You heard Theodore Parker. He is an off-sided man, spoils his lectures with temperance and niggerism. Giles is a more pleasing lecturer but it is difficult for him to make his talents supply that beauty and dignity which his body lacks. Men naturally loathe deformity and admire beauty..I like Whipple best though Mr. Chapin is the most of an orator, and would please a mixed audience better than any man that we have had here yet. I wish you could have heard him.

The farmers here-about are making large quantities of sugar. I have bought 23 pounds and have the promise of 60 more at 10 cents per pound. Oats sell at 50 cts., corn \$1.00, potatoes at 50 cts., flour \$6.50 a barrel, butter 25 cts. Steak and pork 12 ½ cts. Ham sells at thirteen cents. I bought one the other day. Eggs are 13 cts. A dozen, dried apples 16 cts. Per pound, hay \$10 a ton, etc. etc. We have about a dozen of those apples that you brought us left and have also had six pounds of dried apples..I feed meal at 13 shillings a hundred to my horse. Pay cash for it.

I have not felt very well this spring, have had a cold all the time. Charlotte is very well, always cheerful and happy. She has cleaned house, whitewashed and papered the walls of the bedroom and dining room with no help but a little girl 12 years old. She sends her love to mother.

How do you treat bleeding piles? How is Phillips getting along?

Carroll

Potsdam, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1857

Dear Father:

I have not heard from you since I wrote to mother. How is her health now? Does she cough much? I sincerely hope she is better.

How long before we shall see you and mother in Potsdam? We can accommodate you with a good room and hope mother will come and give us a visit. Tell her so. If she is not well enough to come with you, I hope that you will come alone as soon as possible.

You must not think strange that we do not visit you. You know we do not wish to go to Ft. Covington until our visit will be acceptable to mother. I need say no more. People here can see that there is something wrong that I neither go to see you nor does mother come to see me.

The Black River Methodist Conference met here two weeks ago. There were about two hundred ministers. I have not seen a finer body of men in a long time. They boarded amongst the inhabitants. Mr. Gillette, the one that lived in Ft. Covington, Boarded with me. He is just as pleasant and agreeable as ever, and sings just as sweetly. Is now stationed in Weedsport, thirty miles west of Syracuse. He talked much of you and sent his regards. I was too busy to attend their meetings much.

I have had just as much to do of late as I could well attend to which has kept me continually tired and worn down.

Last Friday (day before yesterday) I amputated a man's leg at North Potsdam. His name is Charles Bicknell. He jumped from the cars when they were in motion and fell as he jumped so that his right leg lay across the rail and the cars passed over it crushing the lower third of the leg to atoms. The foot was left whole and separated from the body. I amputated just high enough to get sound flesh and bone. I think the operation was well performed. And as for excitement, I was entirely free from it even to my own astonishment. I believe Mr. Ritchie who has been preaching there the last two years was responsible for my being sent for to operate instead.....

Page missing

*Potsdam, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1857*

Dear Father,

The stump of the leg that I amputated at North Collins is doing very badly indeed. The anterior flap has almost entirely sloughed and when the slough has separated the tibia will project at least one inch. The posterior flap is yet free from disease and is so large that I hope the end of the bone will only need to be cut as far up as the anterior flap will admit without cutting the flesh. Shall we wait for spontaneous separation of the bone or cut the bone as high as we can judge necessary to remove all that may be diseased?

I wish very much to have you see the limb and help me decide which course to pursue. I cannot manage to have you sent for. If I could, I would. If you intend to come to Potsdam soon, I wish you would come now. The doctor at the depot takes care of the case. I see it twice a week and direct the treatment. Washing with nitric acid and water deeps the part quite clean and nearly free from fester. The patient is about twenty-two years old. His health and strength remain good.

I wish mother could come with you and make us a good family visit. I have been very busy this month and had all to do that my strength will allow. Have been to Colton six or eight times, am going again tomorrow. Am going to Hermon next Wednesday to amputate an arm for of a man aged sixty-two years. Cannot possibly go to Fort Covington at present. Have had no time to look up the murder case.

How do you spend the Fourth? Nothing but a parade of "the Terribles" here.  
I hope to see you but if you cannot come this week, please write immediately.  
Charlotte and I are both perfectly well..I performed the operation craniotomy the other  
day, had excellent success.  
Carroll

*Potsdam, July 11, 1857*

Dear Father,

I received the case of instruments safe. Mrs. Burton passed here to Malone yesterday  
(Friday) with her son. I will be in Malone Tuesday and expect to meet you there. Would go  
Monday but you will not get this letter before Monday for Malone has but a tri[weekly mail. If  
you cannot be there Tuesday will wait 'til next day if possible.

Our love to mother. Tell her we hope to have many more such visits as you and she have  
just made us.

Carroll

P.S. I shall carry a mallet, gouge, chisel, cholodeon, chloroform, etc.

*Potsdam, Aug. 9, 1857*

Dear Father:

I received your letter with respect to the Barton boy and copied most of it into a book of  
cases which I keep for future experience. Have not heard from him lately but when I last heard  
he was doing well.

Mary Flanders was here two weeks ago and passed the week with us. She is an excellent  
minded girl.

Dr. McChesney fell out of a boat in the St. Lawrence near Waddington while fishing and  
was nearly drowned. He was entirely unconscious when he was taken out. He cannot swim.

I wish you could see our little garden, it looks so thrifty. We have an abundance of  
lettuce, beans, peas, cucumbers and a few radishes. Those cardoons are a queer looking plant,  
looking something like thistles. They are a kind of artichoke, not good yet. We shall have an  
abundance of tomatoes and a few onions, cabbages, turnips. Hay is very plenty but sells for  
\$8.00 per ton. There is a large crop of everything about here except fruit.

I have something to do every day, yet it is very healthy, very little of the bowel  
complaints seen yet. Our health is good and we are looking forward with a great deal of pleasure  
to seeing you and mother at Ft. Covington which we think will be during the last week of  
August. We will let you know before we go however.

I have no important cases on hand now and there is nothing taking place here worth  
writing about..I hear nothing of those cases, the murder or the malpractice.

Charlotte says she would write in this letter to mother but I am in the office and must not  
wait for her to write before mailing this letter.

Carroll

P.S. I received twenty-five dollars from the Odd Fellows of Clayton and put it towards my note  
to Mr. Hopkins.

*Potsdam, Feb. 16, 1858*

Dear Father,

I was at the cars when you passed this morning, stood at the doorway till I saw that I should not have a chance to see you before the passengers had passed off and on. I then went to a side window, looked in but saw nothing of you. Went back into the house. Mr. Cox said he saw you.

When will you be here? I usually lecture on Friday evening but any other evening will do as well except there is a concert on Wednesday evening.

I bought a very good saddle of venison today, expecting to let you take half of it home with you. It is the saddle of a very fat young buck as nice as you can ever get. We have plenty of fresh meat and do not need it. It will not be much trouble for you to take it along.

Charlotte is at Hemingford, C.E., Visiting Mrs. Scriver (Frank Stevens). She will be at Louisa's, Malone, Thursday night and at home Friday morning.

I would go to Canton if I knew when I should hear the best of that malpractice suit. I hope to see you here one night before you return home.

Carroll

*Potsdam, May 12, 1858*

Dear Father,

It is now half past ten in the evening and I am very tired but have determined to delay writing you no longer, for I wish to hear from you.

Louisa McCrea brought the books for which I am much obliged.

Mrs. Wealthy Clark died last March of congestion of the lungs and dropsy of the heart. She willed her property, about \$250, to the church. Mrs. Miner of Canton (Jane Reddington) went to Dr. Sims, I believe of New York who operated on her and she walked down Broadway, cured in two weeks.

I have worked very hard lately, much practice besides other work. Am building a line fence also a barn, 24 by 30. Shall have no garden this summer.

I bought a fine mare three weeks ago, light chestnut color, six years old and perfectly sound, without a blemish or mark upon her. She is kind of a pet, no bad tricks and travels as fast and easy as yours does. I carry no whip. She is not as large or handsome as yours, however. I sold the old one for three bushels of wheat and ten cords of dry, hard body wood. The wheat I have. The wood is to be delivered next winter. I offered her to the man that I bought my new mare of for five dollars. He would not give it. Tell mother I wish she could see what a nice pile of hard wood I have, all cut and split. I have piled it all up during my leisure moments. I bought 24 cords last winter.

Yesterday morning at four o'clock went four miles beyond Colton to see a man who had stricture of the urethral and couldn't pass water. Dr. Wilson of Colton had tried one hour to draw off his water but as Mr. Morey said nothing responded but blood. He said he could do nothing more. I relived the man in fifteen minutes without drawing blood—luckily for me!

I now have a dreadful case of chorea. A young lady aged thirteen years, large size and precocious mind but healthy and fair looking. Has been perfectly regular for one year. Had a similar attack a year ago but very slight and it lasted as you may suppose but a short time. But I think from what I can learn that it has never entirely left her. She expects to be unwell the last of this week. You never saw such a sight, such incessant motion of limbs, body and head—insomuch that the limbs are becoming red and sore from the wear. Her stockings will work off. She can neither lie down nor sit up nor stand nor walk nor talk nor take anything in her hands.

She acts worse than a raving, tearing maniac. Her mind is good and she knows her condition. I have given emetic, blue pill and some cathartics; used clysters and warm sits bath. Morphine relieves her feelings but does not remove the continued motion. Am now giving the ammoniosulphate of copper, using shower bath and give the rest with morphine. What can I do better?

Have just had a case of acute rheumatism—tried emet, and cathartic followed by wine of calcium. After several days changed to nitre. It became located on the heart, producing frequent fainting, etc. the cooing sound, etc. Tried Hope's plan, calomel and opium freely. As soon as the mouth became sore all the rheumatic symptoms were entirely relieved. Whenever she was distressed, had feet and hands in mustard water.

Have you had a religious revival in Ft. Covington? If so, who are the converts? Potsdam has been wonderfully blessed. God has indeed revived his work in an astonishing manner. The churches have been purified and put in excellent working order. Many have been converted and turned to God. I never saw or heard such a general revival with so little excitement.

I wish that you and mother would make us a visit this summer. Miss Scriver boards with us at \$2.50 per week. She is a fine girl. Charlotte and I are perfectly well. After this letter is mailed I shall think of many things which I intended to write but it is now midnight and I must close. I herd from young Burton. His limb is entirely well. Charlotte sends love, etc.

Carroll

Thursday morning. The girl is better this morning than she has been since last Saturday. I gave her about 1/1/2 gr. morphine last evening which caused her to rest well most of the night.

*Potsdam, Tues., Aug. 7, 1858*

Dear Father,

A Young man, say 25 years old, has what is commonly called a white swelling of the knee which has troubled him ten y ears Now he is obliged to walk on crutches. The knee measures 14 ½ inches, the muscles above are somewhat wasted. When he does not use it, it is not painful but use makes it ache. I have blistered it some, used iodine ointment, double strength, three months, gave iodide of potassium & Sarsaparilla or syrup of iodide of iron during the whole time, all to no purpose except to improve his general health. He has a good small farm but is not able to live without work. If the leg will not become well enough to be as good as no leg or as an artificial leg, he wishes to have it off.

Would you advise me to amputate such a limb or wait for worse symptoms to make it absolutely necessary? I think the leg will never be better and yet it does not look very bad.

Please write soon. Charlotte sends much love.

Thursday morning. Have been very busy the last two days. Have you any ideas of going to Watertown to se the balloon? Cars charge half fare, about \$2.00 from here.

*Potsdam, Aug. 15, 1858*

Dear Father,

Nearly all the summer months of the year have passed since I wrote or have heard from you. I am quite anxious to h ear from you but suppose you are well or I should have heard. Persons from the Fort have called you very well. Charlotte and I are well and often express the wish that you would come and see us. Can you not come soon? I should have written oftener but

I have been driven to death this summer and am always tired when it comes night and go to bed not knowing what minute I will be called. Have sometimes been called out two or three times in one night. Have earned from three to fourteen dollars in a day, all small charges none exceeding five dollars. Have earned nearly five hundred dollars since the first of May, that is about one hundred fifty a month. Want of strength has compelled me to turn off some good business. And I expect to collect nearly every dollar of what I have done. The season has not been a sick one. I think I have had one-half of all the business in town. I have more than half the village practice. I try to live an honorable and useful life and God is thus rewarding my labors here on earth. I wish I had more bodily strength that I might not become so weary and worn.

I have had some interesting cases lately all of which have terminated well. Last week a child was brought me from Brasher Falls with very much enlarged tonsils. I gave chloroform and removed them nicely. The child was but three years old. A lady from Massena has been boarding here lately to have me doctor her for lung disease and she has returned home nearly well. So you see I have some cases from abroad.

My barn is done and is a nice one. My mare has proved to be much better than I had expected. I would not sell her for \$120.00. Have driven her more in three months than I ever did my other one and yet she is free and quite fat. Have no garden save cucumbers, beets, tomatoes, cabbages and lettuce. But I have been able to get all the new potatoes and corn and peas that we want from the farmers with but little expense.

I sent to New York a few days ago and got a pair of Dr. Meig's embryologic pliers, a pair of perforating scissors and hook and crochet (obstetrical instruments). The whole cost me \$7.50. They are the very nicest finished instruments! I wish to have you see them.

We are having a few cases of typhoid fever and bowel complain now and a little of several other kinds of sickness.

I hope you will try not to get sick with that bowel complain which is so apt to trouble you in the summer.

When will you visit us? I feel that I need a little rest and would like to visit Fort Covington to obtain it but judging from our visit last summer, we have concluded that if we would save our character at Ft. C. as well as other places we had better not visit there again until mother really wishes us to do so which will probably never be.

What pleasant visits we might have and how much we would enjoy them if mother were not so unjust! I shall make no more effort to please her.

When you come, please bring along your trephining instruments. I have a case of necrosis of the tibia which I think it will be necessary to operate on. Also please bring one of your physiological lectures. I have agreed to lecture every third week this term regularly.

Arsenic has been found lately in a man's stomach at Colton. His wife is suspected but no one has been committed yet.

Please write soon,  
Carroll

*Potsdam, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1858*

Dear Father,

The day that we received your last letter, we also received one from Louisa. She and family were well as usual.

Have nothing in particular to write. We are both very well, have lately been preparing for the cold winter. I dread these cold winters very much. My lungs are so irritable during the winter

weather. If I know where I could go and be less likely to lung disease, I would gladly move to such a place. I dress warm and do the best I can to preserve my health. Have just bought a beaver cap, collar and gloves, all as nice as can be. Bought in Potsdam. The price was nineteen dollars. I gave seventeen.

Since I wrote you last have had my barn and woodshed painted. My place looks very neat now..Business during the summer has been exceedingly good. But just now I am doing almost nothing. Hardly anyone sick. Day before yesterday (Friday) I operated upon Dr. McChesney's son for variocele. The doctor had never heard of the operation. His son had been so disabled by the trouble that he could do no hard labor and suffered much pain six years. I removed the entire scrotum except enough to bring together with sutures. The young man is doing well thus far. The doctor committed the whole case to me and wishes me to see him every day..Tomorrow I shall order a set of strabismus instruments, viz. a probe, pointed scissors, a toothed forceps and hook' also a tonsil excisor from New York. I have a chance to remove tonsils lately but have had no instruments, besides it costs half a dollar to send or receive anything from Malone so I thin I had better own a set of instruments of my own.

A young man with one eye turned in very much wishes me to straighten it which I have promised to do. I love surgical practice and wish I could get more of it.

We were not much disappointed at the result of the state elections but the Democrats expected that Parker would be elected because G. Smith told them he would. I think Parker would make the best governor and voted for him but am about two-thirds Republican. Do not like the administration's course with regard to Kansas. If the next Republican candidate for president is as worthy a man as the Democratic, think I shall vote for him.

Two weeks ago, picked all the apples and removed them from the barn to the cellar. Found nearly a peck of decayed F? but not more than a dozen of the other kinds. They keep nicely. They are now in barrels. We have eaten more than half of the Famens but have not touched the others. We have about four bushels of cooking apples on hand.

What did you do on Thanksgiving Day? Hope you had a good ft turkey or were invited out to dinner. We had no Thanksgiving religious service in Potsdam, but there were two funerals! —one of Mrs. Reynolds—died of Cancerous cachexy; the other of a little boy drowned while skating on the river.

We attended a very excellent dinner at which we had every article of food raised in Potsdam besides oysters and many luxuries not raised here. It was the most extravagant private dinner that I ever attended. We had "everything that the heart could wish even wine and brandy."

I hope mother's health is better than when your letter was written. We are expecting to see you as soon as the weather becomes settled. Should like it very much if mother would come too.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Dec. 25, 1858*

Dear Father,

I hope you are enjoying a very Merry Christmas. The day is made more of here than at the Fort because of Episcopal influence. Almost every person is made happy with one or more Christmas presents and old and young are curious to know what the other has received. The jewelry, book and toy stores were full to overflowing last evening with those purchasing presents.

Almost every countenance this morning looks happy and bright.

Charlotte and I were each very agreeably surprised this morning by the present of a beautiful silver napkin-ring which each had purchased for the other unknown to each other.

Last Thursday evening the ladies held a fair and supper etc. etc. at which we had a very pleasant time and the ladies received \$140.00 clear of expenses. The money is to be used in buying light-holders for the Presbyterian Church. I should have said the fair was given by The Ladies' Sewing Society of the Presbyterian Church. They had on hand enough to make over \$200.0 which will light the church beautifully.

Next Thursday the firemen hold a New Year's Festival. I do not know but think I shall attend from a selfish motive—There are but few sick and I have leisure enough now.

Though my life is a laborious and anxious one, yet very few persons are happier or enjoy themselves more than I do..I never had a very high opinion of my ability but have always been determined to use what I had as well as I knew how. And my success both in my profession and in gaining the respect of others has far exceeded by highest anticipations. My mother's "God bless the child and the child bless the world" has always been a light in my path..Charlotte is always happy and cheerful. But it does not become me to praise her too much. You must learn her yourself!

In all the round of my life, I never forget my father and his kindness and anxiety for me. I think of all the troubles and afflictions through which he has passed (although I probably do not fully realize them) and my heart deeply sympathizes with his..Charlotte often speaks of you and wishes you lived nearer that we might more often see you. Now the sleighing is good we shall look for you every day till you com.

A Mrs. Parker (wife of Mathilda Elliot's present husband) died with dropsy of the chest and she was pregnant at the time. She was about the house a few hours before she died. To relieve her distress when suffering from a paroxysm of dyspnoea, her husband gave her large quantities of laudanum and let her breathe chloroform. In an hour or two she died. Old Mr. Clark was so mad because Mathilda married Parker that he accused him of killing his wife etc. etc. Parker has sued Clark for slander. I was present and helped in a post mortem examination and shall have to be a witness to tell what killed the wife, etc. etc. I wish when you come you would bring Beck's Medical Jurisprudence and give me all the information you can upon the subject. Perhaps you have something upon dropsy of the chest which may be of some use. There was no disease of the heart. I wish you would bring your tonsil instruments also. A person is waiting for me to cut off her tonsils. I received a pair from New York. The price was ten dollars, besides I did not like them and sent them back. What did you give for yours?

I operated on my case of strabismus last Monday and had noble success, making the eye perfectly straight. I told them to be sure to send for me if the eye became much inflamed but have not heard from him since, hence the eye must be doing well.

Dr. McChesney's son has got well and the doctor is very much pleased.

Parker's and Clark's suit will come off in February without doubt as it has been adjourned once already. How long could a person live after taking chloroform and yet die from the effects of the chloroform? I have just bought the last edition of Wood and Bache's U.S. Dispensary (1858). Have ordered Wilde on the Eye. We shall look for you eery day till you come.

Carroll

(Note from Mary Bates Rhodes: Evidently, Mr. Clark was the father of the first Mrs. Parker, the one who failed to survive her husband's ministrations. M.B.R.)

*Potsdam, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1859*

Dear Father,

The young man named Forster whose leg I thought I might have to amputate was taken ten years ago with a slight pain in the right knee which became slightly swollen though it caused but little inconvenience until two years ago when it made him limp some and his knee became less limber and more swollen, the swelling being more on the inner side. Six or eight months ago he came to me with the knee considerably swollen and the veins on the inside were enlarged and blue but when lying down the veins became much swollen. He could stand on the leg but could not bend it much without causing pain, not particularly in the joint but throughout the knee, i.e. lower end of femur and upper end of tibia. He had at times complained of pain in the ankle and instep which at this time would swell a little. There has never been but little tenderness about the knee to the touch. I treated it about three months with blisters, iodine ointment, oint. iodide of potassium, mercurial ointment and perfect rest, the patient being allowed to ride a little and to walk on crutches without touching this foot to the ground. All my treatment availed nothing, I could not cure it. He determined to have it amputated because he could not afford to live idle with it on. A young Doctor Hewitt came here, a pretty smart fellow, and encouraged the man that he could cure it with only a stiff joint at least. The man wished to try him, promising that if the limb had to be amputated I certainly should do it. I answered him that the limb could not be cured, Dr. Marsh and Dr. Parker of Parishville telling him the same. I told him to try however, I would not wish to amputate a limb that a doctor would promise to cure. Dr. Hewitt's treatment availed nothing; but, death to me and fun to Hewitt, about six weeks or so ago, a small abscess, not very unlike a boil, gathered and broke on the outside of the joint about over the head of the fibula. At the bottom of this abscess dead bone was found. Heretofore, you notice, I have talked more about the inside of the knee. Will removing the dead bone here found cure the leg? If so, my cup is turned over. I told the man if this bone was the cause of the disease, I thought the removal would cure the leg but if not it would do no good. Hewitt called Dr. McChesney Cole [sic] and old Doc. Hewitt as counsel.

Yesterday they removed the bone, how much or with what success, I do not know as I was not invited. They wished the man to give them the privilege to amputate if the operation proved hopeless and have all done at once. But he told Hewitt at the beginning that if that ever had to be done, I should do it. If they cure it, as Dr. Moorey said, hope is wrong. As I cannot but wish the man might save his leg for he is a good fellow, would a disease of ten years standing be caused by necrosis or by a disease of bone which would terminate in a necrosis that could be effectually removed? Is this necrosis the result of the disease of the whole joint which will still exist or was the whole trouble caused by a diseased bone which can after years standing be entirely removed?

Saturday, Feb'y 18, 1860

This letter was not sent to you because so poorly written

Carroll

*Potsdam, April 3d, 1859*

Dear Father,

Your letter has not been answered because I have been continually engaged. The weather though mild has been very unfavorable to my getting about during the past winter and thus far this spring. Snow, rainy thaws and dreadfully cold weather have alternated. We have had but very little sleighing. Have rode horse-back a great deal this spring, sometimes twenty

miles in a day. I never worked so hard before. My horse rides very easy. She has endured the work wonderfully well. I hired a horse and let her rest three days.

My general health has been good but soon after you were here, I had a severe cough which caused me much trouble. I took two bottles cod liver oil, some spirits, iodide potass., etc. – worked day and night all the time, however. I think I am perfectly well now. I always feel encouraged when I am full of business. Typhoid fever, scarlet fever, lung diseases have prevailed. Of all the cases of scarlet fever but one or two have died here this winter. A great many have died in surrounding towns.

God has blessed Charlotte and me with everything necessary for our earthly happiness. We gave two parties three weeks ago, one on Thursday and one on Friday evening, about thirty at each. Several strangers were present. Mrs. Thomas Russell of Canton and Miss Cornelia Armsden of Malone were among them. Our table was supplied with everything that the heart could wish. And judging from what we hear there have been no more pleasant parties this winter.

We have about half a bushel of those Spitzenburg apples left, perfectly sound. You do not know how many times we have thanked you for them.

Have had no cases of surgery this winter. I saw my strabismus patient the other day. It is difficult to tell which eye was crossed and there is scarcely a mark where the cutting was done. A complete cure. I removed the tonsils of a young girl last Saturday. Gave Chloroform. Set a shoulder in three minutes two weeks ago today which a quack had worked over as many hours and given up.

Col. Clark gave Parker \$500 to settle that slander suit and signed papers to say that he had no reason to say what he did. Each paid his own costs. It was not brought to trial.

Charlotte and I went to Watertown last Monday and remained till Wednesday. Were subpoenaed—our expenses paid—on a will case. The heirs of Wm. Goulding who was killed by the cars at the Depot last January are trying to break the will. He made his will after receiving the injury. He lived in dreadful agony twelve ours. We were with him during the time. He was worth sixty thousand dollars. He moved from Potsdam to Watertown about two years before he died, and was here on business at the time of the injury, was the first treasurer of the P&M Road. We became somewhat acquainted with the people, were invited out one evening.

Watertown is a beautiful village, almost a city. We like the place so much that we almost wish we lived there. I have no doubt that I could get a good practice there. A Mrs. Mundy, daughter of the Mr. Woodruff who built the Woodruff House told Charlotte that she wished I would go there. She said she was sure I would do well. This was merely a compliment, of course, but it has some weight after all.

My evidence in the Goulding case was to my credit also. Mrs. Goulding's friends are all in Watertown and made a favorable introduction for me, it being, as Mr. Plumb said, "perfectly clear, succinct and impartial" in so much that I was cross-questioned but very little. Clark of Waterwoen, Dart & Tappan of Potsdam were counsel for the complaint. Judge Hubbard of Watertown & H. Knowles of Potsdam for the defense.

I have just as much business as I can attend to here. If not, I should go to Watertown. I have charged on an average five dollars in a day ever since last August. But Watertown is a preferable place to grow in as well as to live in. If I knew by ability, I could tell what to do. I do more business here than any other physician though Dr. McChesney is called as counsel more than I.

I think there is enough due me here to support me there one year. What would you advise? Do not on any account whatever let anybody know that I have the least idea of leaving

Potsdam. I would not have the people here hear of it for the world. If Mr. McCrea's folks hear of it, it will reach Mr. Cox's, etc. etc. Say nothing about I t.

Charlotte is perfectly well and we are very happy.

Write soon.

Carroll

*Potsdam, April 8, 1859*

Dear Father,

Mrs. Tupper of Colton has been indicted for giving her husband poison with intent to kill (arsenic or cobalt). They tried to indict her for murder some time ago but could not. New proof has caused the above indictment, which supposes he died of other cause than with or of poison.

Mr. Dart is her attorney. He wishes me to make some tests. Will you please to send me Christy on Poisons, also Taylor if you have it? Or if you have not Taylor on Poisons and think it worth while, I will send to N.Y. for it and we can exchange.

Direct express to Potsdam Village.

We are well.

Carroll

P.S. Please send Graham's Chemistry and Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence also all in one package. C.

*Potsdam, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1859*

Dear Father,

Potsdam has been visited by another dreadful fire. Last night about eleven o'clock, a large two-story dwelling-house on the Island took fire and before the fire was stopped, the hoe-factory owned by J.C. Putnam, the chair-factory of Batchellor and Partridge (very Extensive) a factory for all kinds of wood-turning, pattern-making etc. of Deacon Chandler, a chair-factory of M r. Wadley, very extensive (the most so of any in the county), the machine shop of Watkins, Leet and Co. with their contents and a very large amount of all kinds of lumber, machinery etc. were entirely destroyed. And several other buildings were very much injured. The whole loss will be, I think, at least \$20,000. These shops were the life of our village and their loss is felt by every body.

Last Wednesday I removed a woman's left breast for cancer. She is boarding in the village a present, lives in Stockholm, is doing well, will probably go home next week. The same day, I excised tonsils for a lady from Colton. I have in my care an old lady about seventy years old with cancer scirrhous of the right side of tongue. The tumor is about as large, a little thicker, and looks somewhat like two very light-colored dog buttons, one before the other. It could be very easily removed. She did not notice the tumor until about three months ago. Still though I recommend the removal, I cannot urge it because the soreness and pain extends into the roots of the tongue and submaxillary glands of that side. I fear an operation would be of no benefit. What would you advise?

We are perfectly well. Not very busy. I have been trying to find arsenic in several kinds of stove-blackening. Can find none.

The weather is very pleasant. People are gardening. I hope you and mother are well and will visit us this summer. I have written this in great haste. The books came safely.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1859*

Dear Father,

It is so healthy that I am not much troubled for time to write now-a-days. The summer has been very dry but within the last ten days we have had frequent showers. Had is very light. I have to pay ten dollars cash to get any. Oats will be plenty and flour cheap.

I have a very small productive garden from which we get lettuce, radishes, peas, beans, etc. in abundance. We will have cucumbers day after tomorrow.

Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, Charlotte went to Hemingford, C.E. On the following Wednesday, I also went to H. On Friday young Scriver, his wife (Frank Stevens) brother & sister who boarded eight months with us last year, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Frankton (Augusta Stevens) Charlotte and myself went to Montreal, C. I took tea with a Mr. & Mrs. Hall whom you may have heard us speak of as being our companions to New York. They were exceedingly glad to see us as we also were to see them. They have lately been to England and France from Mr. Hall's health. I think he will soon die with consumption.

Saturday we left M. at three o'clock in the afternoon and came to Malone, visited our friends, took tea at Sidney's and tea at Uncle Conant's. On Monday and on Tuesday we came safe to our happy, snug little home and found everything safe. I did not expect to remain so long in Malone. If I had, should have written to you to try to meet us there. What a pleasant visit we would have had! All thought and spoke of it and regretted very much that you could not be there. I could not spend time to go to Ft. Covington then. Do not know whether we will go this summer or not. Shall expect to see you before long. Where and when do you go your journey? If you go to Montreal, be sure to go to and on that wonderful bridge.

I forgot to say that Mary Flanders came home with us. She goes home tomorrow, having been with us two weeks.

Dr. Marsh has left the school and commenced practicing medicine again. Dr. Hewitt's son, a smart young man, has also settled here to practice medicine—making six doctors in all. I have had no very interesting cases of late. My cancer patients are both perfectly well, now. whatever the future may bring to pass.

Though it is very healthy and notwithstanding we have six doctors, I am busy most of the time, but am not drove at all. Charlotte is well. I am not perfectly well and yet I am not sick. I hope you and mother are well. Was much pleased with your last letter. I thank God for sparing my dear father's life so long.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1859*

Dear Father:

We were much pleased at the sight even of your last letter for we began to feel much anxiety about you.

Dr. A.G. Goss is a very respectable young physician and graduate of Albany Medical College. He has been in practice but about two years and is well liked by the people. I have never seen him but the above is what I have learned about him.

Dr. Reynolds who has lately been resting from practice and working on his farm, sent for Dr. Goss to fill his, Dr. R's, place and recommended him to the people thereabouts. I have had the account of the case from Dr. R. who justifies the operation. The seaton [sic] was introduced by Dr. Goss at the advice of Dr. McChesney.

I think that all physicians who have any respect for their own rights should stand by the Doctor and render him every aid as well as to discourage the bringing of such malpractice suits before jurors full of the prejudice and suspicion which the present flood of quacks are continually confusing into the minds of even well informed people. Physicians do not do enough for themselves. We must forget that "in union there is strength."

We are all liable to misfortune in any operation, still if the practice is good or authorized by our teachers, as it certainly was in the above case, we are not to suffer for that misfortune. Goss told the patient that he had seen Dr. March of Albany operate with the book several times. I understand that Dr. Sherman told the man that the book and the seaton were both bad practice. The doctors hereabouts do not like Dr. Sherman very well he is so conceited and overbearing. There may possibly be something about the case that I have not heard. I hope not.

We are well. I hope to see you before long.

Our village has improved much this summer. A new town hall, a Catholic Church and Methodist Church, the handsomest church in the county.

Market Street has been macadamized and has a sidewalk on each side, sixteen feet wide built of stone not less than four feet one way and from four to eight long.

Charlotte sends much love.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Sept. 15, 1859*

Dear Father,

A shingling hatchet fell thirty feet and struck a man on the head a little above and anterior to the parietal boss, fracturing the bone and causing a depression of a piece of bone one inch long. The upper edge only is depressed and that not enough to allow a probe to pass between the edges of bone. The flesh was considerably bruised and turned down. The man at the time of the accident complains of a cold feeling of the wound and wishes it kept covered from the air. Walked perhaps a hundred yards to his house. No symptoms of compression, no symptoms of concussion. Would it be best to trephine or cut away the edge of bone and raise the depressed portion immediately or wait to see what the symptoms may require?

Please answer this question immediately.

We are both well.

It froze so hard last night that my squashes were frozen half an inch thick. Potatoes, corn, vines are all killed.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1859*

Dear Father:

We received your very welcome letter yesterday. Are glad of your pleasant journey and safe return home. WE hope to see you next week. A good four-horse coach brings passengers from all M.R.R. trains which do not connect with our railroad trains. Hence you can take your most convenient train from Malone. The road is smoothly macadamized.

If I could know which train you would come on, I would meet you with a carriage. I am not very busy now and we can have a good visit.

Dr. Goss has settled that suit by paying \$200.00.

Mrs. Tupper is to be tried this month for poisoning her husband.

I should like Howship on the Rectum and Abercrombie on the Brain.

It is not the season for lectures now.  
Mr. Holmes lies at the point of death.  
Carroll

Potsdam, Nov. 15, 1859

Dear Father,

The man whom you saw with me at Stockholm sick of fever has been very sick, much worse and now is just getting well, cannot sit up more than half hour at the time.

That woman, Mrs. Ellis, is much better. The Irishman with the dropsy is nearly well. The treatment has been tincture of iron, iodide of potass., elaterium, cream of tartar, julep, ? spits. o'nitre, digitalis, ?, and calomel, gin and juniper berries, wine of colchicum & cream of tartar—which last two combined have done far the most toward drawing off the water.

You will remember Dct. Goss settled that malpractice case by paying \$200. The man has now sued Dr. McChesney for malpractice for advising the seaton which was passed through the cyst. Dr. Mc will want your help—says he would give a great deal to see your face. Asked me to write to you about the case and get your opinion of the practice. Did you ever introduce a seaton in such a case? Etc. etc. I hope the Doctor will not get beat. He is not able to pay such an unjust demand.

Two weeks ago the poormaster of Norfolk sent me a man with “scrotal hernia” as Doc'ts Floyd and Thompson called it, to fit a truss for him. He had worn a truss sometime by these doctors' advice but it hurt him and caused much pain. I examined the man and found an enlarged testicle. (A long description follows). What is your experience in such cases? The case is good both as to pay (county poor) and for my reputation, it having been called hernia.

I have been very busy since you were here, while most of our doctors are complaining of its being so distressingly healthy. The roads are good. My health is very good. Charlotte is well and we have much for which to be thankful.

I am treating two cases of gonorrhoea and three cases of syphilis primary (Treatment follows.)

Write soon.

We are well as usual but I have been having a great sore somewhat like a boil on my little finger. I lanced it last Thursday.

I delivered a woman by performing craniotomy last week.

We have been having many private parties in Potsdam lately so I must go to bed.

Write soon,

Carroll

P.S. Dr. McChesney and I examined the knee spoken of in my office and found a disease of the femur extending up 1 ½ inches from the joint and a disease of the tibia and fibula extending 3 inches downward from the joint. We can cut it easily with the knife. It cuts like the dried rind of a squash, looks yellow and is fatty. The disease was scrofulous caries not neurosis [sic] (necrosis?). If the bone was dried probably it would be very porous and light. The patella is adhered to the femur and there is partial ancytosis of the joint. I will show you the joint when you come to Potsdam. Come soon.

*Potsdam, Jan'y 6<sup>th</sup>, 1860*

Dear Father,

That Irishman with the fractured skull was taken a few weeks ago with excessive pain in the head, accompanied by severe vomiting which lasted three or four ours. Very cold water to the head, hot to the feet, conium )?) and hyoseamus relieved it. He has been worse ever since that attack. His sight is slightly affected and there is a continual throbbing in the head. I have concluded that he must be trephined and I wish you would send your trephining instruments the first of next week. Do you not think that I had better delay no longer? Write me all that you can suggest about the operation. Probably no bone can be raised at this time except what is entirely removed. Would it be best to give chloroform?

I sent to Albany by a friend and got Ricord and Hunter on Venereal Diseases by Bumsted. It is an excellent work of 552 pages, cost \$3.25. Last edition, 1859.

The man that sued Dr. McChesney has given up the suit. He wanted to frighten a little money out of the doctor, I think.

There are now six doctors here all living on their practice. And a Doctor Reynolds from South Canton will be here in the spring. He has property enough to support him although he intends to practice all that he can. He has bought that Munson house next to my office also 150 acres of land from Clarkson—I am doing well yet, however, but some of us must starve out.

Charlotte is well. I have not been so well in three winters as I am now. Have not yet had even a slight cold.

I have one ton of hay for which I paid \$16.00 per ton. There is but little hay to be bought even at that price. Have about twenty bushels of oats for which I paid 40 cts. per bushel. Oats are plenty, wheat at \$1.00, corn 88 cts. Have bought two hind quarters of beef at \$4.00 per hundred. Bought two barrels nice apples of a friend who had more from friends in Steuben County than he wanted—at just what they cost him, \$2.25 per barrel—all nice and very large, wine apples, greenings and pound sweetings. Bought half a small pork at \$6.00 per hundred..No holiday celebrations here, I learn you are to have a festival in February. What is it to be? The Firemen's Annual Festival came off at the Town Hall, Dec. 29, a nice affair.

Mrs. Tupper was cleared.

I can think of nothing more to write at present.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1860*

Dear Father,

Inclosed, you will find a letter which I wrote you at the date it bears. The doctors removed a bit of bone only as large as a thimble and encouraged the man with the hope of a perfect cure. As soon as he was able he called to see me. I told him that they had not removed enough bone. So small a piece would not cause a disease of the knee of ten years standing. He Continued under their care until last Saturday when they advised amputation, the knee having become a great running sore. Last Saturday, I amputated the thigh, five inches above the knee joint—as perfect an operation as ever was performed. Quick, with but very little loss of blood and giving a perfect stump. Dr. Marsh and Dr. Ames of Stockholm, his nearest doctor, very kindly assisted me.

The case has brought me a great deal of credit and will do much for me as a surgeon. The patient I doing nicely.

Two weeks ago I operated upon a young lady's eye for strabismus. She is about 22 years old, has been cross-eyed since four years old. She was at church in a week. Her eye is perfectly straight and no one can tell which was the crossed-eye.

I wish I could get a chance to operate on Mary Armstrong at W.L. Manning's. I can warrant success. Two weeks ago, I opened an abscess of the knee caused by rheumatism. It commenced in the bursa and extended all over the outside of the knee but not into the joint. Three tea-cups of good healthy pus was discharged. No unpleasant symptom has as yet occurred and the man is doing well so far. I have as much business as I can well do all the time although it is not sickly here. The influenza, however, prevails and, since children become very sick, the deaths.

*Potsdam, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1860*

Dear Father,

I trephined that Irishman yesterday forenoon at eleven o'clock, removed two pieces, one full size, the other two-thirds the size of the trephine. The hammer made an indentation on the external plate nearly square, driving the external plate into diploe and also giving a convexity to the internal plate, very slight, which was cracked across into seams, the center angles each being a sharp point coming in contact with dura mater. The second piece was removed because the internal plate shelved off nearly to the edge of the piece and was slightly depressed upon the dura mater.

Doctors McChesney and Marsh assisted. Dr. MC advised and Dr. Marsh sponged. The bone was thin and when I supposed I was through, Dr. Mc. Said I had just reached the diploe. I cut more and, like a fool, cut a little into the dura mater. I was right in thinking I was through the bone and as the instrument was in my hand should have known it.

I could operate again much better and safer.

The man rested well most of last night, no more pain in his head than he has had all the time lately. This forenoon the wound is adhered together nicely. The man has had no chills or fever, no vomiting. Pulse 92 which is ten faster than usual.

Afternoon, a little more headache, pulse 110, but does not suffer at all, sleeps none too much. Sleep is slightly disturbed. I gave a small Dover powder last night and a pill of conium at three this morning. This afternoon gave Epsom salts as cathartic and hyosceamus as anodyne.

You must excuse this hasty line. It is late in night and I am very tired from anxiety and being out several nights and working very hard during the last two weeks. I hope you will write soon. I never saw the operation performed before.

Thursday, 10 o'clock M

The man slept a good easy sleep last night without Dover. This morning his head ached and he took a Dover. Is now in a gentle perspiration. Pulse 110. No delirium. Bowels moved freely.

Carroll

*Potsdam, July 23d, 1860*

Dear Father,

It is a long time since you have had a line from me. If I took as much pleasure in writing as I do in receiving a letter from you, I fear my letters would become troublesome. The world has jogged on about as usual since I wrote you last.

My health has been better than usual during the past year. But during the two first weeks of July I was overworked and week before last, being up several nights and driven during the day and in addition to my usual business, having to go to Waddington to see a sick man, leaving here

after ten in the forenoon and returning the same day, then went eight miles, up all night and again up on Saturday night, I became completely exhausted and Sabbath afternoon took to the bed, sicker than I ever was before in my remembrance. Dysentery chills, burning fever. An abundance of opium, castor oil, blue pill and brandy quelled the disease so that on Monday I felt well but could not sit up I was so weak. Tuesday, walked out, Wednesday rode out to visit patients in the village, Thursday was in full blast, perfectly well. How rejoiced to be well again!

I lost much by being sick. It seemed as though everybody was sick besides three obstetric calls in two days. I doctored myself however and did not have to pay for it! Or rather owe for it – as old Captain Childs said about making his own coffin in jail.

I have just met Mrs. Wolff and Mary. They said something about your visiting me but spoke as though our boarding would make some difference. That need make no difference. We can accommodate you just as well as if we were keeping house. Come as soon and whenever you can.

Charlotte is well. She starts upon a visit to friends next Wednesday, will visit at Hemmingford, C.D., at Plattsburg and at Burlington. She will be from home two or three weeks.

If I knew that mother would be glad to see me, I would visit Ft. Covington the last of August or in September. Charlotte will not think best for her to do.

Was at Colton last Saturday to see a sick woman. Met my student, Dr. Crary, now from the Fort. He is a good-hearted fellow but all on the outside, no depth nor stability. His knowledge of medicine is very superficial—If he will keep a smarter man out of the Fort, you may be glad to have him there! Be friendly with him. He will have to call for counsel often if he has anything to do.

Do not repeat this for e has relations here who are my friends.

I have promised to give a course of lectures this fall at the Academy. If you have an opportunity to send those bones, I should like them but can get along with my own.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Aug. 21, 1860*

My dear Father,

It is four weeks since I wrote you and I have not yet received a line from you though I have looked anxiously for one every day; if I had not seen several persons from the Fort, I should fear that you were sick. But I hear that you are quite young and smart. I am very thankful that you are so. My health has been exceedingly good for a year now except for the sick turn that I had a few weeks ago. Though I feel perfectly well and have taken about one pint of whiskey with iron, yet I do not gain my usual weight which is 150. I now weigh but 141. Probably the warm weather keeps me thin.

Lottie has been from home just four weeks at Burlington and Plattsburg. She is now at Hemmingford and will be at home on Saturday unless she goes to Montreal to see the Prince. Mr. Scirver's folks think of going next Monday and I have written Lottie to remain and go with them if they go. The fare down and back with an excursion ticket will be but \$1.25 from Hemmingford. If I was there I should go and I wish her to go. I understand that you are to have an excursion from Ft. Covington and are to board on the boat. I hope you will have a good time and met with no accident.

I hear that mother's health is very poor. I am very sorry. She has been sick so much!

The crops here are perfectly wonderful. I never saw such a growth of grass and grain before. Hay is eight dollars per ton. I have two or three tons.

How are your crops? How is the orchard doing this year? Some way or other I feel quite an interest in the apple crop. My mouth waters when I think of it!

It is very healthy here now. I am improving the time by reading—medicine, The History of the United States, and a History of the Indian Races of North and South America. Besides, I give an introductory lecture to my course on Anatomy and Physiology next Thursday evening. It is a written lecture. Subject – Teachings of Physiology. My lectures, except two, have been extemporaneous. N about one fortnight, I should like your bones which I sent home especially the separate temporal bone and the bones showing the labyrinth of the ear. Dentist Parker, Mathilda Elliott's husband, is somewhere in Ft. Covington. He would willingly bring them up or you may send them by express. I will pay charges.

During your leisure moments I wish you would write a short history of your life before going to Ft. Covington and since that, too. When, where, and by whom married, etc. I know nothing of your history. Whenever you go to the city, I hope you will get a large photograph of yourself and mother. In a handsome gilt frame and give to me. Have each separate. You can get beautiful ones, better than a painted portrait because more perfect.

Young Dr. Hewitt has taken down his sign and gone to Geneva to live. There is no young surgical aspirant here now but myself.

We have a pleasant place to board. The family often talk of you and would be glad to see you. Do come and see us soon that you may see how we are situated.

Franklin County, I see, is wide awake in politics. This county is all Republican, no stimulus to excitement because there is no opposition. I vote for Lincoln. Douglas's Sovereignty is good and the Dred Scott etc. bad. His movements with regard to the Missouri Compromise were also bad. He is a trickish demagogue! Yet if the South had consented to take him with his Popular Sovereignty, I could have united with him. If the Republicans elect Lincoln, perhaps the southern Democrats will think best to meet the Northern Democrats halfway hereafter.

I am very anxious to hear from you. Write soon,  
Carroll

*Potsdam, Oct. 7, 1860*

Dear Father,

When I left you at Malone, I expected to see you again before this time, but some cases of typhoid fever have kept me at home. I have now six cases on my hands among whom is the lawyer Crary. One young lady, my patient, was buried today. All the others will get well. As soon as I can leave, I shall go to Ft. Covington.

If you can find it, I hope you will send me that form for a constitution for a medical society.

Horace Greeley's<sup>1</sup> speech here the evening after he was at Malone was a masterpiece – very superior to his Malone speech, showing that he is more a home I politics than in agriculture. He spoke in the window of the Town Hall to at least 2000 people who came from surrounding towns even as far away as Massena.

Doctor Sherman has covered himself with disgrace by an intimacy with a young lady. One of his letters was found on the young lady's table by a roommate who read it and copied it and showed the copy to others. I send you the paper with some quotations from the copy. The original letter had no name signed to it but the handwriting was so well known! Unfortunately the original has been destroyed, hence the printer dare not publish the whole and unqualifiedly I was doctoring a person in the house when the letter was found and heard the contents from one who read the letter. The first blank means Potsdam where the doctor spoke that evening. The R. means Russell; the E. Edwards, the Lou, Louisville where the doctor did speak. The lady's name is Beals. The letter said, "I send you five dollars. I wish I could multiply it by thousands." And a great deal more, even worse than that which is published.

This is a hard blow for the Doctor and will diminish his vote here and would defeat him did all know that it is true and not fabrication got up to injure him.

The Baptist minister's barn here, filled with hay and grain, was struck by lightning two weeks ago last Thursday. The whole was one mass of fire in one minute's time.

We are all well. I know of nothing more to write. I expect to hear from you soon.

Carroll

### **Election of Lincoln**

*Potsdam, November 10, 1860*

Dear Father,

The evening after I wrote you that I should be at the Fort, it commenced raining and rained several days in succession and has rained nearly half the time since.

The apples have not come yet unless they came today.

... Now that election is over and Lincoln is elected, I hope the country will again become peaceful and quiet. A few rabid fanatics at the South like our rabid abolitionists will talk of seceding but no harm will be done. A new half-way-between party will spring up and the North and South will meet on more equitable terms than they would have done had any other than Lincoln been elected. We are all Republicans here and of course are much elated at the result of the election and last evening the victory was celebrated by the illumination, on no small scale, of our village.

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<sup>1</sup> **Horace Greeley** (February 3, 1811 – November 29, 1872) was an American newspaper editor, a founder of the Liberal Republican Party, a reformer, and a politician. His *New York Tribune* was America's most influential newspaper from the 1840s to the 1870s and "established Greeley's reputation as the greatest editor of his day."<sup>[1]</sup> Greeley used it to promote the Whig and Republican parties, as well as opposition to slavery and a host of reforms ranging from vegetarianism to socialism.

Crusading against the corruption of Ulysses S. Grant's Republican administration, he was the new Liberal Republican Party's candidate in the 1872 U.S. presidential election. Despite having the additional support of the Democratic Party, he lost in a landslide. He is currently the only presidential candidate to have died prior to the counting of electoral votes. (Source: Wikipedia)

I wish you could have been here. Every window of every store, whether Democratic or Republican and every office and of every Republican house on the mile square was brilliantly lighted. Every window and every light of glass in all of the hotels and both of the academies had a light in it – “Lincoln and Hamlin,” “Lincoln and Freedom,” “Hamlin and free speech,” “Poor Dug!” and many more like transparencies figures in the store windows. In the window of one Democrat’s store (the Democrats united more or less in the illumination, showing that a good feeling prevailed) – In the window of one Democrat was hung a very beautiful boat about three feet long freighted with little bags and boxes of provisions and five or six little kegs marked whiskey, Rum, Gin, Brand and Ale.” The sails were all set and on the flag was “We are bound up Salt River.” – The trees of dooryards were covered with colored lanterns of all colors and shapes. The Wide-Awakes with their torches and uniforms marched through every street headed by our brass band which was relieved by a military band of martial music. The Clarksons wee beautifully illuminated on the hill and gave the Wide-Awakes<sup>2</sup>, about sixty in number, an excellent supper. Two brass cannon, one a nine and one a six pounder kept up a continual thunder. The streets were thronged with people. The night was very dark and clear. The lights could be seen several miles from the village. The whole went off without accident or fight and was certainly the most imposing sight that I have ever witnessed.

But all is over now and instead of politics you hear of nothing but grease! Grease! Grease! – Greased carpets, greased windows, greased chairs, grease upstairs and downstairs! Great all over the house!

Do not think that I am too much engaged in politics. I have said very little about it.

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<sup>2</sup> In 1856, the new Republican party across the North organized young men's marching clubs called "Rocky Mountain Clubs", "Wide Awakes", "Freedom Clubs", and "Bear Clubs" The term "Wide Awakes" became popular in the 1860 campaign. In Chicago on October 3, 1860, 10,000 Wide Awakes marched in a three-mile procession. The story of this rally occupied eight columns of the *Chicago Tribune*. In Indiana, as one historian reports, 1860 was the most colorful in the memory of the Hoosier electorate<sup>[2]</sup>. "Speeches, day and night, torch-light processions, and all kinds of noise and confusion are the go, with all parties," commented the "independent" *Indianapolis Locomotive*. Congressman Julian too was impressed by the "contrivance and spectacular display" which prevailed in the current canvass. Each party took unusual pains to mobilize its followers in disciplined political clubs, but the most remarkable of these were the Lincoln "Rail Maulers" and "Wide Awakes," whose organizations extended 1 (continued) throughout the state. Clad in gaudy uniforms the members of these quasi-military bands participated in all Republican demonstrations. The "Wide Awakes" in particular were well drilled and served as political police in escorting party speakers and in preserving order at public meetings. Party emulation made every political rally the occasion for carefully arranged parades through banner-bedecked streets, torchlight processions, elaborate floats and transparencies, blaring bands, and fireworks.

In 1860, the New York *Herald* estimated that there were over 400,000 drilled and uniformed Wide-awakes, nationwide. (Source Wikipedia)

## **Balloon Ascension**

We had a balloon ascension here the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. La Mountain<sup>3</sup> who sailed from St. Louis to Adams, Jefferson County, eleven hundred and fifty miles in nineteen hours and who was lost in the Canada forest so many days. The balloon Atlantic which is about as large as your office-bedroom, was filled with hydrogen gas manufactured on the spot in two very large cisterns – as large again as your cistern. The gas was generated from water poured upon several hundred quarts of sulphuric acid and a ton or so of iron scraps. It was conveyed through a cask of cool water to condense all vapor and cool the gas, and thence into the balloon. Perhaps this drawing (which Charlotte says doesn't show that I ever took lessons in drawing will give you an idea of the process. [The last sentence is accompanied by a sketch at the side] La Mountain commenced filling the balloon at about eleven o'clock and at three and a half it was a full as necessary. Attached to the balloon was a basket shaped like a very large peach-basket about three feet wide and two and a half across the top. This basket was hung below by a lot of small cords about as large as a clothes-line which covered the balloon in a net just as the picture represents, the ends passing about four feet below the balloon and tied to it. At twenty minutes before four o'clock p.m. La Mountain took his place in this simple, frail basket and a lot of men holding on by a cord, let him up ten feet until his daguerreotype could be taken. What a gloomy feeling weighed upon the hundreds of souls about him. What sad countenances all about him were as about to bid an everlasting farewell to an earthly friend! Yet La Mountain stands there as unmindful of all about him, showing no more concern than if about to take a sail in a boat!

All is ready! Stand back! Let go! Oh, how beautifully he rises! All for a moment is as still as death until he is seen way up there to jump upon the side of the basket and swing his hat in triumph. Then the crowd below burst forth in a long continued "Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!!" I need not say that the sight was beautiful, was wonderful, causing strange feelings that cannot be

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<sup>3</sup> John La Mountain, 1830 – 1878, He had but little education, and on the early death of his father he became the sole support of his mother. When a young man he was successful in making several minor ascensions. He then formed the idea of making a longer voyage than any on record, and constructed a large balloon of silk, having an approximate capacity of 70,000 cubic feet (2,000 m<sup>3</sup>), which he named "The Atlantic." The ascent was made from St. Louis, Missouri, on 1 July 1859, and several passengers, including John Wise, accompanied him. The states of Illinois and Indiana were passed over during the night, and Ohio was reached in the morning. The balloon then passed across Lake Erie into New York, and to Lake Ontario, into which it descended, but rose again, and a landing was made in Henderson, New York. The time occupied in making this journey was nineteen hours and fifty minutes, and the distance traversed 1,150 miles (1,850 km), or 826 in a straight line. This great aerial voyage was planned and executed by La Mountain alone, although the credit for it has been claimed by others.

In September 1859, La Mountain made an ascension from Watertown, New York, which was remarkable on account of his perilous experience. The ascension was made when the temperature was 84° F., but on reaching a height of 3½ miles it had sunk to 18° F. As night came on, the balloon was over the Canadian wilderness, and a partial descent was made to "tie up" till daylight came, when he again proceeded in a northerly direction. Unwilling to continue farther, he descended during the day, and wandered in the wilderness for four days, without adequate food or clothing, until rescued by lumbermen 150 miles (240 km) north of Ottawa, and 300 miles (480 km) from Watertown.

In 1862 he was appointed aeronautic engineer to the Army of the Potomac, under Thaddeus S. C. Lowe and in that capacity made several ascensions; owing to lack of cordiality between himself and Lowe, he soon severed his connection with the army. Subsequently he made occasional ascensions, but none of importance.

described. He sailed 30 minutes all the time in our sight and landed about ten miles, air-line, one and a half miles from Brasher Falls Depot. The day was clear, not a cloud to be seen. He went up about two miles.

Thursday a.m.

I have been in Stockholm 36 hours to see a sick woman. We are well. There is not much sickness and I am not very busy. Could go home were the roads passable. Louisa McCrea was married two weeks ago today. Has done well. I have been trying experiments with arsenic on cats. Gave 1 ½ grs. In six days in ½ gr. Doses. Detected arsenic in the muscles of the hind legs. Tried many tests. Have symptoms and tests all written down. I poisoned two kittens two months old. Have you found that form for a medical society constitution? I have just been at the Depot. The apples have not come. Perhaps you had better write when you send them so that I may hunt them up if they should stop at the Junction.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1861*

Dear Father:

Yesterday (Thursday) I bought me a house and lot, the lot just this side of the Hyde lot on Elm Street. Perhaps you will remember the house – a small white house on the corner of Elm Street and Union Lane, nearly opposite to Dr. Hewitt's. The horse-sheds of the Methodist Church bound it on the south. Of all the locations in Potsdam, this is to me the most desirable. It is neighbor to Elm and Main Streets. People passing from Dr. McChesney's to Dr. Cole's will have to pass me. It is the second door above Dr. McChesney's. I have not passed the house in two years without wishing to own it. The lot is large, eight rods on Elm Street, ten rods on Union Lane. Has two good wells, a cistern, barn and ice-house, etc. etc. and woodshed. Also a good, painted picket fence on both streets.

I took a contract. Paid \$200 down. Pay \$1400 on the first of May when I take possession and take a deed and return a mortgage for \$400 with interest, making two thousand dollars in all. I offered that for it a year ago but Lull would not take less than \$2500.

I am so glad to get the place for I shall always be contented. My old house is for sale this spring for just what I gave for it.

I have saved a little money to repair and furnish my house with. We are well and happy.

Dr. Mac has been very sick with pneumonia. Is getting better now.

When are you coming to see us? When you come I wish you would bring Wilson's "Dissector" if you can spare it.

Carroll

P.S. We have plenty of nice apples yet. They keep very well.

### **Beginning of the Civil War**

*Sabbath, April 21, 1861*

Dear Father:

Yesterday and today have been very exciting and solemn days to Potsdam. Indeed for several days our village has been full of excitement, watching the mails and twice a day receiving telegrams about the awful, unprovoked war which is upon us. Yesterday we had a gathering of citizens to see what we could do to assist our beloved country in her trouble and prevent the overthrow of those blessed privileges which were bought by the blood of our forefathers—which blessings were civil and religious liberty, free speech, free press and, what no

other nation ever fully enjoyed, the right to choose our rulers or law-givers by our own voice through the ballot-box.

The love of our country was shown by some more substantial evidence than mere words. It was shown by actual sacrifice. Forty-nine young men, some of them the pride of our village, came forward and enlisted for actual and immediate service. Thirty-five hundred dollars were pledged to the support of the families of those who would thus fight for their country. Many an old man as well as the young bowed themselves in tears of sorrowful mourning for their country. There was no fictitious delusion. All was solemn, stern reality. All realized what they were doing.

During the day the streets were thronged with people, all eager to hear and tell the awful news. There is but one mind. Democrats are anxious for the success and maintenance of the government as well as republicans. Party is swallowed up by country. This is as it should be. Today has been a solemn day in its stillness. As the minister prays in choked voice for this once happy land and for those who are going from our midst, stout hearts are melted in tears and those who never prayed before were moved to prayer. A union prayer for our country was held in the Methodist Church. The house was crowded. It was a solemn meeting, I assure you. Many of the volunteers are pious professors of religion....

*Wednesday, April 24, 1861*

I was at the cars yesterday, hoping to see you there. Mrs. Herrick came and said we might look for you today. Hence, I was again at the cars today. We expect to be keeping house in June. If the roads are very bad so that you cannot come next week, perhaps it will be more pleasant to visit us in our new home and see how we will be situated. Do as you may think for your pleasure. We will be exceedingly glad to see you at any time.

The military excitement is still very high here. Nearly two companies have enlisted. One of the companies is to leave here the first of next week. Parents, wives, brothers and sisters will weep at their departure but all will bid them God-speed and follow them with their prayers and blessings. Five thousand dollars has been raised in this town alone for the support of their families.

Seventy persons constitute a company. This county will try to raise a whole regiment. Dr. Sherman will be their surgeon.

I am sorry that Frank cannot forget party and stand up for his country. He is so mad that I fear he would be willing to destroy the Union to injure the Republican Party.

His last week's paper was filled with weak, disgraceful, epithets and malicious, revengeful slang which will bring upon him the odium of all respectable citizens. An office issuing such a sheet should not stand here one day! Why does he not stand up for the Union first and Party next? He could do that and be respected!

United States flags (nice ones) float from a dozen and a half hotels, stores and housetops. A pole is to be raised with a flag costing eighty dollars.

Each company raised here will be presented with a beautiful silk banner.

We are well. Hope to see you next week.

Carroll

*Potsdam, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1861*

Dear Father:

We are once more at home under our own roof and eating at our own board. We lodged here for the first time on the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Took our first meal on the 24<sup>th</sup> (tea). Miss Holmes and Mr. Riggs took tea with us.

I hope God will grant us to live here in peace until he calls us to our long, last home.

The house is just as nice as it can be made. Everything seems to be just right. It has cost me a great deal to repair it but we will always be satisfied and contented. My only concern now is to get out of debt – which I can do if I can have my health and usual runoff practice.

No man of my strength ever worked harder than I have for the last three months— doctoring until midnight that I might see to my men and work during the day. But my work is done and well done. It seems as though I could not wait another week for you to see how nice it is. When will you come?

The garden grows well. We had green peas on the first of July. Have lettuce and string beans in abundance. How we feel to have something to eat of our own raising!

A young man, Dr. Hill, has just set up practice here. Is a graduate from New York. I like him very well thus far. He is a Methodist and will get quite a practice in time. If he is not a surgeon, he will do me no harm to speak of.

How do you do? Write soon and when convenient come and see our new home. Lottie sends much love.

Carroll

I have attended four obstetric cases in a week and have several more expecting every day.

*Potsdam, Oct. 14, 1861*

Dear Father:

There is no prospect of my going to the war.

The Captain and the men wish me to go but Col. Sandford says he promised Dr. Hewitt (the old doctor) that if he would assist him in getting up the regiment, he would nominate him for surgeon. The Doctor has done so and the governor usually appoints the one recommended by the colonel. Probably Doctor Hewitt will be the man. It does not trouble me for it would cost me some sorrow to leave Lottie and my pleasant little home, also to leave my practice here. Yet if they wished me to go, I should be glad to try a military life.

This is beginning to look like a military center. Drilling of men is continually going on. New recruits are coming in. Everything is assuming a military air.

Our band will leave for the 16<sup>th</sup> regiment next Thursday. Money is becoming more plenty.

In haste,

Carroll

*Camp Union, Potsdam, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1861*

Dear Father,

You see by the above that I am in the military service. The commission of surgeon cannot be given until the regiment is full, hence I now have the assistant-surgeon commission with the understanding with the Surgeon at Albany that I am to receive the Surgeon's commission when the regiment is full. I have been to Albany twice within ten days, once to be examined and once to receive my commission.

The pay of Assistant-Surgeon amounts to about \$118 per month; that of Surgeon is \$187 per month including everything, even horse rations.

I got the appointment by a petition signed by the officers of the regiment to the Surgeon-General at Albany (S. Oakley Vanderpool).

The Colonel did not oppose me but he gave Dr. Hewitt his influence. We have had quite a tussle. The appointment was telegraphed to the officers by a friend of mine. The officers went in order to the depot at twelve o'clock at night to meet and congratulate me. But I came by way of Malone and did not get home until Saturday noon. Saturday evening they came to my house. One of the captains made a congratulating and welcoming speech, which I responded to, after which I provided coffee etc. with apples.

I had an intimation secretly of their visit and, of course, though perhaps they did not know it, we were ready for them with speech and bread.

The men seemed rejoiced at my appointment.

I have not colored the above. You can imagine better than I can tell you what my feelings were upon receiving the above demonstration.

I thank God that he has given me so many friends. All Potsdam seems rejoiced at my success. The regiment will not leave here until Fall, probably not before January.

I am now examining nearly five hundred men. I wish I could get a few volunteers from Franklin County. It would give me influence.

Dr. Hewitt will yet make a desperate effort to get the appointment.

I attend to my best out-patients yet.

Carroll

*Camp Union, Potsdam, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1861*

Dear Father,

It is now six weeks since I entered this regiment. The second night after I commenced my services here about 200 were attacked with profuse diarrhea. "Of course the new doctor put physic into the hash and all were swearing mad! They were all willing to take medicine but they did not want it put into their victuals." But as I had not been into the cook-room, all thought that Dr. Hewitt put the medicine into the food out of revenge. The real cause was that they eat about 200 loaves of new bread just from the oven in one meal. They have had no new bread since.

For about ten days I had about ten to fifteen to prescribe for because of change of diet. Four Dover powders, one every six hours usually cured. A dose of castor oil and then the Dover powder was sure to cure. During the next two weeks about as many were troubled with the hard colds and constipation. A dose of Epsom salts followed by one or two Dover powders cured. Now the complaint is hard cold with symptoms of fever and sore throat. An emetic and a few Dover powders cures cases in two days. Have had two cases of pneumonia, one congestion of the brain, one fractured rib. Amputated one finger which was shot to pieces by the discharge of a gun. One dislocation of the scapular end of the clavicle. One case of Orchitis. And the worst of all, one case of gonorrhoea ophthalmia. The young man, a captain of a company from Gouverneur, came into the hospital two weeks ago with a very sore eye with something in it. I found a small cinder burnt into the cornea which I picked out assuring him that he would be better on the morrow. The next day he was led to the hospital nearly blind. I mistrusted the cause the eye discharged so freely and looked so much swollen. He owned up. I bled, gave calomel and antimony very freely, scarified the conjunctive very freely, used washes of nitrate of silver, sugar of lead and alum. Dr. McChesney was in twice to see them. The man came into the hospital two

weeks ago last Friday. He is now totally blind in both eyes. He is a smart active young man rendered unhappy and useless for life.

WE have from two to six sick in the hospital all the time. But none very sick, besides from 15 to 20 out patients every day who come to the hospital at 9 o'clock A.M. and 2 P.M. to be prescribed for. Morning, noon and evening, I attend to my village patients. From 9 to 12 and 2 to 5, I am at the hospital, attending the sick and examining men. We now number about 750 men. Probably the regiment will be organized in two weeks when the surgeon will be appointed. Dr. Hewitt is bringing to his aid all the political influence possible. He is an intimate friend of Dr. Sherman's, Dart is a partner of Hewitt's son-in-law. The Colonel is pledged to him. On the other hand, a petition, signed by every captain and lieutenant save one, for my appointment was sent to the Governor some time since. A very thorough, determined protest against Hewitt's appointment, signed by the same officers will next Monday, Dec. 3d, be sent to the Governor, and the Colonel and a copy will also be sent to the doctor himself. Major Patrick, the inspector-general of the state, is my friend and will do all he can for me. Three of the most influential captains have been appointed by the captains as a committee to visit the Governor and the Surgeon-General this week and lay the case before them. The regiment are determined that Hewitt shall not go as surgeon. How will it be?

Last Wednesday night, Dr. McChesney sent for me to help set a dislocated shoulder. They had already sent for me before they sent for him but I had been up two nights and sent them for someone else. They got Dr. MCD. They fastened the man to the door-latch and had several men pull upon him but without success. I found just such a case as that of Henry Fuller's. The head of the humerus rested forward under the pectoral muscles. I showed the doctor my apparatus—the same as yours. I took it with me and told Charlotte when I left the house that I would set the arm before I came back. The patient went to bed while I was putting it on. When all was ready, I called the doctor. He rolled the elbow, I managed the shoulder with my hands with a towel around the shoulder and my neck from which I drew back the head of the bone powerfully. In fifteen minutes the bone was in its place. The case has done me a great deal of good. It goes that Dr. McChesney could not set it and Dr. Bates set it in fifteen minutes. We are well. Write soon.

Carroll

I have written this letter in great haste. Hence the poor writing. I am always busy. Besides all my other duties, I have to make a report of medicines, etc. and also of all persons examined every week to the Surgeon-General. Also report every name to the Major-General. Also vaccinate every man in the regiment, and report how many had been previously vaccinated and how many had not; how many it worked on who had been vaccinated, how many on whom who had not been vaccinated.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Dec. ??, 1861*

Dear Father,

It is with me as it is with a printer, I am almost glad when something happens about which I can write.

Nothing in my practice has occurred worthy of note. It is very healthy here. The fever died out and I have plenty of time to read which I am improving to the best of my ability by reading McCauley's History of England and some new works which I have just bought, viz. Watson's Practice of Medicine, Flint on the Respiratory Organs, Budd on the Stomach and

Carpenter on the Use and Abuse of Alcoholic Liquors in Health and Disease. These books at the publisher's prices come to \$9.75 but I sent to New York by our minister and they cost me but \$7.50.

Last Thursday a fire broke out in the little old building which fills the space between Mrs. Clark's hotel and that large brick block just north of it. Perhaps you will remember the place. The engines when first put to work froze up then went fairly at play again. The largest burst its hose which had to be changed. This delay gave the fire such an advantage that it seemed that that whole block of six stores and Mrs. Clark's hotel must surely be consumed. The hotel was cleared of furniture and every movable thing, doors, window, blinds, etc.; the barn of horses, carriages and such like. But soon (though the time seemed horribly long) both engines were at work and though the whole end of the hotel was in flames and a window had burned out in the upper story of the block opening into the printing office – ceiling of which was also in flames, yet the fire was so much quieted that all was saved except the small house in which the fire first broke out. Much damage was done however. One end of Mrs. Clark's new, beautiful three-story hotel is all charred and in some places burned through; all the floors flooded with water and running through the plastering from one story down into the other. The store block was brick and that end of the hotel was bricked up within the clapboards, otherwise all must have been consumed. This house in which I board is attached to the north end of the block of stores and of course I had quite an interest in the fire. My account books, papers, silverware, etc. were sent to the neighbors. Our clothing was tied up in bed-quilts so as to be easily moved, the piano was locked and everything got ready to move if necessary. All of the injured property was insured. I do not know what the damages will amount to.

We have had excellent sleighing about two weeks..Every kind of food is plenty and cheap. A good basket of your apples are before me and I have eaten three or four of them while writing this letter. My health was never better than now. Charlotte is just as well also.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Jan'y 18, 1861 (check date)*

Dear Father,

We are safe home. No accidents or turnover. The road to Hogansburg was not much drifted and several teams had passed it before us.

I undertook to go by way of Massena but after driving about a mile from Hogansburg through the fields, we turned about and came by Helena. The stage had passed before us but it was impossible to trot the horse until near Brasher Falls which we reached at half past two o'clock. My poor horse was nearly tired out. This was our only stopping place. We got a good dinner, left at half past four o'clock and were at home at seven, thirteen miles in two and one-half hours. The snow is about a foot and a half deep here, no drifts.

Charlotte sat up for me until eleven o'clock last night. I have a good visit and am so glad I went to see you. Shall never remain away from Ft. Covington for three years again while you live, I think.

Charlotte is glad to hear that you are so well. Sends much love to you and mother.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Oct. 7, 1861*

Dear Father:

I wish you would immediately send me your work on Military Surgery. Send it by express or mail whichever is cheapest. It will save two shillings to send it to Malone by someone besides Herrick.

I excised a little girl's tonsils from Colton last week. Gave chloroform. Man paid me \$3.00 for the operation.

Shall operate on Smith's eye this week.

Have been driven with business ever since you were here. Was up four nights in succession soon after you were here About ten days ago, I attended three cases of obstetrics, cut a ganglion as large as a horse-chestnut from a man's wrist (for which he paid me %5.00). Went six miles toward Madrid to see a patient of Dr. Pierce's and visited several patients in the village—all in 26 hours. I did not lie down during the time. Ten hours before I had attendee a case of obstetrics, making four cases in 36 hours. I was dreadful tired, I can assure you.

That Clark girl has been in a dreadful condition ever since you were here, choking to death but can't die. Hysterics. She did not sleep more than two hours at a time in a week. I tried to make her sleep with morphine, increasing the dose till I gave four grains at a dose with no effect except contracting the pupil and causing slight delirium. She took about 25 grains in 25 hours. Nervines had no effect whatever. She would run one finger down her throat and act as if she would become frantic and not gag at all. I let her have a swab which she would pass six inches into the esophagus once in a minute with but slight gagging. She would even speak while it was going down. When I took the swab away (for fear she would injure herself) she would plead most pitifully for it. Emetics would relieve her while vomiting, that was all. Nitrate of silver or any other wash did no good. I one evening kept her quiet about two hours by reading to her. Letting her entirely alone was the best treatment. She was the most distressed creature that I have ever seen and still there was no disease.

Another regiment for the war besides the one now rendezvousing at Ogdensburgh is now being organized in this county. The rendezvous is in Potsdam. 300 men are already pledged. I have agreed to be their surgeon if they wish. The officers have thus far given me the preference and I think that I shall be appointed. The pay is from \$117 to \$217 a month cash, according to the time of service.

I will write more as I become acquainted with matters.

Lottie is well. Says I must do that which is for the best. She says but little for or against the move. I think that every man should do all that is in his power to preserve the Union against rebellion, to preserve our government against destruction.

If I am wanted, I will go.

Carroll

*Camp Union, Potsdam, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1861*

Dear Father,

I am much obliged for the Gazette which you sent me. Louisa writes well but I am sorry that the paper has not been for the Union.

It is very healthy here now. I have had hardly a call for a week – out of camp. The health in camp is exceedingly good. There are but four or five on the sick list and those are not much sick. Cold and sore throat are the chief troubles now.

I have been in Camp seven weeks. Probably one week more will finish my career in the army. Dr. Hewitt is to be the surgeon. He gets his appointment through the influence of the politicians. He destroyed Dr. Sherman's letter to Miss Beals last fall and thus placed the Doctor

under obligation to him. Dart's partner is the doctor's son-in-law hence Dart must assist him etc. etc. I told you that a committee of captains was going to Albany to see about my appointment. The Colonel would not give them a furlough and they did not go. One of the captains and I went immediately to Brasher Falls and got C.T. Hurlburt to go to Albany but the Governor was gone and he accomplished nothing. I have paid out about \$60.00. My income for two months will be \$240.00 cash which will help me some towards paying for my house.

I do not feel very bad about my defeat though I should like the experience of a few years in the army. The officers feel very bad about Hewitt's going and say that if I will go as assistant they will assure me of the surgical commission within three months. They intend to kick and worry Hewitt out of the regiment. The colonel who has worked for Hewitt says that he is anxious to have me go. I shall not go as assistant in any regiment whatever.

How mean it is that volunteers who could earn 20 or 40 or in some cases more per month should work for \$13 dollars and risk their lives for their country and yet be refused the choice of their physician merely to gratify the ambition of some miserable politician. There is not an officer or man in the army who is not anxious to have me go with them as their surgeon. I except Colonel who is a Spiritualist and has lectured on Spiritualism and prefers Dr. Hewitt who is a Theodore Parker man and does differ from Sanford much in his ideas of the Creator.

I have no work except Dewees (?) on females. If you get a chance to send Churchill I hope you will send it.

Carroll

Potsdam, April 27, 1862

Dear Father:

It is Sabbath evening, eight o'clock. We have just returned from a good prayer meeting. Lottie sits in the bay window singing

"The day is past and gone  
The evening shades appear,"

Which makes me somewhat lonely and when I am lonely I always think of you. I remember how you used to sit with Cornelia on your lap and sing "Poor old horse" or "Double the dose of calomel."

I have thought of you a great deal and with some anxiety since you visited us last summer and had that strange attack. I suppose you are as well as usual but I realize more than ever that you can be sick. I hope to see you before long as the weather will soon be pleasant.

I received a long letter last week from Betsy. It was written in her usual style. She is with Joseph at Lansing, Iowa. Sherman's widow is there too with one son. She said nothing of Aunt Prudy or of Joseph's business.

Betsy had to come north on account of the war and is now out of business. She has been quit sick but is now very well. That is all that she wrote.

Monday

Have you commenced making garden yet? I expect to begin mine this week though the weather is quite cold yet. What an awful freshet we have had! None of the bridges near here have gone off but two or three valuable ones in the town have been swept away.

In going to Cox's Mills, 5 miles south of there, I had to cross several brooks where the bridges were washed away and wagons could not pass. I was on horseback and got into one all over, horse and all. The horse had to swim quite a piece with me on his back.

I have all the business that I ought to attend to. Have been 3 ½ miles into Stockholm, also ½ a mile beyond Cox's Mills, (five miles) and five miles toward Canton, besides making six visits in the village today. Have about as much work engaged for tomorrow. So you see I have but little leisure or rest.

Should like one or two weeks to rest and recruit myself in but cannot afford it at present.

Please write soon.

Carroll

Have been in Potsdam eight years and one week.

*Potsdam, March 29, 1862*

My dear Father:

After five months incessant labor, I am just beginning to breathe once more. Two months and a half I was in camp examining men, writing records, prescribing for the sick in camp and out of camp; for I tried to keep all the outside practice that I possibly could. Since that time I have been continually on the go from early morning until late at night insomuch that I have read neither medicine nor political enough to keep the run of the War.

I like to be very busy but this winter I have been crowded beyond my strength. I have just learned that I am neither very stout nor very lazy. Sheridan once wrote words to you from Maine that "he hoped I was good enough to learn for I was too lazy to work."

This has been a profitable winter for me. The prevailing disease has been measles. I never knew any disease to make such a thorough sweep over the country. Old and young have alike suffered. Hardly a person has escaped who had not previously had the disease. Many have been very sick but not one has died that I know of who employed a physician.

I am and have been very well all winter, have never passed a winter with out a very hard cold before. I have only been tired.

As to politics" I am more than ever united to the Republican Party. I approve of its principles from beginning to end. The Administration deserves the most ardent support of every Northerner or Southerner who is not a traitor to his country.

I do not say that all are at heart traitors who do not support the Administration but all who are not traitors should lend their aid in crushing this uncalled for and unprovoked Rebellion! Prejudice may and does warp men's judgments. Frank Flanders and Louisa would spurn Mason, Slidell and all other accursed traitors who would sever this Union and thus destroy it! This Union which you and they call the most perfect government on the face of the earth, were they not prejudiced against the Republican Party and maddened by continually and for a long time revolving the defeat of the Democratic Party in their minds.

Every man has a right to be a Democrat or a Republican in his mind, but no man has a right to endeavor to destroy his country or to befriend those who would destroy it because his party does not prevail or his choice for ruler is not elected.

Revolutions in this country have been common. That can and should be brought about by that means which a republican government always provides and which makes it so much better than all other governments. Kings cannot be dethroned without bloodshed. Presidents can be removed by ballots. If your choice for pastor is not placed in your pulpit, you have no right in the sight of God to destroy or to encourage the destruction of our church. If your choice for president is not elected you have no right to encourage the destruction of your government! You have a

right to procure in a legal way the election of another to fill his place but not by destroying either church or state.

The Gazette has done as much to destroy the Country, yes far more, than the most rabid Secession Southern sheet of as little influence. No traitor could write more traitorous articles or copy more traitorous clauses than have been found in its columns. It has exulted over Southern victories and rejoiced over Northern disaster. Yet, I do not believe that in more sober moments, Frank Flanders is at heart a traitor.

I should like to go to Malone but both Frank and Louisa have allowed their feelings to go so far that they cannot treat me as a brother.

As soon as possible after Frank was arrested, I went to see Louisa and gave the girls each a gold dollar merely as a token. She was displeased with them for accepting it from her only brother! When the War is ended and the Union is preserved, as it can and will be, they will be ashamed of the course pursued by them!

April 12<sup>th</sup>

Dear Father,

You will see that the above was written two weeks ago. Fearing that I had said too much, I concluded not to send it. I suppose that when you read it, you will say, "Pooh, pooh!" and lay it at one side.

The weather is beautiful today, very much as April should be. Four days ago I rode in a cutter, since that I ride on horseback. The snow is two feet deep in my front yard.

Have made out to pay almost all of my debts and have on hand \$128.00 to make a payment on my house the first day of May. Have over twenty cords of wood in my yard. The United States owes me \$300.00.

I came to Potsdam eight years ago this month.

Carroll

Check dates

*Malone, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1862*

My dear father,

Frank received your letter yesterday. WE had wondered and wondered what had become of you! What about Governor Morehead's photograph? I told you I had two. He sent one of purpose for you and I thought I would let you take your choice. I hardly dare send them by mail. I have just written a line to Mr. Cassidy and told him you remembered him very gratefully for his great kindness to us all. Did I do right? His last letter to me and one since to Frank says, "Present my compliments to Dr. Bates, Mr. Raymond and Mr. and Mrs. Judge Flanders." Your name comes first.

Louisa

Frank sends all his papers by any means east. He ought to send one to the Montreal Transcript for it comes to him every week but he doesn't seem to care about sending away more than a half dozen or so, though he has offers of subscribers from all over the state almost every week.

L

*Potsdam, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1862. Saturday*

Dear Father,

Every day for a long time I have called early at the post office expecting a letter from you saying "I will be at Potsdam the day after tomorrow." Such a letter would give us much pleasure but it has not yet made its appearance.

What a season we have had and are having for vegetation! Cold nights, cold days and no rain at that! The last two days, however, have been excessively hot.

Sabbath Afternoon.

Another hot day and no signs of rain. I expected to have an excellent garden this year. Have taken the entire care of it myself except the corn and potatoes. By watering it a great deal have made it look well. Shall have green Kent peas about the Fourth. Marrow fats are large and thrifty, sown at the same time but have not blossomed yet. Have forty tomato plants all in blossom, started in the house. They look well and I ought to have ten bushels of the fruit. First crop of radishes all gone. Lettuce, beets, carrots, beans, squashes, onions are all good. Muskmelons and cucumbers grow very slowly, have not begun to run yet. The melons will not ripen, I fear. But if you could see my corn, pale, dried up, dying for want of rain! The ground is as hard as a brick so that a spade will not enter it. There is not a third of a crop of hay. I will be \$15 or \$20 a ton in haying time.

When shall we see you here? If you come within a few days, I wish you would bring your bone nippers, also those little small metacarpal saws.

Monday Evening, 11 o'clock.

Have been very busy all day today and could not finish this letter. We had several hours good heavy rain this morning. How glad everybody and everything looks! We need a great deal more.

I have several cases which I could tell you about. Today I have had a bad case of cancer of the lip from Canton. Shall cut off all the lower lip as you did Mr. Hart's. Have a case – a woman has had what she supposed to be falling of the womb about eight years. On examination, I find the uterus elongated but small in diameter. The os uteri and a small portion of the uterus is external to the valva. On making a vaginal examination, the finger cannot be introduced more than one inch before it comes against a solid mass as though a child's head in the very last stage of labor. Even a catheter cannot be passed by the side of this mass. It is external to the vagina in the body. Introduce the finger in the anus and you find the same tumor, solid and perfectly immovable. To follow the bowel, the finger passes seemingly through, or rather, into the tumor, the passage curving considerably. The menses are regular. The tumor does not belong to the uterus but crowds the uterus out of the body. The rectum passes through the tumor. Examination with speculum shows nothing more in the vagina. But per anum, you find the mucous membrane of rectum covered with a thick jelly-like mucous which scrapes off into the speculum and leaves a bloody vascular mucous membrane. Cathartics are unendurable, they cause so much pain throughout the abdomen..constipated unless she diets, walks a little, rides much, works some, has considerable pain but not severe, not darting. Tumor seems to be firmly adhered to the promontory of the sacrum. When you come, you will see the patient.

Carroll

I have two more very interesting cases. Bring mother. Tell mother that if she will come and see us, we will have that boat ride yet which we undertook to have last summer.

*Potsdam, July 22d, 1862*

Dear Father,

I had no time to write you by Mr. Crary. You took the Churchill's Midwifery home with you a year ago. The others I sent you by Mr. Crary. I hope the students will be careful and keep the Wood's Practice clean.

I received the instruments one day too late. I removed all the metacarpal bones from a hand on Monday (except the thumb) and found the metacarpal bone of thumb and second row of carpal bones diseased and on Tuesday I amputated the forearm just above the wrists. The case was one of Dr. Reynold's that got the hand hurt in the mill about six months ago. It is now doing well. The same afternoon a man, owner of one of our saw-mills, got his fingers all torn to pieces by a circle-saw. I amputated all at the metacarpal phalangeal joint. The patient is doing well.

The same afternoon I was called to see Mrs. Blaisdell, Mrs. Wolfe's sister. She fell one week before and hurt her thigh. Dr. Cole, their doctor, called and said no bones were broken. When I saw her the whole thigh was very badly swollen and the skin black with cachemosis, the toe turned out, the leg shortened about one inch. Slight extension drew it down to its proper length. Crepitation was distinctly heard and felt. But by the aid of the stethoscope and feeling, the limb is so fat and large that I cannot determine whether the fracture is within or external to the capsular ligament. It seems to me to be about three inches below the trochanter. Yet I think rather it is within the capsule. She is seventy-one years old. I have it extended as yet in the long splint. Have told Mr. Blaisdell my fears and doubts. The accident occurred two weeks ago today. I saw it first one week ago today (Tuesday).

One week ago last Saturday a lady from Massena came here with a tumor on the inside of the right leg about half way between the ankle and knee joints. It was deep in the flesh, exceedingly painful so that lately she could rest it well at night – had been ten or twelve years growing. I concluded that a nerve either passed through or that it pressed upon a nerve. I advised its removal. I cut through the skin cellular tissue and fascia deep between the muscles and removed the tumor. It was about as large as a very large hickory nut, well circumscribed, attached to nothing and surrounded by fatty tissue. In three days, i.e. Tuesday she went home, being free from pain and the wound healing nicely.

Last Monday I removed a toenail. Two weeks ago last Friday, I reduced a fractured arm. So you see I have had several surgical cases lately.

Perhaps you may have seen in one of the papers an account of Capt. Gibson of Stockholm who was shot through the head at the battle on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. He was with Marsh's regiment. He is now in my care. The shot, probably a buck shot, as the rebels load the muskets with a ball and three buck shot, and the wound is too small to have been made with a ball, passed into the head just on a line between the external angle of the right eye and meatus of the right ear, and passing under the eye came out at the external angle of the left eye, tearing the left eye so that the humors are all run out and the cornea and iris and all washed away. Of course there is now no left eye. The right eye is entire and full though inflamed and does not sense even the strongest light. The optic nerve was not shot off as he saw after he received the wound. I can now pass the probe just two and 5/8 inches into the wound and under the right eye. There is an opening from the left socket through the lachrymal bone into the nose as large as the small end of a pipe stem. The bone around it is necrosed. Pus is discharged freely from both ends of the wound.

The man is cheerful, wants to get sight in the right eye and go to his company again. Has his clothes on every day and sits up much of the time. Suffers but little pain. He is rich and went

to the war as a duty to his country. Noble man! Hundreds have gone from here just like him. May God bless them and honor them! The case is an exceedingly interesting one.

I have much more to write but it is now midnight and I am exceedingly tired, having worked very hard for several weeks. I have as much business as I can well attend to. Few men work as hard as I do.

Please write soon.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1862*

Dear Father:

Yesterday I reduced a fractured femur on a fat child seven months old. How can I keep the bones in place and make a good straight thigh? Did you ever have such a case and what was the result? How did you dress it?

I remember a number of years ago you had the case of a Mr. Smith's child, femur broken in delivery by Dr. Paddock but that child died, I think. This child will not die and must not become a disgrace to me if I have to hold the leg with my hands. I put a stiff sole leather splint on the outside the whole length of the femur, a paste-board splint on the front, inside and back of the femur and bound all with a starch bandage. The splints were softened in warm water. When dry, this dressing will be very firm.

Had I better let the outside leather splint come down to the foot and confine the whole limb? How long must I keep the limb in splints.?

I shall be anxious to hear from you immediately.

Mrs. Blaisdell is doing well. Limb has been in splints four weeks –five weeks since broken. How long had she better wear the splint? How long before she may step on the leg? I suppose about eight weeks (three weeks from now).

Night before last I had quite a tussle with a strangulated inguinal hernia, but succeeded in reducing it. Man about sixty. I am quite busy.

Lottie went to the South Woods a week ago yesterday. Will be at home this evening. I intended to go but could not leave. A company of twelve went.

Recruiting is going on rapidly here. This town pays ten dollars bounty.

This letter is written in haste.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1862*

Dear Father:

I may possibly be able to go to Fort Covington next week if thought best. But it is cold and rainy tonight and I fear we are to have a long wet time.

Yesterday all my garden vegetables were gathered except turnips and cabbages. – a wonderful yield for the amount of ground.

Am not very busy. Have a few cases, just enough to satisfy for the present. A little rest is very acceptable.

You remember looking at a planning machine in the mill across the bridge? The cylinder that carries the knives revolves three thousand times in a minute I think. Last Thursday the cylinder burst by its centrifugal force. A piece weighing forth-three pounds struck a beam nearly overhead and, glancing, struck one of the men on the left side of the front and a little above the ear. The knife attached cut through the frontal bone, commencing where the hair and forehead

meet and about one inch to the left of the longitudinal sinus, extending backward about 2 ½ inches. From the posterior extremity of this wound a fracture extended in two directions. Each fractured seam was about two inches long. The triangular piece between the cut and fractured seam overrode the bone upon each side. With a chisel and small mallet, after cutting down to each seam and turning the scalp back, I cut away the edges of the over-riding bone and with a small screw-driver raised and depressed each piece of bone to its place. The man was insensible except to the pain of the operation for 16 hours. After 48 hours he became quite sensible, rests well. Slight pain in head at times, not continual. Wound of scalp is uniting nicely. I think he will get well.

I cut that lupus or cancer from Mr. Blosses' face one week ago. It is nicely healed.

Bought 16 bushels of apples. Have nearly enough hay now. Oats will be more plenty than I supposed.

We shall not go home until we hear from you. How many bags shall I bring?

Wednesday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>

A patient whom I supposed getting well of typhoid fever is worse today. Has a high fever. Hope this change for the worse will not be lasting. If it is, I fear I cannot visit you next week. Where is Wyatt?

We are well.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1862*

Dear Father:

We received your letter on Monday. The weather is bad besides I have sick ones that I cannot leave at present to go to Fort Covington.

The adjutant of the 92<sup>nd</sup> regiment informed me that their colonel Hunt and the officers had recommended me to the governor as surgeon to the regiment. If so, I may be appointed. Have made no application myself but the regiment officers and men have been anxious for my appointment. I could not, if I would, refuse to go.

I wish Wyatt would not make arrangements to settle until I learn whether I am to go or not. If I go this will be an excellent place for him. If he has no place in view, say nothing to him at present. If he has, tell him what I have written and have him hold on a while.

Some months ago, the major-adjutant and a captain came home to recruit men. Said the regiment told them not to go back without me. Asked me if I would go. I told him I would make no application or effort but if appointed, I would go.

The Colonel was a captain in the regular service, is so-in-law to Gen'l Casey, is much liked by the regiment.

We are all well. Will write again soon.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Nov. 5, 1862*

Dear Father:

I have today received a letter from Wyatt asking about my going to the army. Tell him that I have given up all idea of going. Shall never again offer to go.

The surgeon of the 92<sup>nd</sup> regiment was appointed nearly a week before my recommendation reached Albany.

Tell Mother that Lottie has finished those mats and is watching for an opportunity to send them to her.

I went to Canto the day that Gov. Seymour spoke there. Had a long talk with him about the Flanders. Said that he did not know that the Gazette was yet excluded from the mail and that he was acquainted with Post-Master Gen. Blair and he knew that he could prevail upon him to admit it to the mail again. He stopped at Potsdam that night and the next morning he wrote a letter to the Post-Master General which I mailed. He wished me to write him in a short time about the matter if all was not right.

He is a very oily speaker and a perfect gentleman. If he does all that he promises to do he will not suit you or the Flanders half as well as he will suit me and two-thirds of the Republicans as governor.

We are well. I am more busy than when I wrote you last. Cannot leave home at present.

Carroll

Potsdam, April 15, 1863

Dear Father,

It is now ten o'clock evening and I am tired enough to be in bed but it is time that I should write to you.

I am full of business this spring. Have sick ones enough to occupy all my time. Besides I have just moved my barn on to the cross street and next to the meeting-house sheds. You cannot imagine how much the change has improved my lot especially my backyard. Have thirty cords good hard wood which I am getting piled and as much as I can into the shed. Am making garden also. Have had that great rock sunk in my garden. It was a monster and took five days digging to sink it two feet below the surface.

I have a large hot-bed with three hills of cucumbers in it which have been up three weeks tomorrow. Shall leave them in the bed. So you see I shall have cucumbers to eat very early. Have radishes also in the bed. We pulled two today large enough to eat. Have cabbage, tomatoes, cauliflower, turnips, plants in abundance, also lettuce to transplant and leave some in the bed to head.

Have done nothing about my office yet. Shall dig the cellard as soon as the wood is moved. Have worked very hard since I saw you. My horse has got so worn that I have to carry a whp.

Charged \$1900 in 1862 which means a great many steps and hard day's work at our prices. Mrs. McCrea was sick about four weeks after I saw you.

The wooden part of Mr. Cox's house (that used to be his whole house) also his woodshed etc. etc. was burned a few weeks ago. Loss about \$800.00 Potsdam is all alive this spring with repairing and building. The park has been enlarged, plowed and filled with shade-trees.

I tapped a lady for Dr. Duncan in Stockholm Friday. Got eight quarts water. Mr. Cogswell of Madrid brought his wife to see me last Monday, with cancer of the breast. A lady came yesterday from Parrishville and will remain a few days to have me doctor her for diseased lungs. I received a letter today from a man in Norfolk asking advice about himself. So you see I have some business from abroad as well as you!

Judge Allen has got quite well and stout for him. Everybody said he was too old and feeble to be raised. He paid me my bill a few days ago, \$57.00 and made Charlotte a present of \$5.00 he was so grateful to me.

When are you coming to visit us? Come to remain several days and over Sunday. We are very anxious to see you.

Carroll

*Potsdam, May 16, 1863*

Dear Father:

I hope you are still gaining, though you must expect to get up very slowly. I am glad that I went to see you for it would have cost me much anxiety, painful anxiety, about you, if I had not. Still I feel very anxious and hope to hear from you about every day. Mr. Briggs and Dr. Wyatt both promised to write.

Tell Mrs. Briggs that I am exceedingly grateful to her for her care and attention to you.

How is mother? I hope she is getting much better. She must not sleep on that sitting-room sofa. The dining room sofa with a folded quilt on it would be the easiest. It is not so round.

I have written a long letter to Louisa today. Expect to hear from you this afternoon.

I send the keys that I put into my pocket when I got the paper from the office.

Carroll

P.S. Shall write what I think about that man in Bombay soon. C

*Potsdam, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1863*

Dear Father,

We have just had a most excellent visit from Uncle Conant and Aunt Eunice. They came last Tuesday and left for Norfolk on Thursday. Drove their own horse.

We had Mr. and Mrs. Davidson here to tea on Tuesday and took tea at Mr. Davidson's on Wednesday. They both look quite well and had a pleasant time I think, at least we tried to make it pleasant for them.

We are quite well. I am doing almost nothing I medicine – nobody sick. Have never done so little in two weeks since I came to Potsdam. My office comes along very slowly, just raised and partly boarded, though one man works upon it all the time. Have a cellar to I nearly seven feet deep. Windows and doorframes are all ready to put in. The plan is very nice and just the size of yours, 16 by 24; front 16 by 15, back room 9 by 16; or if I have a stairway to go up and down, it will be 9 by 13.

My garden looks well except the vines. Melons are all destroyed by bugs and worms. Cucumbers had to be replanted, are doing well now. Shall have green peas on the Fourth. Tomatoes are in blossom. Had radishes and lettuce a week ago in hotbed. Had cucumbers when Uncle Conant was here, have them in abundance now. How we wish to send you some! Vines are full of cucumbers and blossoms. Shall send Judge Allen half a dozen tomorrow.

One of the cases of dropsy that I wrote you about has recovered though for a long time I feared that it would be necessary to tap her. The case that I tapped has not had to be tapped again yet but is not doing as well as could be desired. Have just bought a new book, Budd on "Diseases of the Liver." It is an excellent work, better than his work on the stomach.

Crops all over the country are looking nicely though some fields of corn have been nearly destroyed by a gray grub which eats and stalks off near the ground.

We expect Cornelia here soon. When are you coming to visit us? Soon, I hope.

Charlotte expects to visit at Henry Paddock's in a month or two with Mr. and Mrs. Watkins. If all was well perhaps I would go after her and visit you for a day or two, or if it would not be bad to worse we would remain at Henry's.

Write soon,  
Carroll.

*Potsdam, July 19, 1863*

Dear Father:

I have been drafter and shall stand my chance on an examination. If you have the Daily Journal of Ogdensburgh, July 17<sup>th</sup>, you will see on what grounds I expect an exemption: No. 4, organic disease of left lung; No. 5, Confirmed but not latent, consumption; No. 7 Decided feebleness of constitution; No. 26 Deficient amplitude and power of expansion of the chest; No. 27, Inguinal hernia.

Do you think there is any danger of my passing? I went to Malone last Friday. Saw Doct. Sidney and Doct. Gray. They examined me carefully and offered to swear to my inability, and advised me not to pay the \$300.00.

The outside of my office is finished It is just the size of yours on the ground, 16 by 24 ft. Windows the same. Has a back door and deep cellar.

I send you the draft from which the front was made. The plan is perfectly followed. Half inch to the foot is the scale. The draft looks large but the building looks narrower than yours and fully as small. The front is ceiled. All the rest of the building is perfectly plain and clapboarded with bracket cornice. I think the building is very handsome.

I did not have time to see Frank or Louisa when at Malone. Left here at 12 o'clock noon and returned same night at eleven o'clock.

There is no opposition to the draft in this county.

We expect to see you soon. When will you come? All well.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863*

Dear Father:

I have felt ht at I ought to write to you this long time but if you knew how my business has driven me this last six weeks you would excuse my apparent negligence. From early in the morning until twelve or two at night I have hurried from one sick person to the other. Dysentery, mostly, amongst children, and cholera morbus have been the prevailing diseases. I am worn out and tired of seeing sick people. Have had two within the last two weeks that looked like hopeless cases but both are getting well. Have lost no patent except Mrs. Parker's child. Is it very sickly at Fort Covington now?

How mother now? I suppose she is much better yet I am anxious about her. How much she has suffered within the last year! She must be much worn and wasted.

How is your health? I hear that you are not very well. We are very anxious to see you.

Lottie starts tomorrow for Syracuse on a visit to her sister. She will be gone about two weeks. When she gets home I hope you will come and see us.

We have had no rains to speak of since the first of July. The ground is dry several feet below the surface. The hay crop was about middling. Everything else is about dried up: no grain, potatoes half grown, no fall feed and of course but little butter or cheese is made. My garden vegetables are but half-grown though we have an abundance.

I have done but little to the inside of my office yet. Am trying to get men who owe me work. This you know is slow business. The outside is nicely painted white.

I called on Mrs. Blaisdell a few days ago. She walks with a cane without crutches. Mr. Blaisdell is well pleased with the cure.

We are well and have been so all summer.

Write soon,

Carroll

*Potsdam, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863*

My dear Father:

We are really disappointed that the Fall should pass by and we not received a visit from you. It is more than a year since you were here I think. We talk about you every day. Lottie is just as anxious to see you as I am and is always delighted when you come. She says: "How pleasant it would be if we could go down and make your father a good visit and have everything go along smoothly and not feel as though our visit would cost him a great deal of trouble."

It is not best for her to go but you must come as soon as you can make it convenient.

How is your and Mother's health? You must both be very careful, more so than ever before about taking cold. We are very fearful about the effects of the coming cold weather upon your health.

How have your crops turned out? Have you gathered many apples? Apples here are worth \$3.50 per barrel, common are 63 cts. per bushel. I have eight bushels.

My office drags slowly. It is all done now except painting the floors. They will be painted this wee. I have improved upon your office by adding a little room 3 ft. square for the washstand and water-pail. It is taken from the anatomy room with a door from the front room.

It may appear shiftless to be all summer building so small an office, but by so doing, I have worked in many poor debts. It has cost me about \$300.00. Moving my barn, grading, building fence, etc. etc.

When you come you will see a beautiful new house on the lot just across the street.

I performed quite a severe and dangerous operation last week in cutting an iron belt-hook about 1/14 inches long out of a man's leg. The hook was driven (by the parting of a belt running on the planning machine which you saw here) into the leg, entering about four inches below the knee-joint, passing backward and upward through the interoscius membrane and more than half through the leg. I cut at least three and a half inches deep and close to the anterior tibial and I hardly k now how near the posterial tibial arery after getting beyond the interoscius membrane. The hook had a piece of leather attached and I found a piece of the man's pants with it. The operation required much more care than the amputation of a leg. The case is doing nicely.

I am quite busy but not so badly driven as when I wrote before.

Please write soon.

Carroll

*Potsdam, Jan. 1864*

My dear Father:

It is a long time since we have received a letter from you. How do you get along this winter? I have felt quite anxious about you lest you should get a cold and have trouble with your lungs again. Saw Mr. Crary. He said you were quite smart and looking well. I hope Mother is better than she was last spring.

We shall expect to see you as soon as the sleighing becomes good. If you come by cars, write me the day before and I will meet you at the Junction and save several hours thereby. Now is a good time for me to visit. Am not very busy at present.

Two weeks ago last Sabbath evening, I received a telegram for me to go to Hemmingford to see a child of Julius Scriver's. (Mrs. Scriver was Frank Stevens.) I was at Hemmingford between ten and eleven o'clock next morning. The child, two and a half years old, was very sick with enteritis. I came home on the next Wednesday leaving the child much better. It has recovered. Mr. Scriver paid me five dollars a day and my expenses. I should have charged more but my expenses were considerable. I kept my horse at the Junction til my return. I could leave home then about as well as not. Dr. Cole took care of my patients.

We had an excellent County Medical Society in this village on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. Adopted a new constitution and mean to try at least to make our meetings more interesting and useful hereafter.

Dr. Marsh, myself and young Dr. Hewitt were appointed a committee to draft a constitution two or three years ago. Dr. M., being dead, Dr. H., having moved away, I had the honor of getting up the constitution which was adopted without changing in the least.

I also read an obituary, or rather, a eulogy upon Dr. Marsh. You know he was my very best friend.

The Society voted to have it published with the proceedings of the meeting. But I do not think it best.

We have a plenty of apples. I bought three barrels of nice western apples also eight bushels of common apples last fall.

Oats are worth 63 cts. and scarce at that. Hay is \$15.00 per ton.

Have money in the bank to meet the payment due on my place next May. Should like to pay all up next spring but Dr. Lull does not want to take the money.

Dr. McChesney is very miserable. Has a very bad hand. Will probably lose a part of one finger by mortification. There has been a strong tendency to senile gangrene in his system during the last year.

Carroll

Potsdam, Feb. 22, 1864

Dear Father:

At a counsel yesterday we decided to amputate Dr. McChesney's arm above the elbow. Next Wednesday is the day appointed for the operation. He is so feeble that the operation will hardly save him.

During the last week, I have lost two beautiful children in one family from scarletina anginosa. Both choked to death. The third and last, a babe, is now sick and doing well thus far.

I promised to visit a sick woman last Monday nine miles below Massena Village, near the mouth of Grass River but these children prevented my going. I may have to go yet.

I have received no word from you since my last letter to you.

We shall expect to see you this week.

In haste,

Carroll

Potsdam, Feb. 26, 1864

Dear Father:

Dr. McChesney died this morning at two o'clock. Dr. Reynolds, his partner, amputated his arm last Wednesday. The funeral will be next Saturday at twelve o'clock M.

I am very sad at his death. Was in to see him frequently. Yet he always felt as though I was intruding upon his business (when well, I mean) and that same feeling prevented his having me amputate his arm, I think. Dr. Reynolds depended upon me for counsel and instruments.

Carroll