

7-16-1857

[Letter], 1857, July 16, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale,
Mich., Harrison Clarke [to] Alan Cameron

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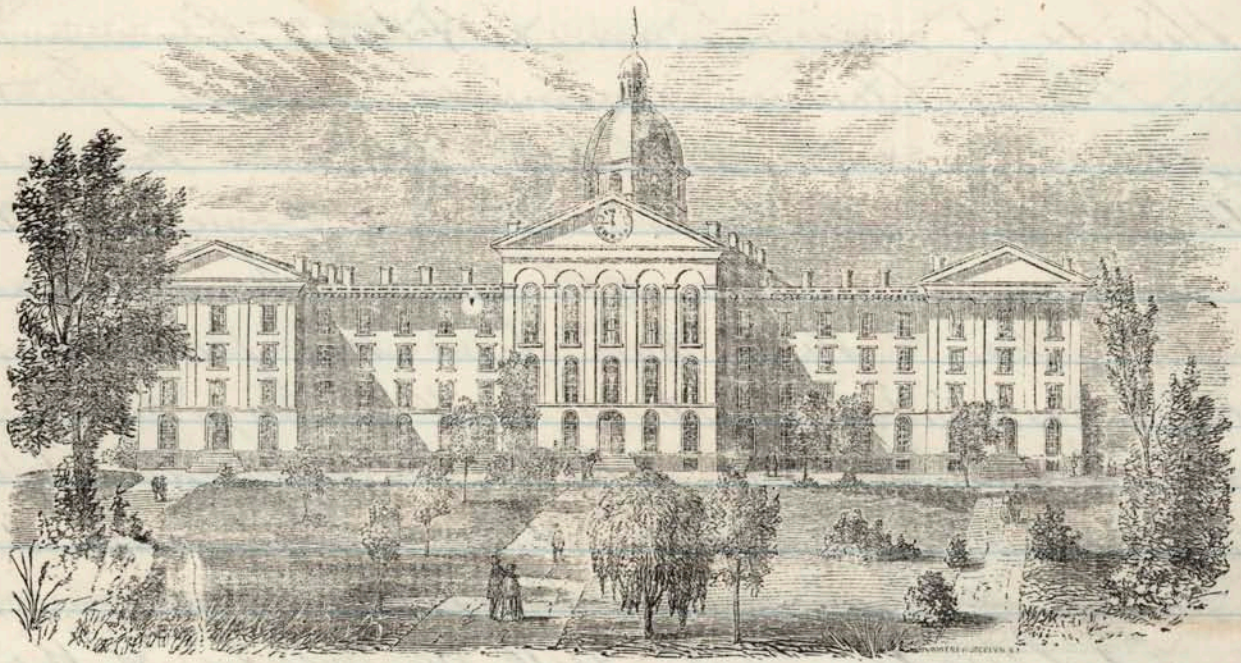


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July 16th 1857

Friend Allen

By addressing you I may take you unexpectedly. It would be unusual. But a person that is far from home & friends must

if he has a human heart think of the things
and pleasures that surrounded him when encircled
by friends & acquaintances & what they may be
doing. His leisure moments will be spent in
thought for it is impossible for him to remain
idle. Those thoughts will be of home friends &
acquaintances. Those with whom he has associated
and of those that have been true friends and
worthy associates. Such he will always reverence
& with such will be his delight to correspond & such
will never be forgotten. Time may fly onward with
the wings of an eagle. The frost may cover his
sweathed head. But still the memory of those
lingereth ~~lingereth~~ forever (National Anniversary)
Perhaps you attended the celebration of the 4th /
at Providence ~~the 4th~~. If so no doubt after behold-
ing the performances and contemplating the works
and ingenuity of man wondered you ~~if~~ ^{if} nothing
more interesting & pleasing to the eye than was
afforded on that day. ~~They day~~ ^{They do ever}
be remembered as the day when this the
people we now form so important a part ~~was~~
were declared a free & independent nation.
The glorious day has now arrived & amidst
the noise and confusion at length passed away.
The people of this place are fully alive & awake
of the scenes that are passing around them.
The first dawn of the morning beheld the streets
crowded with ^{people} from this & the adjacent counties

towns & villages. The National salute aroused
many a man slumbered & caused his heart
to rebound with joy & gratitude.
The sun had been long tired to rest before
the multitude began to disperse & when they
did it was with much regret that the day
had so swiftly flown. I feel so patriotic
I don't believe I shall ever get through my
speech. The roaring of cannons was the first
sounds that saluted my ears after waking
from slumber. Save that, everything
was calm serene & tranquil. After breakfast
the companies formed into a line. The
Military 1st Firemen 2^d Orator & other distinguished
men 3^d Soldiers of the revolution and war of
1812 & the People in general 5th marched to the
grove listened to a very excellent & appropriate
Oration. From thence the people separated again
until night when a grand balloon ascension
took place then the fireworks all of which was
very interesting. The weather here is very cold &
stormy for it has been for the season owing
probably to the Comet. It has struck in several
places around here. I also notice it has in
N.Y. The weather now is very warm & pleasant
I think may be the Comet has all struck
or at least I hope it has at least Corn & potatoes
are doing well wheat is the heaviest on an average
it was ever known. Grass is also good.

I am well hoping you and all are the same
I like how well I like the Faculty location
& all as well even as I expected The frontispiece
is the likeness of the College & below is the faculty
name I have no news to speak of
unless it is Mr. J. Cameron & Mrs. Manchester
have taken a bold leap & leaped forth
to eternity please excuse I would have
said I had more perhaps never more to
return Tell Joseph to take good care of all
his doings That is his other half

Trusting soon to hear from you I
remain as ever
Dear to Hill dal College Michigan Harrison Clarke