

Wife & Gertrude
May 27th/65-

Ans

" " "



Rev J. Jerome Ward.

Decatur.

Mich.

Cincinnati May 24 1864

Dear Husband

Your welcome letter came in due time. I am glad to hear you are better I was expecting to be summoned to Ocater soon and was making all my plans to that effect but now I do not know what to say or think. The idea of commencing anew and furnishing ourselves with a house besides the substance to fill it looks like an endless work with your health and mine so poor. One of the things that I supposed you was a going to insist upon in a new place was to be that ^{they} furnish you a house to live in. Now \$800 will be a very small salary as things are & I do not see as there is to be any change at present in prices. I do not like the plan of the house and for you to finish it off will cost more than one hundred dollars besides your strength and time. Still it will be a place to shelter our heads from the storm you must act your own judgement in the matter. If I were there I could judge better as to the locality and appearances generally. Mary is very anxious to have us come to the Springs and see her. Now I do not want to go there at all I have used the utmost

economy I could to get along with little
expense. If I should come right on to Decatur
our expenses would be but a little more than
our board would have been if we had kept
house. Nor will it be very much more if I
go to N York and stay until fall. You have
not told me any thing about how you are
living. Are you hiring your board? Or are you
getting your meals every where? Gertie forgot
to write to you that our goods started from
St Louis the same day that we left all except
the sewing machine which was left at Mr Win-
ers to be sent on to order. I wish you was here to
preach in the Pine Street Church next Sabbath.
They have given a call to Mr Nicolson of
Chicago. Professor Evans has supplied them until
now. He has gone to general assembly. Last Sat.
Mr Roster the superintendent of the ^{preached for him} Ragged School.
If you could get up in any pulpit in Cin-
without it being known who you were you would
give good satisfaction. I have no doubt. In the
eve we went to the concert, Dr Grundy. He
has lost his health & his people have neglected a
Mr Norton for 8 months. Dr Thompson has gone
to Europe & Dr Day. Cin- is almost without min-
isters. Our friends here are very kind and desire
that we should stay as long as we can. Today
we are going to Spring Grove Cemetery. If it does not rain

Dear father

I must add one word
to mother. to clinch what she
has said. I do not want to
discourage you. but your memory
is certainly treacherous. Did you
not promise to insist on a house
and a competent salary that
I might live at home, as domestic
reigning my commission as agent
and school master? I think you
did. Now father, neither you
nor mother are fit to commence
house hunting under such aggra-
vating circumstances. Don't try
to buy a house under any necessity
now. wait till peace is declared,
and prices go down. you know
every thing is and always has been
against it. It is clearly your duty
to attend to the present and trust
to your children for a home in the

future. If the church cannot
provide you a house, don't let's go
there. After our small salary at
the Springs, and house expense
at Du Quoin we may be spared
if we shrink from either again,
and certainly from both combined.
These are my sentiments. Take
them for their value, and act
as you please, as you usually do.

Gentl.