

[Transcribed from photocopy]  
[Page 1 – Address label]

Mrs Polly Thomas  
Harrisburg  
Ind

Polightness [*politeness?*] M[-] Wheeler

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Cincinnati May the 7 1846

Mrs. Thomas, Dear Madam.

If you can form an idea what my care and family concerns were before I left home (which I know you do for in them you kindly partook for which accept my thanks and may I never forget it). You will excuse me for not writing to you sooner I will now attempt to give you a diare [*diary*] of the absent days since I saw you in the first place we even those days on the count of which I can not complain the weather was fine and the [*fami?*] excelant [*excellent*] all this time I was taking a rest which to me was quite necessary we arrived here on Thursday evening and in fully on our own moved home then hurly burly go to work the first thing was to get supper after which we tumbled our beds on the floor and slept soundly all night Jonathan was here and took Nathaniel home with him the next day he has been in twice since Mary Ann is now with mother Margaret L is now in and has been for a week John L. is quite sick and has for three days. The doctor says his sickness is [----miting] fever today he is better the children have all had a sick turn since our arrival here today is my turn. I have layed [*laid*] in bed a part of the day. We have scattered things through the house so as to push a bout with some difficulty.

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I find it tiresome to go up and down stairs. Our kitchen is in the seller [*cellar*] and dining room above on the first floor. The [*bid---*] is in the yard imagine to your self how [*tired*] you have ben [*been*] fetching water from the spring if you should have to carry it back a gain when you had done using it which is the case with us what would you think the sink is close to the [*illegible*] our yard is a bout as large as your kitchen there is but little exercise for children I have ben [*been*] to chunch [*church*] once and last sabath [*Sabbath*] I did not feel well enough to attend I have been to market once I do not think I can attend market often the walk is rather long which quite unfits me for business after during the day we have had no help except a coloured woman to wash one day which was poorly done yesterday was the first I have been released from my work in the afternoon the day before I finished my ironing for the first time since I came to the city

Tell the children there is an indian in town who is a prophet and chief of the Choctaw nation he visited our house by Jonathans request with Dr. Rigby he can speak the English language pretty well and is lecturing in the difrent [*different*] churches he there relates anecdotes of his tribe of which I will give you a specimine [*specimen*] amongst numerous presants [*presents*] which were given him for tribe was a ball dress which a lady gave him this he knew not how to dispose of

all the girls of the tribe were anxious to have it he put it in a small house and permitted [permitted] them to look

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through the cracks at it they all thought it verry [very] beautiful at length an chief came and sayed [said] the prettyest [prettiest] girl must have it to which he [two words illegible] the next day there was such a time of grinding paint and painting faces he did not know the [cause?] the old chief brought his daughter and told him thise [this] was the handsomest which the [two words illegible] says was the homelyest [homeliest] girl in the tribe the girls would come one at a time and ask am prettyest [prettiest] this would not decide we had to cut the dress in small pieces and give to each girl a piece with which they dressed their hair [Jno?] often wishes himself in Harrisbur to see [-risk]. [Let?] says she has seen the people here now she wants to go to Harrisburg. I shall have to hurry [illegible] is waiting for the letter Mr. Thomas please tell [name unclear] to [three words unclear] eggs. [Name unclear] will be up as soon as Jon can attend to business for our [rest of sentence illegible] Some other [illegible] give my love to Mrs [Be--] and all inquiring friends it is now nig [night] but I cannot see well [illegible] but remain your affectionate friend

Letitice T. McClure

Sally Thomas

P S [illegible] write soon. Mary says she will write soon to Nancy