

"MACKINAW, MICH., August 7, 1856.

* * * "Yours of July 20th has been forwarded to me at this place, whither I have come in search of the fugitive, health—at least, to escape from the debilitations of our summer heats. I wish you were here! It is a fortnight to-day since we arrived, and such paradisiacal weather as we have had! just warm enough not to be cold, and just cold enough not to be warm. Only one thing is wanting to me, and I should thrive like a green bay tree, and that is the home diet.

"Last night we had some commotion among the elements, and to-day it is cloudy, and a fire is comfortable. But a few whiffs of this air would make your lungs give a hygienic laugh. I am sorry to hear there are any symptoms in your throat or elsewhere which give you present discomfort or forebodings. I am afraid of that Eastern climate for your lungs. I do not believe that air will ever agree with you. It requires a Boreas to blow it, and none but a Boreas can breathe it. * * *

"HORACE MANN."

"MACKINAW, MICH., August 6, 1857.

* * * "Here we all are at Mackinaw, and enjoying ourselves too well not to tell you about it, and to wish you were here with us. The climate, the air, etc., perform the promise made last year, and, as all the family are with me, I enjoy vastly more than I did last year. I never breathed such air before, and this must be some that was clear out of Eden, and did not get cursed. I sleep every night under sheet, blanket, and coverlet, and no day is too warm for smart walking and vigorous bowling. The children are crazy with animal spirits, and eat in such a way as to demonstrate the epigastric paradox that the quantity contained may be greater than the container. I verily believe if you would spend one summer here—say from about the middle of July to the middle of September—it would make your brain as good as Samuel Downer's brain ever was since it occupied its present cranium, and that is saying a great deal. * * *

HORACE MANN."