

Postmarked: Denver Colo **Oct 4 (1880)**

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Manchester P.O.  
on the Missouri & Pacific Ry  
16 miles from St. Louis  
Mo.

**From: John C. Stallcup**

My Dear Miss Shelby

Yours just recd.

I only returned  
from campaign trip last  
night at 11 about tired  
out.

So I am coming to see  
you and will start from  
here Thursday morning - will  
find you in due course  
of time.

Kindly yours  
Jno. C. Stallcup

Denver Oct. 4th

DEPT  
OCT  
24

Miss. Mary P. Shelby

Manchester P.O.

on the Missouri & Pacific Ry  
16 miles from St. Louis

Mo.

My Dear Miss. Shelby

Yours just recd

Sorely returned

from Campaign trip last  
night at 11. about tired

out so I am coming to see

you and will start from

here Thursday morning will

find you in due course

of time

Kindly yours

Mon Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Jos. A. Stallcup

**NOTE:** John Calhoun Stallcup had made up his mind on the choice of marriage and whom he would marry. He came to the Magoffin's home, delighted in their company and asked for Mary's hand. As coy as she seems, I believe she too knew exactly what she was doing. There are not cards or notes during this exchange of their meeting since they were both guest at the same house. He would have arrived in Missouri on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> or morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> and probably returned to Denver on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Pinna (Penna) is her first cousin with the same name, Mary Pindell Shelby Napton who married William Barclay Napton in 1862 and had several children. Mrs. Napton was the only surviving child of Gen. James Shelby's first born, Richard Pindell Shelby and this Mary Pindell was the only child of the General's youngest, Evan Shelby.

Postmark unreadable

**To John C. Stallcup**  
Denver  
Colorado

**From: Mary Pindell Shelby**

Woodside – Missouri  
**October 11th 1880**

My dear friend:

My cousin, Mrs. Napton, left this evening after giving me her blessing & threatening to write you, so does Aunt Susan – Aunt Susan writes very well, & usually preaches better sermons than some body – I sat down stairs this evening & tried to play solitaire with the marbles, but it was no good & I came up stairs to write Aunt Busy & make my confession – I don't think she will be greatly surprised, but I am afraid she will be hurt at my not going to Lexington for the consummation. I don't call things by their names very easily yet – but I think I will stay here until next week some time, perhaps later until I get all I need, then go home & bid farewell to everybody, & get back here by a little after the second, after that you had best

suit yourself. I will be ready & a day or two later or earlier will make very little difference, except that I think Pinna will come back, & perhaps Aunt Busy – but if I should alter my plans any, it will be very little & then perhaps you will hear from me again. You can write here – I wrote Aunt Busy to forward my mail, which will probably consist of one letter from Denver – I am afraid all my friends have the same poor opinion of me that I have of myself, are afraid to trust me – I've always so hard to catch before – so you must write me often & kept my spirits up – how can you carry on so many campaigns at once? Please insist too on coming here instead of Lexington – I can tell my friends that & really I think it best just to consult you a little. We go to town tomorrow, shopping – There is something delightful to any woman in buying fine

**Page 3**

clothes – I don't mean that Mrs. Welborn or Mrs. Wright shall look better than Mrs. - - - -, would you like samples of them, the dresses I mean – you will never learn of these things earlier – But really it is but justice to a man in your position to have well. I won't finish about the clothes – Another thing I am going to attend to is some cards – Miss Mary P. Shelby on one & Mr. & Mrs. on the other – it takes some time to make a plate – I wish you would send me a list of all the friends you would like them sent to. It might be a nice thing to send to your poor clients – such a cheap way of getting popular – I mean to send them to half the paupers in Lexington, to keep my memory green, after this I turn my attention to Colorado merchcants.

I can if I try make myself very popular, & perhaps your next campaign I will do more electioneering for you then you can for yourself, if only I was a Democrat.

**Page 4**

Do you know every one guessed all there was to guess last night from your face – you even forgot the Miss to Janie's name – but all was forgiven, under the circumstances – I thought you were coming in but perhaps it was just as well – I don't quite understand how I let you come after all, the only good solution is that I would have been unhappy if I hadn't & then it is Providence after all, so I fall back on that – I tried to forget you for more than two years & didn't but I really didn't want to marry anybody, wanted to be that one Proverbial Shelby woman who could stay single, but I am afraid there will never be such –

I thought

I was going to write you such a nice letter, but I used my energy up, on my confession to Aunt Busy, & shopping between times to suggest names for the cards – Barton concluded I knew everybody & perhaps those I don't know, you do – Don't expect more than a letter a day – I am afraid I can't do as well as Mr. Shafroth's girl – but until the next I am

Faithfully yours,

Mary P. Shelby





Postmarked: Denver Colo Oct 13 (1880)  
Forwarded to Manchester, Mo.  
Care S. Magoffin  
Postmarked: Lexington KY Oct 23(?)

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Denver  
**13th Oct (1880)**

My Dear

I have just  
arrived. Election news  
not very favorable to  
the Democracy –

I presume you are  
arrived at Lexington.  
I trust you had a pleasant  
comfortable time.

I hope you settled that  
we should next meet at  
the same place at  
Kirkwood.

**Page 2**

Make short the time  
to our wedding day.  
My heart is full  
of love for you  
and I long to  
have you with me.  
I feel that you will  
be annoyed in arranging  
your affairs at Lexington  
but just tell them (your  
friends) you are going  
to live at Denver.  
Pack your trunk and  
come to your aunt at  
Kirkwood.

**Page 3**

And we will attend  
to our friends and  
other affairs afterwards.



Let us get established  
and started, first –  
I include Barton  
of course, in our  
establishment all  
ways.

Write me fully.  
I will write you again  
probably tomorrow.

Your Yours Devotedly  
Jno. C. Stallcup

Dear 13th Oct

My dear

I have just

rec'd. Station news  
not very favorable to  
the Democracy -

I presume you are  
arrived at Lexington  
I trust you had a pleasant  
comfortable ~~and~~ time

I hope you settled that  
we should meet at  
the same place  
Thank you



Make short the time  
to our wedding day  
my heart is full!

I love you for you

And I love to  
love you with me

I feel that you will  
be annoyed in arranging  
your affairs at Lexington  
but just tell them (your  
friends) you are going  
to live at New

pack your trunk and  
come to your Aunt's at  
Lexington

And we will attend  
to our friends and  
other affairs again  
let us get established  
and started, first

I include Barton  
Parrish, in our  
settlement all

ways. With me fully  
I will write you again  
probably tomorrow

Yours ever,  
Wm. W. W. W.

Postmarked: Denver Colo Oct 14 (1880)  
Forwarded to Manchester  
Postmarked: Kirkwood Mo Oct 16

**To Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Care of Mr. Magoffin  
Barrett's P. O. (crossed out – Manchester P. O.)  
St. Louis Co  
Missouri

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Denver Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> (1880)

My Dear

I have yours and will  
get this off this morning as  
this will be the first to reach you  
as I wrote to Lexington yesterday.  
Your letter gives me joy.  
Every thing you say and do  
is so like yourself, so good  
and lovely that I can scarcely  
realize that you are  
my own..

We will have our  
wedding there at your Aunt Susan's  
by all means – in fact we could  
scarcely have the time to have  
it at Lexington for that  
would necessitate visiting  
your friends there as well  
as mine in Ohio &c.

**Page 2**

Why not just remain there  
at your Aunt's until I come?  
And we will be married there  
then go down to St. Louis and  
from there out here or here  
direct as you prefer.  
I will send in next mail  
names for cards of which  
you speak. For fear I am  
to late to send in this to  
get off in this mail.

I believe our union is  
right and it is sanctioned  
by providence. When was  
man more favored than  
I am.

I will be ready to come  
immediately after the  
election so don't defer  
any longer than you can help

**Page 3**

I have lost much interest  
in the political campaign  
by reason of the Indiana  
returns, but my soul  
is full blown for you  
so that I am happy.

I really feel that all your  
friends I met at your  
Aunt's there are like old  
friends of mine. I will always  
feel that way towards them  
and when I come again  
and see them all there it  
will be like meeting old  
friends so much pleasanter  
than going to Lexington  
where I have no such  
acquaintances. Then Mr. Magoffin  
is such an elegant gentleman

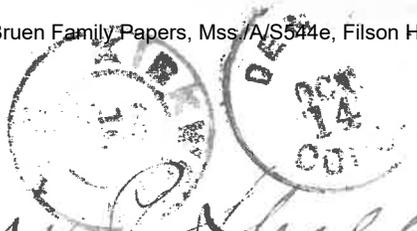
**Page 4**

and your Aunt is such a  
splendid and sensible lady.  
No other place or people so  
suitable for our wedding  
by all means let it be so  
settled.

I wish I could be  
with you in your shopping  
expedition. However  
I am the poorest judge  
and know the least of such  
things yet I will receive  
any thing you send me  
in the sample of them  
with pleasure.

I will write you  
again this afternoon.

Kind regards to your  
Aunt and family and love to you –  
Yours devotedly Jno C. Stallcup



Miss Mary P. Shelby  
Care Mr. Magoffin  
~~Barrett~~  
St. Louis Co, Manchester P.O. Missouri

Done Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>

My Dear

I have yours. And will  
get this off. This morning as  
this will be the first to reach you  
as I wrote to Lexington yesterday  
Your letter gives me joy  
Every thing you say and do  
is so like yourself so good  
and lovely that I can scarcely  
realize that you are ~~not~~  
my own

We will have our  
wedding there at your Aunt Susan  
by all means in fact we could  
scarcely have the time to leave  
it at Lexington for that  
would necessitate visiting  
your friends there as well  
as mine in Ohio &c

Why not just remain there  
at your aunts until I come?  
and we will be married then  
then go down to St Louis and  
from there out here or here  
direct as you prefer

I will send in next mail  
names for cards of which  
you speak. for fear, I am  
too late to send in this to  
get off in this mail

I believe our Union is  
right and it is sanctioned  
by Providence when was  
man more favored than  
I am

I will be ready to come  
immediately after the  
election. So don't defer  
any longer than you can help



I have lost much interest  
in the political Campaign  
by reason of the Indiana  
returns, but ~~you~~ my soul  
is full of love for you  
so that I am happy,

I really feel that all your  
friends I met at your  
Aunts. there are like old  
friends of mine I will always  
feel that way towards them  
and when I come again  
~~to~~ see them all then it  
will be like meeting old  
friends so much pleasanter  
than going to Lexington  
where I have no such  
acquaintances then Mr. McCallister  
is such an elegant gentleman

And your Aunt is such a  
splendid and sensible lady  
no other place or people so  
suitable for our wedding  
by all means let it be so  
settled

I wish I could be  
with you in your shopping  
expedition However  
I am the poorest judge  
and know the least of such  
things yet I will receive  
anything you send me  
as the sample of them  
with pleasure

I will write you  
again this afternoon  
Kind Regards to your  
Aunt and family, and love  
yours, devotedly  
John H. H. H.

Postmarked: Denver Colo Oct 14 (1880)

Forwarded to Manchester Oct 18  
Postmarked: Kirkwood Mo Oct 18

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Care of Mr. Magoffin  
Barretts P. O. Mo. Pacific Ry  
St. Louis Co. Missouri  
Barretts crossed out – Manchester

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Denver Thursday Evening (October 14<sup>th</sup> 1880)

My Dear

I enclose a list of names  
you are not bound to send a card  
to all of them unless you wish.  
Mr. Luthe went up to Buena Vista  
last evening on business and I  
have been very busy to day. The law  
business is good here now.

My Republican friends seem  
to feel sorry that my chances for  
political preferment are so set back  
by the Indiana Election and seem  
to be really sorry. I have many  
good friends here – but all  
is probably for the best. The law  
is the most substantial and honorable  
besides too many favors ought not to be  
showered on us at once. Yet the Demo-  
cratic Banner may wave in triumph sometime.

**Page 2**

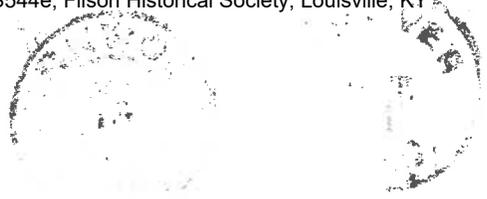
I hope Mrs. Napton will be with  
us at our wedding.

You must write me everything  
you want done – ought I not to send  
Mr. Magoffin some funds and  
have him see the minister &c.  
Give me full instructions –  
Shall we go to the city from  
your Aunt's and from there out here -  
How long shall we remain  
at your Aunt's &c &c

Tell me who are to be present &c &c  
for you must know I am perfectly  
ignorant on these matters.

I wrote to my folks at Alliance to day  
and informed them of our intentions  
and promised them a visit next summer.  
You ought not to have any poor opinion  
of yourself for all has been right and  
will be right. My love for you has won  
your heart for me and these shall make  
us happy forever.

Write me every day  
Yours Jno.C.S.



Miss. Mary P. Shelby  
Care Mr. Maloffin  
~~Wendell Bennett P.O.~~ Ms. Peapack  
St. Louis Co. Missouri

Dear Thursday Evening

My Dear

I enclose a list of names  
you are not bound to send a card  
to all of them unless you wish  
Mr. Luther went up to Bunn Vista  
last evening on business and I  
have been very busy today the law  
business is good here now  
my ~~republican~~ republican friends seem  
to feel sorry that my chances for  
political preferment are so set back  
by the Indiana election and seem  
to be really sorry. I have many  
good friends here - but all  
is probably for the best the law  
is the most substantial and honorable  
beside to many forms ought not to be  
showered on us at once. Yet the Demo  
cratic banner will <sup>may</sup> <sup>never</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~lost~~ in triumph sometime

I hope Mrs. Napton will be with  
us at our wedding

You must write me everything  
you want done - ought I not to send  
Mr. Magoffin some funds and  
then him see the Minister &c  
Give me full directions -

Shall we go to the city from  
your Aunts, and from there out here  
how long shall we remain  
at your Aunts &c &c  
tell me who are to be present &c &c  
And about the ring &c &c  
for you must know I am perfectly  
ignorant on these matters

I wrote to my folks at all times to day  
and informed them of our intentions  
and promised them a visit next summer  
You ought not to have any fore-opinion  
of yourself for all has been right and  
will be right - My love for you has won  
you heart for me and these shall make  
us happy for ever - Write me every day  
Yours truly  
J. C. A.

No envelope or Postmark

**To: John C. Stallcup**

**From: Mary Pindell Shelby**

Woodside –  
**October 14th (1880)**

You see Mr. Stallcup I am very generous writing you again when I haven't heard a word from you, but I am taking for granted there are some letters coming from Lexington – perhaps too – you are out of Denver & haven't gotten what I sent you, a letter & a prayer book –

I got the prayer book, put the name in & left it for the clerk to direct as I hadn't time, but I forgot a bundle & when I went back for it, the young man was convulsed at what was turned down – he thought doubtless it was some anxious old maid trying to catch a beau – he was mistaken, wasn't he? After many family councils I have about concluded not to

**Page 2**

go back to Lexington at all – it takes so much time & trouble to get a trousseau, that I would have such a little while to stay, & so many questions to answer & people to see, & half the paupers in town to give something to, besides don't you think it quite nice to fool all the gossips for once? They've had so much to say about me in times past, that I don't like Lexington, & am afraid I am too hard on every being connected with it. I shouldn't have owned

as much if I had been obliged to  
have lived there – But this isn't the  
sort of letter I wanted to write you.  
I hope Aunt Busy will come, &  
Susie Harrison, she is the only per-  
son there, except Barton, that I  
have even talked to about you, &  
once she sent her love – I suppose  
she wouldn't mind its going  
now – she has a very good opinion  
of me, vastly better than I deserve  
& is always telling me to get mar-  
ried – I wonder if her advice help-  
ed my decision any? but I think  
with you it was intended – it  
seems so natural that I can't even

**Page 3**

seem the least fluttered. Aunt Susan  
says she believes I've been married  
before – Ludie went to town with us  
the other day, & the first place  
she took me in was the engra-  
vers, then she said she felt sure  
I couldn't change my mind –  
Isn't it dreadful to have such a  
reputation? but don't be uneasy  
if I should, I would soon write  
you begging to be forgiven – The  
cards I ordered were very pretty –  
on one Mary P. Shelby Lexington, Ky.  
the other Mr. & Mrs. John C. Stall-  
cup – Denver Col. Do you realize who  
those are? Be sure & send your  
list & if you think of any others  
afterwards don't hesitate to send them.  
I will get some extras ones.

I didn't  
mean to get so many clothes  
but they seem to think I must -  
your bride is to wear a green  
dress – do you object? but it really  
isn't much more than I needed, but  
they are nicer – but I know your mind  
is on other things, so I'll desist – I  
would be a strange woman however  
if I didn't enjoy them somewhat –



We

got the news yesterday, but nothing definite about the election.

**Page 4**

Aunt Susan thinks I'll make a good Democrat, but I am afraid it will take a good many stump speeches to convict me. Do you know I can't imagine you talking so long all by yourself – I must hear you sometime – but I am afraid I would feel some what as I do about Barton & her elocutions – Barton isn't going to Denver immediately, will pack the things & pay some visits – Cousin Billy Napton says he will take her to Kansas City & find company the rest of the way, so I am going to let her have her own way – The principal reason I will want to know definitely about when you can come is that I want to let Aunt Busy & Susie know when to come – When I think of not seeing my dear old cousin – Mrs. Harrison again, I feel very badly – she & her husband both are very, very frail, & it wouldn't surprise me any time to hear of the death of either, & I am sure the one left could not last long – they are more to me than almost any body in the world – I'd like you to see

**Across the first page**

them just once – I will have to let this suffice for my paper is out – at least of this kind – besides it won't be very many days before I write you again. We are going tomorrow to shop & I to be fitted – Don't work yourself too hard on the election, at least not for me – Does it seem a long time to you since Sunday? It is so quiet here, & not much else to think about, & I am afraid I don't keep as busy as I ought –

Always yours,  
Mary P. Shelby



go back to Lexington at all - it  
 takes so much time & trouble to  
 get a horse care, that I would have  
 such a little while to stay, I do  
 many questions to answers in from  
 to you, & half the papers in from  
 to you, & half the papers in from  
 you think it quite nice to fool  
 call the gossip for once? they're  
 had so much to say about you  
 in times past, that I am getting  
 spiteful, but I don't like it at  
 -ington, I am afraid I am too  
 hard on every thing connected  
 with it. I should like to have some  
 as much as I had been obliged to  
 have since then - But this is with the  
 part of letter, I wanted to write you  
 I hope Aunt Betsy will coach &  
 Anne - Harrison, she is the only per-  
 -son I can talk to about you, &  
 I am sure she will love - I suppose  
 over - she can't mind it's going  
 she wouldn't mind it's going  
 now - she has a very good opinion  
 of me, really, than I deserve, &  
 it is always telling me to get mar-  
 -ried - I don't care of her advice help-  
 -ed my decision any? but I think  
 with you, it was attended it  
 that I can't even

seem the least flawed. Aunt Susan  
 says she believes in her married  
 before - Jane must be born with  
 the other day, & the first place  
 she took the in, was the engra-  
 -ved, then she said she felt her  
 I can't don't change my mind -  
 I don't it dreadful to have such a  
 reputation? But don't be uneasy  
 I should, I would soon omit  
 your begging to be forgiven - the  
 cards Indiana in my pretty  
 in our Mary P. Shelby & Livingston, Ky  
 the other Mr & Mrs John C. Hall  
 -cup - Denny Col. - Do you realize who  
 those last are? Be sure & send you  
 list, & if you think of any other  
 afterwards don't hesitate to send them  
 I will get some extra ones, I don't  
 mean to get so many clothes  
 but they seem to think I must -  
 your bride is to wear a gown  
 dress - do you object? but it really  
 isn't much more than I needed, & it  
 they are nice - but I know your mind  
 is on other things, so I'll object - I  
 would be a strange woman - I  
 if I don't enjoy them somewhat -  
 got the news yesterday but no -  
 - thing definite about the election

Postmarked: Denver, Colo **Oct 15 (1880)**  
Forwarded from Kirkwood Oct 18

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Care Mr. Magoffin  
Barrett's P. O. (crossed out) Manchester  
St. Louis County  
(Via Mo. Pacific Ry.) Missouri

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Friday Evening

My Dear

I have but the one letter  
from you and this is my  
fourth to you, but I will  
certainly get one in the morning.  
I have been in a regular rush of  
business to day. Mr. Luthe is  
still at Buena Vista but will  
return in the morning.  
I will give the campaign  
week after next and then all  
my time and thoughts shall  
be to you and the law business.  
I will be ready to start from  
here on the 3rd Nov. so fix  
our day just as early as you  
can after that time.

The time intervening  
our happy meeting will soon

**Page 2**

pass.

Do you know I am so in  
love I just live without eating.  
I am going up to dinner though  
as soon as I close this and will  
see what Cella can do for  
a fellow in my condition.  
If I had any body here to talk  
love to I might get relief  
but I will have to wait  
until I see you.  
Just imagine me with years  
of pent up love for you now  
turned loose in my heart turning  
it into an endless record (?) of  
joy.

Write me every day  
and take charge of our campaign  
and instruct me fully.

Devotedly Yours  
Jno. C. Stallcup

**Page 3**

Add to list sent Tuesday

Mr. and Mrs.  
David Kelley



Miss Mary P. Shelby  
care Mr. MacGuffin

Barretto P.O.  
St. Louis County  
Missouri  
(Via Mo. Pacific Ry.)

Friday Evening

My Dear

I have but the one letter  
from you and this is my  
fourth to you. but I will  
certainly get one in the morning  
I have been in a regular rush of  
business to day. Mr. Lute is  
still at Runa Vista but will  
return in the morning

I will give the Campaign  
week after next and then all  
my time and thoughts shall  
be to you and the law business  
I will be ready to start from  
here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. so fix  
our day just as early as you  
can after that time

The time ~~will~~ intervening  
our happy meeting will soon

pass.

Do you know I am so in  
 love I just live without eating  
 I am going up to dinner though  
 as soon as I close this and you  
 see what Cella can do for  
 a fellow in my condition  
 If I had any body <sup>here</sup> to talk  
 love to I might get relief  
 but I will have to wait  
 until I see you.

Just imagine me with years  
 of pent up love for you now  
 turned loose in my heart turning  
 it into an endless pool of  
 joy.

Write me every day  
 and take charge of our campaign  
 and instruct me fully.

D devotedly Yours

John Kelley

add to list sent July 24  
 Me and Mrs  
 John Kelley

**NOTE:** Mary Pindell Shelby refers to her "black woman" in this letter. Left an orphan at 7 years of age, I believe that this is Sarah Brown, who stayed with her even after she was freed at the end of the Civil War. Mary Pindell kept her picture hanging, years later, in her home in Tacoma, Washington. The framed sketch of Sarah Brown is in the boxes. Sadly, here she does not address her by name. In 1879 Mary Pindell deeded a lot to Sarah Brown and in 1871 Sarah sold it. Mary Pindell also makes a cute reference to "obeying". **Dating 1880 10/17**

No envelope or Postmark

**To John C. Stallcup**

**From: Mary Pindell Shelby**

Woodside –  
**October 17th (1880)**

It seems quite impossible  
Mr. Stallcup, that only one  
week has passed since you  
were here – instead of a  
balmy evening it is cold  
enough to sit by the fire.  
This has been another profit-  
less evening(crossed out) day – I didn't mean  
evening, but I am writing  
where the girls are. I find it  
hard to discuss the merits  
of a certain Mrs. Harrison, &  
say what I want to you –  
We talk morning, noon & night  
about a certain subject, it really  
is all some of us think about.  
I've been so worried about going  
home – I really don't want to go,  
for many reasons, & still if I  
don't I am afraid I will re-  
gret it, & I mean only for a visit,  
but it takes so much time,  
& I am waiting for a positive

**Page 2**

decision until I hear from you –  
I wrote Aunt Busy, & her  
answer came back, & quite as-  
tonished me, she seems to  
think it a great calamity  
that I am going to Denver to  
live – I felt quite pricked too –  
I know I am more to her than  
any one else is, but she never



acknowledges it, but she had  
cry after cry over me, & when  
she gets my letter saying how  
nearly impossible it is for me  
to come back, she will want to  
cut my acquaintance, so I worry  
no little, but when you know her  
better, you will find it is one  
of my special weaknesses, with  
plenty of others – Aunt Busy  
says you had best dot down  
your present character, for after  
a year or two you will not recognize  
yourself, on account of the spoil-  
ing – I don't know whether you  
will stand such as well as Barton has –

But don't you

**Page 3**

think I am very good to write  
so often, not one word have I  
gotten from you, but I know  
it would be impossible, so  
will forgive you until tomor-  
row – I wanted to ask you if  
you got a ring, to get a plain  
flat one & if you have read  
the book I sent you will know  
you must have one – I hope  
you used the same book at  
church today, & saw my dear  
old Sister Eliza – she has a  
little house of her own now,  
I read a letter from her last  
night. I know I can do a  
great deal for her, sympathy  
is a great deal without her where-  
withal. Do you fear being put  
under a course of training  
for her hospital service –  
Don't be uneasy, I don't mean  
to worry you about anything,  
at least of that sort – I intend-  
ed to preach you another

**Page 4**

sermon, you like them so much –  
but I don't feel I can collect my  
ideas tonight, & it will keep –

The text is one on which I expect to preach very often.

Tuesday I expect to go to town again for the "trousseau" – I get sick of that part of it, but I suppose it must be, & I know you will be ashamed of me without – I will leave this to finish tomorrow night after the mail comes, & take it in town in the morning. The next morning I mean. I mail it in the postal car going West so am sure there is no delay. I wrote Jule (Mrs. Anderson) I was going just to live, & to my dear Auntie Holtzbecker, a very ancient maiden of 80 summers, & have given Aunt Busy leave to tell the others – Who have you told? Mr. Shafroth will know from the number of my letters – I wonder how I am going to say with all my heart, "the

### Page 5

obey" – I haven't obeyed anybody for 18 or 20 years & am afraid it will be very hard – but I don't feel very uneasy – I have an opinion of you, but I am too modest to write it. – it isn't a poor one though – I don't compliment many people –

Are you sorry you are not going to Lexington, to get acquainted with my friends? If you could stay long enough there would be five or six tea parties, & everybody would be my kind, but I am too old for anything but quiet at such a time – some time in the future we can enjoy their good things – The fire is almost out & I must leave the rest of this until I get your letter tomorrow – I shall be disappointed if it doesn't come – don't stop

sending papers – until tomorrow  
good bye – Yours always,

Mary

**Page 6**

Your letter from Denver came this afternoon, but not the one from Lexington yet – have had another letter from Aunt Busy, & answered it, giving your argument about not coming, we being obliged to stay so long & then go to Ohio so I hope she will be satisfied – You see I have for a long time done as every one of them wanted me to, I wonder now how I accomplished it, & they hate to miss the delightful excitement of such an occasion. I am wondering if you think such a church wonder as I would be married out of a church. I wanted you to come down here & go to the little church & then drive to St. Louis, but Aunt Susan wants it at the house, but I don't know – or else to come back & then go on the train to town & wait for the express – but this can be arranged later – Please tell

**Page 7**

me just when you think you can start – you can't possibly reach here before the Monday after the election, & then we could go back Tuesday – starting any sooner, would necessitate traveling Sunday & I'd very greatly rather not. You must count on a large ring, my finger is I expect larger than yours – I have been writing most of the day – until getting married has seemed entirely a business matter, & tonight I

am tired, & have to get up in  
the morning early, go to town  
by 8 ½ o'clock, but I hope  
not to be obliged to go more  
than twice again – I hope all  
your hopes will be realized  
in regard to me – I have  
one other friend who thinks I  
am perfection, my black woman  
– very but I am afraid the

**Page 8**

loaves & fishes have something  
to do with hers – Uncle Sam (Magoffin)  
doesn't think there is any oc-  
casion for being discouraged  
about the election – can you wait  
another four years for a Demo-  
cratic President? Your letter was  
very --- I read it over several  
times, I wish I didn't feel too  
tired out to write you a nicer  
one – but my mind & heart are  
full tonight of the temporati-  
tus & the sanitus – The girls send  
love – will write again how-  
ever – This is the fourth letter  
I have written today – so I am  
afraid it wont be very interest-  
ing – but you must take the  
ill along with the good –

Until I write again I am  
Faithfully yours,  
Mary P. Shelby

I forgot to say address simply  
Manchester, Missouri – your let-  
ters went to Kirkwood – there is  
no office at Barrett's

sermon, you like them as much -  
 but I don't feel I can collect any  
 ideas tonight & it will keep  
 me tight on on which I in-  
 spect to preach (my often - jus -  
 day I expect to go to town again  
 for the "Woman" - I get sick of  
 that part of it, but I suppose  
 it must be, & I know of no other  
 scheme of my interests - I  
 will leave this to finish from  
 night after the mail comes, &  
 when I show from in the morning  
 the next morning I mean I that  
 it in the postal car going, but  
 so am over here is no delay -  
 I wrote Julie (Mrs. Anderson) I  
 was going out to live & to my  
 dear Abner's Holy Secker, a very  
 virginal maiden of 20 summers,  
 I can give Aunt Lucy leave  
 to tell the Mrs. - This show you  
 told? Mr. Shapote will know  
 from the number of my letters  
 I mean how I am going to  
 say with all my heart, the

Monday -

October 17<sup>th</sup>

It seems quite impossible  
 Mr. Hallcup, that only one  
 week has passed since your  
 dear letter - instead of a  
 halcyon evening it is cold  
 enough to sit by a fire -  
 This has been another profit-  
 less evening day - I didn't mean  
 evening, but I am sitting  
 when the girls are I find it  
 hard to discuss the merits  
 of a certain Mrs. Harrison, &  
 say what I want to you -  
 The talk morning now I might  
 about a certain subject, it really  
 is all over of us think about  
 I've been so worried about going  
 home - I really don't want to go,  
 for many reasons, I still if I  
 don't I am afraid I will re-  
 -quit it, I mean only for a week  
 but it takes so much time  
 & I am waiting for a positive

decision with I hear from you  
 I wrote Aunt Bury, & before  
 answer came back, it quilted  
 - finished me, she seems to  
 think it a great calamity  
 that I am going to Denmark to  
 live - I felt quite obliged to  
 I think I am more to her than  
 any one else is, but she never  
 acknowledges it, but she had  
 my letter over me, & when  
 she got to my letter saying how  
 nearly impossible it is for me  
 to come back, she will want to  
 cut my acquaintance, so I am  
 no better, but when you know what  
 better, you will find it is one  
 of my special necessities, not  
 plenty of others - Aunt Bury  
 says you had best not advise  
 upon present character, for after  
 a year, you will not recognize  
 yourself, on account of the spots  
 I am - I don't know whether you  
 will stand such as well as  
 Barton has - But don't you

think I am very good to write  
 so often, not my word than I  
 get from you, but I need  
 it, would be impossible, so  
 will forgive you until tomorrow  
 - now - I wanted to ask you if  
 you got a ring, to get a plain  
 glad one - if you have read  
 the book I sent you will know  
 you must have one - I hope  
 you used the same book at  
 Church today, & saw my dear  
 old sister Olga - She has a  
 little more of her own now.  
 I read a letter from her last  
 night - I know I can do a  
 great deal for her, sympathy  
 is a great deal out of the matter  
 with - Do you plan being put  
 under a course of training  
 for the hospital service.  
 Don't be uneasy, I don't mean  
 to worry you about any thing  
 at least of that sort - I will  
 - - - to please you another

You later from Deane came  
 this afternoon, but not the one  
 from Lexington yet - has had  
 another letter from Aunt Bessy  
 & answered it, giving you aught  
 ment about not coming, the  
 being obliged to stay so long &  
 then go to Ohio. So I hope she will  
 be satisfied - You see I have  
 for a long time done as every one  
 of them wanted me to, I for-  
 get now how I accept looked  
 it, & they hate & miss the deligh-  
 -ful excitement of such occasions  
 I am mourning if you think  
 such a Church broken as I  
 would be married out of a Church  
 I wanted you to come down  
 here & go to the little Church, &  
 then drive to St. Louis, but Aunt  
 Susan wants it at the house,  
 but I don't know - or else to  
 come back & then go on the  
 train to town & wait for the  
 express - but this can be ar-  
 ranged later - Please tell

me just when you think you  
 can start - you can't probably  
 reach here before the Monday  
 after the election, & then we  
 could go back Tuesday - start-  
 ing any earlier, would mean  
 state travelling Sunday, & I'd  
 my graty, rather not - You  
 must count on a large ring  
 my finger is I suspect larger than  
 yours - I have been mending  
 most of the day - must getting  
 married has seemed entirely a  
 business matter, & brought up  
 am tired, & have to get up in  
 the morning early, go to town  
 by 8 1/2 o'clock, but I hope  
 not to be obliged to go more  
 than twice again - I hope all  
 your hopes will be realized  
 in regard to me - I have  
 one then friend who thinks I  
 am perfecting my blackman-  
 -my, but I am afraid the

toans & fishes have something  
to go with lunch - such I am  
don't think there is any oc-  
-casion for being discouraged.  
about the electricity - can you not  
another four years for a Deu-  
-eratic Orsland? Your letter was  
my - I read it over several

times, I wish I didn't feel too  
tired out to write you a more  
-wise but my mind & heart are  
full for the of the temperate  
-time, I'll write again - the girl has  
-me - I will write again - I am  
-I can write today - so I am  
-spend it must be very interest-  
-ing - but you must take the

ill along with the good -  
until I write again I am  
-tritefully yours,  
Mary P. Kirkby -  
I forgot to say, please copy  
-the letter to Kirkwood - your let-  
-ter to Kirkwood - there is  
-no office at Garrett's -

they - I haven't seen any body  
for it or 20 years & am afraid  
it will be very hard - but I don't  
feel my embarrassment - I have an  
-impression of you, but I am too  
-nervous to write it - it isn't a  
-poor one though - I don't compe-  
-ment many people - Am you

sorry you are not going to  
Ludwigtown, to get acquainted  
with my friends? If you could  
-stay long enough - there would  
-be time to see tea parties, but  
-I am too old for any thing but  
-quiet such a time - I am  
-tired in the future - I can enjoy  
-the good things - You must leave the

almost out, & I must leave the  
-rest of this until I get your  
-letter tomorrow - I shall be disap-  
-pointed if it doesn't come - don't stop  
-sending papers - until I receive  
-good bye - Yours always,  
Mary -



Postmarked: Denver Colo Oct 19 (1880)

Forwarded from Kirkwood Oct 21

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Care Mr. Magoffin  
Barrett's P. O. (crossed out) Manchester  
St. Louis County  
(Via Mo. Pacific Ry.) Missouri

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Monday Evening Oct 18th (1880)

My Dear

I rec'd the Prayer Book  
this morning was a little  
disappointed not to get a  
letter but will get one  
tomorrow morning I trust.

I have just been looking  
over the Prayer Book.  
That is a ceremony sure  
but I guess we can get  
through with it provided  
the minister don't break  
down.

Since you were so  
considerate as to tell me  
of your dresses &c I will  
say I am undecided about  
a hat. A high silk hat is  
the real dress hat.

**Page 2**

I never liked them but  
probably I ought to  
wear one on this  
occasion. What do  
you think?

I must have  
about a hundred questions  
more or less – in the letters  
I have sent you. It will  
trouble you to answer  
all I expect. – this is  
the 6th letter and no answers

yet "but I will certainly  
begin to receive answers  
about tomorrow – by in-  
stallments – I have been  
quite busy to day. Mr. Luthe  
will not get back before  
tomorrow night.

**Page 3**

When I was at church  
Sunday I saw Sister  
Eliza. She was glad to  
see me back again to  
church, but I did not  
talk long with her as I  
did not want to tell her  
all. Now avoid any  
suspicions she might  
make of you which  
she would have done  
had I given her time  
I think.

Well my dear  
I fear you cannot  
read this as it is  
too dark for me to see.

Devotedly  
Jno. C. Stallcup



Miss. Mary P. Shelby  
Care Mr. Magoffin

~~Barrett's P.O.~~

Via Mo. Pacific Ry. - 3

St. Louis County  
Missouri

Monday Evening Oct-18<sup>th</sup>

My dear I rec<sup>d</sup> the prayer book  
this morning was a little  
disappointed not to get a  
little but will get one  
tomorrow morning. I trust

I have just been looking  
over the prayer book.

That is a circumony sure  
but I guess we can get  
through with it provided  
the ministers don't break  
down

Since you were so  
considerate I ask to tell me  
of your dresses & I will  
say I am undecided about  
a hat a high silk hat is  
the real dress hat

2

I never liked them but probably I ought to wear one on the occasion what do you think - I must have about a hundred questions more or less - in the letter I have sent you it will trouble you to answer all I expect - this is the 6<sup>th</sup> letter and no answers yet but I will certainly begin to receive answers about tomorrow - by my statements - I have been quite busy today Mr. Luther will not get back before to morrow night

3

When I was at church  
Sunday I saw Sister  
Reigo she was glad to  
see me back again to  
church but I did not  
talk long with her as I  
did not want to tell her  
all nor avoid any  
inquiries she might  
make of you which  
she would have done  
had I given her time  
I think

With my dear  
I fear you cannot  
read this as it is  
too dark for me to see

I wonder  
Yours for O. O. O.

Postmarked: Denver Colo Oct 19 (1880)  
Forwarded from Kirkwood Oct 21

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Care Mr. Magoffin  
Manchester P. O.  
St. Louis Co.  
(Via Mo. Pacific Ry.) Missouri

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Tuesday Evening 19<sup>th</sup> (October 1880)

My Dear

Yours of the 14th is the last  
rec'd but I hope to get one  
tomorrow.

I go to Walsenburg  
for Thursday start out  
tomorrow. Will speak  
twice this week and  
about three times next  
which will close the cam-  
paign so far as I am concerned.

Our Democracy  
are disheartened – but a  
few of us are determined  
to keep the party in as good  
shape as possible and  
make the struggle a gallant  
one at least the Republicans  
are pursuing their advantages  
with energy and effect.

**Page 1B**

If we fail to elect the national  
Democratic ticket it is  
by cause of our leaders in  
whose hands the destiny of  
this campaign happened to  
be during the last two  
years. And the most  
fatal and stupid act of  
all was that of the Democratic  
Court of Indiana regaining  
an October Election there.  
Had this been otherwise as  
it should – our National  
Ticket would be success-

ful without doubt – as it is  
we will hope that from this  
on abler and more sagacious  
men will shape the destinies  
and brighten the fortunes of the  
old party.

**Page 2**

Just think – if I don't get  
a letter from you to-  
morrow I will not get  
to work until Saturday  
for I will not get back  
until then. And  
that would be almost cruel  
treatment, but I will hope  
to get one in the morning.  
Mr. Luthe is not yet re-  
turned – look for him  
tonight.

My friend Shafroth is  
lamenting my departure to matrimony  
as I have informed him in  
confidence – but I think  
he will soon follow – he gets  
a letter every day.

Now my dear, you see I have  
a shocking bad fear and am

**Page 2B**

writing badly indeed.

I hope all your arrangements are  
progressing agreeable to your  
wishes and feelings. If the  
Lexington people don't approve  
just tell them that we like  
to arrange our own affairs our  
own way. And that I am  
a fellow who delights in having  
my own way entirely.

Truly Jno. C. Stallcup

I see I have been addressing  
all my letters to Barrett's P.O.  
instead of Manchester P.O.  
I do hope they have reached  
you. This is the seventh letter.

JnoCS

Friday Evening 18<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> is the last  
rec<sup>d</sup> but I hope to get one  
tomorrow.

I go to Walsenburg  
fr Thursday start out  
tomorrow I will speak  
three this week and  
about three times next  
which will close the cam-  
paign so far as I am concerned

Our Democracy  
is disheartened — but a  
few of us are determined  
to keep the party in as good  
shape as possible and  
make the struggle a gallant  
one, at least, the Republicans  
are pursuing their advantages  
with energy and effect



If we fail to elect the National Democratic Ticket it is because of our leaders in whose hands the destiny of this campaign happened to be. during the last two years. and the most fatal and stupid act of all was that of the Democratic Court of Indiana requiring an October election. There had this been otherwise - as it should - our National Ticket would be successful without doubt - as it is we will hope that from this on able and more successful men will shape the destinies and brighten the fortunes of the old party.



Miss Mary P. Shelby  
 Care Mr. Magoffin  
 Manchester, MO  
 Via, Mr. Pacificy }  
 St. Louis Co.  
 Missouri

Just think - if I don't get  
 a letter from you to  
 morrow I will, I not get  
 a word until Saturday  
 for I will not get back  
 until then, and  
 that would be almost cruel  
 treatment, but I will hope  
 to get one in the morning  
 Mr. Luther is not yet re-  
 turned - look for him  
 to night

My friend Shapoth is  
 lamenting my departure to Matrimony  
 as I have informed him in  
 confidence - but I think  
 he will soon follow - he gets  
 a letter every day.  
 Now my dear! you see I have  
 a shocking bad pen and am

writing badly indeed

I hope all your arrangements are progressing agreeable to your wishes and feelings. If the Lexington people don't approve just tell them that we like to arrange our own affairs our own way and that I am a fellow who delights in having <sup>my</sup> ~~his~~ own way, entirely

My Regards to your Aunt and Uncle and the two young ladies and Barton and my love to you always

Truly Yrs. Wm. C. C. C.

I see I have been addressing all my letters to Barrett's instead of Monclust's P.O. I do hope they have reached you this is the seventh letter  
Wm. C. C. C.

No envelope or Postmark

**To: John C. Stallcup**

**From: Mary Pindell Shelby**

Woodside Mo  
October 19th '80

You can't complain of  
letters my dear friend – this  
is the fifth I've written you, &  
one of them was two volumes –  
Since you have never been  
married before, I will excuse  
you for that list – why in the  
world did you leave out every  
one of your friends in Ohio – Fa-  
ther, Mother & brothers – little  
Frank (Dallas) would like one I am  
sure, & who is that old Dr. you  
talk so much of? & I don't believe  
you will write to your bother  
in Kansas – Then I scarcely  
think it possible so many of  
your friends are bachelors –  
when I am a Mrs. & an invi-  
tation comes to only the Mr. –  
I'll immediately get mouthy, &  
I know how beautifully. The names  
I erased were ones I had on  
my list – Won't you please

**Page 2**

correct it & return –

I wrote you  
last night about the ring – so  
you understand that – I'll try  
& send you some sort of meas-  
ure – About your coming so  
soon I wrote you too – you can  
come if you like of course,  
perhaps some of us would  
be glad to see you, but I am  
afraid it wouldn't be quite  
satisfactory to you. You are  
not so entirely ignorant as  
to suppose we could be mar-  
ried the Friday you get here,

or Saturday or Sunday – I might consent to Monday, but even that is my outmost - & then you'd waste so much time - see how practical I am. Come if you want – One of the days though I will be in town – will go in to meet Aunt Busy & my cousin Miss Harrison, if she comes, but I am afraid she can't – her Mother is old and very delicate, &

**Page 3**

I have been trying all summer to get her to go somewhere with me but I am afraid even this wont bring her, still I've done my best – Pinna says she is coming, & so does Cousin Billy, but I don't believe they both can – it doesn't seem to me it will pay for a short ceremony – Aunt Susan is delighted at the prospect of preparing a lunch to be eaten after – but it seems to me it would be so much pleasanter to have a carriage come out from the city – there is none nearer, & take us to the church, & then drive on to the city – I can't be married anywhere else – the little church we meet together, in that case we will have what Aunt Susan calls an anti-nuptual repast.

Uncle  
would never speak to you  
again if I said funds to him.

**Page 4**

I suggested something of the sort about the lunch, but wont again – You had best see the preacher yourself – he is in New York now, but is delightful, a witty Irishman, & so poor – has a sick wife & ten children – his name is Dunlap –

he has a brother in law in Denver, a  
Mr. Cobb.

I've been in town  
the livelong day, but came home  
tired, perhaps however what I  
found on my arrival rested  
me. I shant say what it was –  
Saw Uncle's old bachelor brother (John)  
& Barton's lawyer cousin, & my  
rest came out – the Dr. (Magof-  
fin) suspected something as  
we staid out here so long – They laugh-  
ed until they could laugh  
no longer – I saw the Dr. in  
the afternoon, & he hadn't stopp-  
ed – the idea I suppose of an  
ancient maiden, who always  
proclaimed so lustily against

**Page 5**

such things, being caught at  
last – I wonder at myself too –  
but it isn't sudden – I'll tell  
you some time all about it –  
I will be delighted to see  
your friends next summer,  
particularly your Mother. I  
scarcely feel as if my Mother  
was a reality – only a remem-  
brance of a poor young thing,  
who died. I've always thought  
of a broken heart, long before  
she was as old as I – Well I  
am going to say good night  
now & finish this tomorrow. You  
see your little bits of letters don't  
count quite as much as mine –  
& as I have very little to write, you  
may be thankful for this –  
one thing soon – it doesn't pay  
not to eat – I tried it for several  
days, but now my appetite has  
returned – it is too long to fast –  
more than two weeks longer even  
now – God knows I trust all  
will be well with us until  
death us do part

Yours.

M. P. S.

**Page 6**

Ludie says I can get this  
started in the morning so  
I'll – send the names  
as soon as you can – it takes  
so long to get an answer –  
If I think of any thing more  
to say I'll write tomorrow again.  
Tell me, will you start Wed-  
nesday? If you do there will  
be no need of futher ar-  
rangements until then – if  
not I'll write definitely as  
soon as you answer this – I've  
given up all idea of going to  
Lexington, couldn't if I want-  
ed to –

My eyes are too sleepy  
& tired to write more –

Always yours  
M. P. Shelby

Don't hesitate to send  
all the names you think  
of – Will just Denver do for  
all those names? I hate to  
send them back, but how can  
I help it?

I suggested something of the  
sort about the lawsuit, but not  
again - You had just seen  
the machine yourself - he is in  
New York now, but I hope  
will be home - he is delightful  
& witty & intelligent & so forth -  
I see I met wife & the child -  
I don't know how long in  
he had a brother in Denver, a  
Mr. Leab - I've been in town  
the long day, but can't come  
today, perhaps tomorrow - What I  
found on my arrival excited  
me - I don't say what it was  
- said Uncle's old school-teacher  
& Gorton's lawyer cousin, & my  
cousin came but - the Dr. (Marty  
- Jim) suspecting something at  
Mr. Stord's, so long - they laugh  
- in until they could laugh  
no longer - I said the Dr. in  
the afternoon, & he hadn't stopp  
- in - the idea I suppose of an  
ancient maiden, who always  
proclaimed so loudly against

Mrs. M. -  
October 19<sup>th</sup> '80 -

You can't conjure of  
letters my dear friend - His  
is the place I've written you, &  
son of them was too voluminous  
- I believe you have never seen  
marriage before, I will excuse  
you for that list - why in the  
world did you leave but, my  
one of your friends in Ohio - the  
- Mr. M. & others - bits  
- Frank would like me I am  
sure & who is that old Dr. you  
talk so much of? & I don't believe  
you will write to your brother  
in Kansas - then I sincerely  
think it possible so many of  
your friends are - including -  
when I am a Mrs. I am con-  
- sistent course to only the pre-  
- I'll unreservedly get matters, &  
I know, <sup>you</sup> beautifully - the names  
I believe Mrs. has had on  
my list - Don't you please



I have been trying all summer  
to get her to go down with  
me, but I am afraid even that  
won't bring her, still she can  
my Aunt Emma says she is  
coming, & so does Cousin Polly  
but I don't believe they better  
can - it doesn't seem to me  
it will pay for a short cruise  
- my Aunt Susan is delegating  
a of the prospect of preparing  
a lunch to be eaten after -  
but it seems to me it would  
be so much pleasant to  
have a carriage come out from  
the city - there is none nearer,  
I take us to the church - I can't be  
him on to the city - I can't be  
married anywhere else - the  
little Church we must together  
in that case we will have  
what Aunt Susan calls an  
anti-imprial report. Uncle  
would never speak to you  
again if I said good-bye to him

correct it & return - I wish you  
last night about the ring - do  
you understand that - All my  
& send you some sort of pleas-  
ure - About your coming to  
Dover I would you too - you can  
come if you like of course,  
perhaps some of us would  
be glad to see you, but I am  
afraid it wouldn't be quite  
satisfactory to you - You are  
not so entirely ignorant as  
to suppose we should be mar-  
ried, the Friday you got here  
on Saturday or Sunday - I might  
consent to come and, but even  
that is very doubtful - I then you'd  
waste so much time - or how  
practical I am - Come if you  
want - One of the days between  
I will be in town - will go in  
to meet Aunt Betsy & my cousin  
Miss Harrison - If she comes  
but I am afraid she can't - her  
position is old & my delicate,

such things, being caught at  
 last - I wonder at myself too -  
 but it isn't sudden - We felt  
 you some time all about it.  
 I will be delighted to see  
 your friends but I remember  
 particularly your Mother - I  
 scarcely felt as if my Mother  
 was a reality - only a presence  
 - source of a poor young thing.  
 Who said, I've slumbered through  
 of a broken heart, long before  
 she was as old as I. I will I  
 am going to say good night  
 and I wish (Miss Brown) you  
 our open little bit of letters don't  
 cost quite as much as mine -  
 & as I have my little to write you  
 may be thankful for that  
 our thing more - it doesn't pay  
 not to eat - I tried it for several  
 days, but now my appetites has  
 returned - it is so long to fact -  
 now than two weeks longer now  
 now - God knows I trust all  
 will be well with us until  
 death us as part - "Gym. M. R. S."

Judie says I can get this  
 started in the morning so  
 I'll finish - And the names  
 as soon as you can - it takes  
 so long to get an answer -  
 If I think of any thing more  
 to say I'll print tomorrow again  
 Tell her will you start the  
 today? If you do there will  
 be no need of further ar-  
 -rangements except them - if  
 not I'll write definitely at  
 once as you advise this - do  
 give up all idea of going to  
 Lexington, contact by Abner  
 - ed H. - My eyes are too stupid  
 to read the little more -

Always yours

Chas. P. Shelby.

Don't hesitate to send  
 all the names you think  
 of - I'll just send as for  
 all that names? I hate to  
 send them back but how can  
 I help it -

John C. Hallcup Esqr  
 Durin.  
 Colorado.



**NOTE:** This letter sadly begins with the second page only and there is no envelope or postmark to date it by. I wonder if the first page was so dear to him that he took it to carry with him??? As she is waiting for "Sunday letter" in this and the next, I am placing date as **October 20, 1880.**

**To: John C. Stallcup**

**From: Mary Pindell Shelby**

**Page 5**

Dr. near New York – She seems very happy, & I am very glad for her – she asked about you, & I thought I would write & tell her, I was going back to Denver to live but I got tired of writing too much, I don't mean to you, but there are so many other people – I am almost sorry I've began – Three weeks from today, & we'll be almost home – I feel as if the mountains and plains would satisfy me always – I wonder if, when I have left my native blue grass forever, I'll ever long for it as I have so many times for the mountains. I don't however quite understand about my affection for Denver – Barton used to say if I ever married you, she would tell you, it was to get to Denver – but I am very much afraid the rule worked the other way – Sister Eliza used too, to say so confidently,

**Page 6**

"I know you'll come back" but she knew nothing about you – It is too dark to write any more now, so I'll keep this until tonight – I have a vague idea I'll get a long Sunday letter from you – Your letter didn't come, but I'll take for granted you are busy, perhaps way out of Denver speaking – Don't neglect one campaign entirely for the other. I haven't lost all hope yet about

your election, don't you, although  
I shall be quite satisfied with  
you as a plain Mr.

I had a very  
sweet letter from Mrs. Anderson –  
she is delighted, & not much sur-  
prised – Mr. Anderson says if it  
was to be as early after the 2nd as  
possible, that you would be here  
bright & early on the 3rd – Said too,  
your right not to be disappointed  
about your election, you had done  
enough work for one year – I won't  
repeat all that was said, but that  
some one had been in his office  
from Alliance, who spoke very highly

**Page 7**

of you and your parents –

I had ano-  
ther letter one which I laughed  
until I was almost sick, from  
a cousin in Kentucky – she want-  
ed me to do some shopping  
for her – four rad rose buds, & four  
pinck ones - & to recommend a  
neet servant, & to tell her whare  
he could be found – so you see  
I have a variety of relations, of  
various attainments, or lack of –

Jule's letter was lovely – she  
wrote on the anniversary of her  
ninth wedding day, in the  
midst of preparations for a  
tea party. She thinks her "dear  
husband" already perfect, &  
has no more ambition for him.  
I don't believe I'll settle down  
just that way – Do you want  
I should? I read something  
about Caesar's wife in an old  
scrap book tonight – I don't do  
a great deal but think & think –  
Don't expect to much of me –  
I only mean to try, but I have

**Page 8**

so many cranks, you may have to pay  
for marrying an ancient maiden.

I thought I had something more  
to say, but I believe not – You ex-  
pect rather too much in the  
letter line – yours are very nice  
as far as they go, but so short  
remember you haven't much  
time to write – I thought over  
I would keep all your notes – the  
ones you sent in Denver – but I  
had gotten distrustful of myself –  
did you know you wrote very nice  
notes? I'll send this in the morning  
hoping it will start tomorrow  
night – so you see I miss fewer  
days than you in writings.

Trusting to get a letter from  
you the next mail I am

Always yours,  
Mary P. Shelby

7

"I know you'll come back" but she kept writing about you - It is too dark to write any more now, so I'll keep this short tonight - I have a vague idea I'd get a long Sunday letter from you - Your letter didn't come, but I'll take for granted you are busy, perhaps may get of Dem. speaking - Don't neglect one campaign entirely for the other - I haven't lost all hope yet about your election, don't you, although I shall be quite satisfied with you as a plain Mr - I had a very short letter from Mrs. Anderson - she is delighted, & not much surprised - Mrs. Anderson says if it was to be as early after the 20 as possible, that you would be here tonight & early on the 25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, you might not to be disappointed about your election, you had some enough vote for one year - I won't repeat all that was said, but that some one had been in his office from Alliance, who spoke very highly

of you & your parents - I had another letter on which I laughed until I was almost sick, from a cousin in Kentucky - She wanted me to do some shoe-making for her - four or five occasions a week - I to recommend a meet servant, & to tell her when she could be found - as you see I have a variety of relations, of various standards, or lack of - Julia's letter was lovely - She wrote on the anniversary of her Nineteenth birthday, in the midst of preparations for a party - She thanks her "dear husband" already present, & has no more ambition for him - I don't believe I'll settle down just that way - Do you want I should? I read something about Caesar's wife in an old scrap book tonight - I don't do a great deal but think I think - Don't expect to much of me - I only mean to try but I have

5

Dr. near New York - She seems  
 my happy! I am very glad  
 for her - She asked about you,  
 & I thought I would write to  
 her, I was going back to Denver  
 to live, but I got tired of writing  
 too much, I don't mean to go,  
 but there are so many things  
 - pl. - I am almost sorry I'm in  
 - you - I've made some - I feel  
 well in almost home - I feel  
 as if the mountains & plain  
 would satisfy me always - I  
 wonder if, when I have left my  
 native blue grass grown, the  
 ever long for it as I have so  
 many times for the mountains  
 I don't know quite under  
 stand about my affection for  
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 if I ever married you, it was to  
 go to Denver - but I am very  
 much afraid the rule would be  
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8

so many cranks, you <sup>may</sup> than to pay  
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 I thought I had something more  
 to say, but believe not - You re-  
 peat rather too much in the  
 letter line - you are my wife  
 as far as they go, but so short -  
 remember her hasn't much  
 sense to write - I thought me  
 I would keep all your notes - the  
 ones you sent in Denver - but I  
 had gotten distracted of myself -  
 did you know you wrote my nice  
 notes? I'll send this in the morning  
 hoping it will start tomorrow  
 night - so you see I miss you  
 days than you in writing  
 I wish to get a letter from  
 you - it's not mail - I am

Always yours,

Mary R. Shelby.



No Postmarked: United States Hotel (envelope & stationary)  
Trinidad, Colorado

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Care Mr. Magoffin  
Manchester P. O.  
St. Louis Co.  
(on the Mo. Pacific Ry.) Missouri

**From: John C. Stallcup**

**Oct. 22, 1880**

My Dear

Pardon this kind of stationary  
for it's the best I can do to get a  
word to you from here before  
the mail goes.

How glad I would  
be to get a word from you.  
I had rec'd nothing when I left  
Denver Wednesday evening. I fear  
my letters by reason of my said di-  
rection did not reach you yet.  
I put the County on, so they  
should reach Barrett's Station  
and then you. But why did you  
write nothing for so long?

I am here over two hundred  
miles from Denver will not get  
to Denver until Sunday morning

**Page 2**

Speak here tonight, had a  
big meeting at Walsenburg yesterday –  
about half of them were Mexican,  
the others Americans. The Mexicans  
can't understand English so  
Cassamero Barilla the leading  
Mexican addressed the  
audience in Spanish and  
I in English both notwith-  
standing the confusion  
to catch our meaning and  
all seemed happy. It is  
the only place that the Indiana  
Election had not depressed

the democratic heart.

The meeting was in the afternoon  
and a great ball in the  
evening. (Mexican fandango)  
which they kept up till morning.  
I went back to bed early as  
I had to start from there  
at 2 in the morning to  
make connection for the place(?)  
It was swell and pleasing – the  
whole demonstration –

**Page 3**

I will be in a world of dubious  
fear until I return to Denver  
and get letters from you.  
If you are sick you ought to  
write me. I can't imagine  
why I had no letter from you  
before I left. I waited the evening  
mail too – of Wednesday  
But my love my all, I will hope  
that I will have letters from you  
when I get to Denver.

Pardon the scribbling  
Yours Jno. C. Stallcup

— Office of —



Geo. N. Wilson, Proprietor.

Trinidad, Col., Oct 22<sup>d</sup> 1880

My Dear

Pardon this kind of stationery for its the best I can do to get a word to you from here before the mail goes.

How glad I would be to get a word from you. I had not nothing when I left Duon Wednesday evening. I fear my letter by reason of my mis direction did not reach you yet I put the County on, so they should reach Barrett, Stolar and then you. But why did you write nothing for so long?

I am here on two hundred miles from Duon, will not get to Duon until Sunday morning

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 big meeting at Walsbury yesterday  
 about half of them were Mexican  
 the other Americans. The Mexicans  
 cant understand English so  
 Cassano Barilla the leading  
 Mexican addressed the  
 audience in Spanish and  
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 strained their comprehension  
 to catch our meaning and  
 all seemed happy. it is  
 the only place that the Indian  
 Nation ~~did~~ had not depressed  
 the democratic heart.  
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 and a quite ball in the  
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 which they kept up till morning.  
 I went to bed early as  
 I had to start from there  
 at 2 in the morning to  
 make connections for this place.  
 It was work and pleasing - the  
 whole demonstration -

— Office of —



Geo. N. Wilson, Proprietor.

Trinidad, Col., ..... 188.....

I will be in a world of dubious  
 free until I return to Denver  
 and get letters from you  
 If you were sick you ought to  
 write me. I can't imagine  
 why I had no letters from you  
 before I left - I waited till evening  
 mail too. of yesterday  
 But my love my all. I will hope  
 that I will have letters from you  
 when I get to Denver  
 And so it is scribbling  
 Yours just as always

UNITED STATES HOTEL,	
GEO. N. WILSON, Propr.	
TRINIDAD,	COLORADO.

Miss. Mary P. Shelby  
 care Mr. McGuffin  
 Manchester P.O.  
 St. Louis County

out the Mo. Pacific Ry. }

Postmarked: Manchester (?) Oct 22

**To: John C. Stallcup**

Denver

Colorado

**From: Mary Pindell Shelby**

Woodside Mo.

**October 22nd (1880)**

Dear Mr. Stallcup,

After waiting two days for what I hoped would be a long Sunday letter, I got two such short ones – one written with a poor pen, & one in the dark – I write all your letters with a first class gold pen, & when I feel most like writing – Don't you feel rebuked? To begin with answering your question about the hat, don't get one, a tall one – you wouldn't be comfortable with it, & for the occasion you only need a nice business suit – I am going to wear a bonnet, & it depends upon the day just what – then you know we are going right home – to "dear Denver", & you don't want anything very nice on the cars, for so long – I know every body will take us for just what we are, & we don't want to

**Page 2**

be too conspicuous –

How do you keep your own counsel, so well, I have written so many letters because I felt I must – am almost sorry I began – Aunt Busy writes as if she were really grieved at my movements, but still I don't think she feels grieved beyond recall. You will find I am the greatest old worrier in the world –

if it isn't one thing, it must  
be another – you see I am  
bound to tell you the very worst  
things about myself – perhaps  
I'll do better after awhile – so  
don't be utterly discouraged –

I don't think I could feel so  
badly, over a Democratic elec-  
tion, but I am disappointed –  
I am sure you would make  
a better Attorney General than  
the other man, don't you? but  
we wont worry over elections –

### Page 3

Didn't you think that marriage  
ceremony something more than  
just terrible, except terribly sol-  
omn – you promise a great deal –  
do you think you can stand  
it all – The minister who I hope  
will be here has just been  
nominated Missionary Bishop  
of Arizona & New Mexico – You  
know of course you are to give  
the minister a fee, just what you  
think I am worth (?) You seem-  
ed to be so fearfully ignorant  
I thought I'd tell you every thing –  
What do you suppose you are  
going to do with such a wife  
as I? I've never in all the course  
of my life made a half dozen  
dresses for myself - & if we should  
get out of a cook, I am afraid  
you would fare badly, but  
“they say” there is come out in  
the Shelby women – Do you realize  
you almost know less of me than  
I of you?

### Page 4

I had a letter from Sister Eliza  
to day, she says she wishes I was  
there – so there will be one soul  
glad to see me, when I get there –  
Have you been to the Windsor yet?  
In the East permanent boarders  
always have the rooms up high –

& I have some things Barton is  
going to send as soon as possible  
so they could be very pretty - so  
we could see the mountains. It  
would do to wait until we get  
back - My arrangements are quite  
satisfactory so far, I've done very  
little myself, & only that because  
I didn't know where to find any  
one to do it for me - I have al-  
most finished that lovely lace.  
I have a carpenter friend in  
Denver I mean to get to make  
me a table for it - I wonder if I  
hadn't better tell Sister Eliza be-  
fore I come - She would enjoy  
thinking about it so much, &  
she could keep it I reckon - If  
the dear old lady thinks she is  
going to boss me as of yore she

**Across the first page**

is mistaken - How I find so much to write you is won-  
der for I don't  
miss a day -  
About that hat  
why don't you try  
out some new  
style felt ones - don't  
get anything you  
don't like, just for  
style - as you have  
even considered it.  
I have great hopes  
that you will get to  
be quite swell after  
awhile -

Always yours,  
Mary P. Shelby





