

I was at Jerome Park Races
when I offered him advice unasked
"I am 21 years."

I do not expect to beat Longfellow
& Barry Bassett, and I will not
run any of my stable till I
want to, and if I ain't a man
I am no monkey or long tail
rat.

Grant is ~~12~~ miles from here at his
cottage on the S Branch Beach -
I don't want to see him and have
no business with him.

I mean business, you are the only
wife I have or ever expect to have
I love you as I do myself, and
would shed my blood for you
if necessary, and am sure to be satis-
fied with whatever you do or have
done in my absence, because I have
confidence in you.

My sincere love to the children.
Your aff. husband
John M. Clay

Eaton town Monmouth Co.

New Jersey

19th June 1872

My dear wife,

Your unkind letter of the
15th inst was received, and surprised
me. I think you hardly do me jus-
-tice when you quote the lines it
does not signify where we are so we
do our level best, without quoting the
lines concluding the sentence, which
if you will take the trouble to refer
to my letter you will find to be "so
we are where we ought to be", and
which fairly interpreted mean that
I am sleeping & eating in a stable
900 miles from my own dear
wife, living so rough that I am
sorely tried to persevere in it, and
certainly, not altogether for myself
for what I have, are you not a partner