

Albany, January 16, 1845

My dear Mother,

You cannot imagine how glad I was to see Mr. Murphy. It seemed like being home again, and then, he brought such a beautiful bouquet, and although it was withered, it was very fragrant, and as I told Lib, "smelt like home". And then, the letter did me so much good, it being such a nice long one. I was happy to learn that you were able to go out to church once more.

Really, Miss Eames is very polite, more so I should judge from what I hear, than when I was home. Mr. Strafford, I conclude has not come down yet as I have not seen him, and I cannot say that I want to. "Always in hopes I would go to Albany." I should judge so. I wonder if she had not rather I should have finished at a certain "Lilac Grove".

My cough is better. The drops did me a great deal of good. My hands are also better. As for my nails, they are in a prosperous situation and the scissors are very convenient. Really, I wish I could send you some good ink, as you have so much trouble in regard to yours. You must have a very pleasant time Christmas with Aunt and the girls. Give my love to them and tell the girls to write me a letter. They can both write in one. I should think you must be lonely. I often wish I could sit down to the table with you. By the by, those cookies were very nice. I should not have minded if you had sent some more. (quite a hint). I was very sorry to hear of the illness of James Wells and family. Give a great deal of love to Harriet and ask her to write me. You ask what I got for a Christmas present. Well, I shall tell you. I was into a jewelers and saw a very handsome gold pencil for \$20 $\frac{3}{4}$ and the "carpet bags" are \$3.00, so I concluded to get it. You know Lib has one, and so have all the young ladies in school, but don't tell Pa for I am afraid he will not like it. You ask which I need more a carpet bag or Bible. Either would very very acceptable. My Bible answers me a very good purpose for the present. A bag would be very useful. As I wanted to send some little present to you for your many to me, I send a very pretty "mournig pin" and a pair of mats so that you will not have so much trouble with lamps starching the piano or table which I had purchased at the fair, also the pencil case which I do not use, and you may need. Mr. Murphy spent the evening with us last evening. It seemed much like home. We talked about New Hartford all the evening. Expect him tonight, and I must get me lessons so as to visit with him. I am afraid I shall not have time to finish this out, but I will say "good bye" now and if I have time later, will finish it.

Your affectionate Daughter, Sarah

Please write very often and give my best love to all friends. Love to Mr. & Mrs. Hurlburt and Jane.