

Albany January 5th 1845
No. 66 North Pearl St.

My dear Parents,

I received your letter on Christmas day, and I can assure you it assisted not a little in making it a "merry Christmas" to me, many thanks for your present Mother, which instead of getting I purchased something less expensive, and which I shall praise a great deal more. Mr. McElroy I presume has not yet returned as I have not seen him, when he does come I wish you would send me my grass cloth, now do not laugh for I am anxious to get it and also my "social choir" and Coldburn's Algebra you sent me Day's which is not the one used here, Colburn's is an old book covered with green cambic. The other day Lib received a large bundle from home, and you cannot imagine how disappointed I was when I found there was nothing in it for me, it being the second one she has received from home, but concluded that you did not know of their sending. Perhaps you would like to know how I spent New Years we received calls, had about 50 calls, there was not as many as usual on account of most of the gentlemen being those that belong to the military and were obliged to go down to Hudson, we spent the day very pleasantly and yet I was often in imagination with you, it being the first New Years ever spent away from home. On Thursday we were invited to tea, to our ministers the Rev Samuel Fisher's, we then met quite a number of young people, on Friday we were invited to Judge Brunson's Mrs. Brunson is a most delightful lady, urged us to come there at any time, and always to feel perfectly at home.

You ask me about my cough. I must say that I think it worse than when I wrote last, mornings I raise a great deal, I have not had a sore throat this winter, all that has troubled me has been a constant irritation in the morning which made me cough, but I think I shall soon get over it. As to my hands, they have been worse than when I came from home, but are better now, and I think I will get well soon.

There has been a great deal of excitement here concerning the anti-reuters but it has grown more quiet lately, there was danger of their coming at one time to rescue the prisoners they have in the jail here. I presume you have heard of the anti-rulers being disguised as Indians, they have been seen on the road between Schenectady and here, lurking on the borders of the woods. But the danger is now considered to be over. Today is snowy and Mr. & Mrs. McD thought I had not better go out to school as I have had a slight attack of something like the rheumatism accompanied by my feet swelling, occasioned I presume by a cold, which I shall get over in a day or two.

I am as much pleased with the school as ever. Mr. Crittendon and Professor Watson called on us New Years, and I can assure you we felt highly honored for Mr. Crittendon called on but very few. We shall soon begin to study in earnest for we are going to take up some new studies, such as Butler's analogy". Geometry and theology, as you see we shall have very little time for play even if we desired it. In a former letter you speak of reading the "my stories of Paris", what do you think Mother? Don't you think of it very much as I said I did before I came from home? By the bye has Lewis Ceave been after it yet? And have you seen any thing of D.P. Ellis, or heard anything of James?

I received a good long letter from James and Mary and Lucinda a week before last. James part was good brotherly advice. I may say that it is the first time, that I ever felt that he took a brother's interest in me, after his part of the letter was finished. Mary wrote a good sisterly letter and James added a postscript saying that he was sorry he had given Molly a text, then Lucin filled out the odds and ends, with the usual fun, knocking over what had been said before. James said his conscience most smote him for coaxing away two of your girls, one for life and the other for winter. I reckon he did not feel me any complications of conscience as regarded Mary, I think they are all in regard to Cinderella, James told me I must be in rediness to go home with them next spring, but I rather think if I get home I shall say there for one while, not that I am home sick for I am not troubled with such a disease but still I often wish I was in good old New Hartford once more. Last week I received from James four of your "horrors" Pa viz "Liberty Heralds" which I perused with a great deal of pleasure, as it was something of a rarity for me to get a hold of "newspapers". I wish you would send me a "New York Express" occasionally for they have nothing but "Loco" Papers here, which I assure you do not suit me very well, and I know of nothing that would me more acceptable than once in a while an "Express" (excepting a letter). You speak Ma of not attending church since I left. I was sorry to hear that you was so indisposed. I think our seat must be quite vacant now as I presume Father does not go. I wonder if I am missed in the gallery if I am not, I miss them, some how I do not feel at home in a Church where I do not sit up gallery, how does the singing go? Or don't you know?

I was very happy to hear that you are enjoying yourselves this winter. I often take a peep into the "sitting room", and I wish I was there. I wish I could have one of those roses & a give are in blossom. Mrs. McDonald has sent up plants into our room to make it seem like home, and we take a great deal of pride in tending to them, and having them nice. Mr. Maffett has been preaching in the city for last two weeks. I had an invitation with Lib to go, but it was from a person we were not very well acquainted with so we did not go. It was a Mr. Wicks, and when we told Mrs. McD she said she was sorry we did not go, for he is a very fine young man. I understand that most everyone's disappointed in Mr. Maffett, he has a great deal of the theatrical in his manners Yesterday they chose a Speaker in the Assembly, viz Horatio Seymour Esq. I received a letter from Mary Dinone two weeks since she said she had received a letter from Amanda in November and Aunt Polly had been sick all the fall, and had never been so low spirited. Mary says "tell aunt Lydia sent me a very urgent invitation to visit her in the spring but I think I shall prefer going home.

In the letter I received from Bloomfield. James says "Cindy flourishes around the house in fine style and anything that is easily upset had better keep clear." Lucin was very anxious to know if "Lib and I coming to Albany, did not make the "Lilac Grove" people stare".

Mrs. McDonald made Lib and I a very pretty "New Years" present, it was a little book of "Lallah Rookh" one of Moore's fictional works, and Lib gave me a sweet piece of music, and Mrs. McDonalds daughters and little son gave us each something, a small token of their friendship.

What has become of Mary Sherrill. I wrote to her some time since, but have not received no answer as yet. But I presume her time is very much occupied, give my best love to her, Mary was always a good friend of mine, how is Ella, when I think of her, it doesn't seem that I could wait until I get home before I see her. Does she ever come up to see you and does she every say anything about Caddy?

How is Uncle and Aunt Williams and the children? Give them a great deal of love to them and tell the girls and Thomas that if I get time I will send them a "letter."

Do you ever see Mary Mc D, if you do give my love to her and Jane too.

I called with Lib and Sarah McD on Emily Weed the other day and she said that Sarah Eames was sick, how is she now? Ma do you recollect Anna Stafford who went to school at Mrs. Eames and I invited with Augusta French to our house, a long time ago, well she called on us the other day, was very pleasant and is as genteel a young lady as I have seen since I came to Albany.

Give my love to Mr. & Mrs. Hurlburt, do tell Mr. Hurlburt I will try and follow his advice which he gave me.

I wrote a long letter on a post sheet to Carrie, and I hope she will answer it soon, for I generally get a good deal of the young peoples news through her.

During the last week and two days of our vacation, we had a very pleasant time on Christmas night and night after all the young ladies here were invited to stand at the tables at the 4th Presbyterian fair, at Stanwix Hall. We accepted and a very pleasant time. Mrs. McDonald said we might consider it quite a complement, she was the President of the sewing society. I think by this time you must be tired so I will only say "good bye" Sarah.

Love to all.

I have just received your package, many many thanks. My cold will get well fast now. The gloves were very acceptable.

I have formed an acquaintance with Miss Kendrick, she attends school, and a very pleasant girl she is.

If you see Harriett Wells, give my best love to her and tell her there is a cousin of hers, a Miss Johnson boarding here.