

explanation. The day Mrs. Brady left
was the one on which I had decided
to stay here if the money was as scarce
as it seemed to be; consequently I was
just as "blue" as poor woman ever was,
and told Priscilla that I thought it
very uncertain whether I got back to you
or not. She seemed sorry but said little
it seems however that it troubled her very
much and she told Eliza in the morn-
ing, so the next Evening she came to
see me and told me that some of
friends must not keep me if I wanted
to go for they would supply that, in the
mean time she insisted upon my
accepting \$10.00 as a Christmas present.
I was quite overcome, but explained to
her that the embarrassment was temporary
resulting from the non-payment of notes
due you, and the expense of my journey
that I felt troubled because I knew that
a long delay would render it useless for
me to go at all. Finally I asked her
to change the present to a loan and
I would be very glad to accept it, or
thus we agreed, although she said she
would rather it was the other way.

Now Good bye darling. We all send love to you, and wish this you could

hasten to an end that
you and poor Howard
could again be with
the poor fellow is
cut off from all
communication with
us, and we know with-
ing about him. Will
Shut-day before yesterday
and took a box for H.
which we hope may
reach him. Will was
very much when he left
and joyful quite am-
ing about him also.
Dear old 'Josephine'
you didn't send
me a Christmas letter
still I am going to
send you fifty kisses
1862
Angels

Yes Sir, I was 'mad'! Who ought to
have had a Christmas letter I'd like
to know? Of course I was the one of
all others. Mary is so set up with her
letter that she affects to call me foolish
and says I ought ^{to} have written
before this to you. Maybe I would
have forgiven you and written on Christ-
mas or the next day but then I couldn't
for the festivities had ~~was~~ me out
entirely, and I just wouldn't do it.
So there now, are you convinced that
you had better not repeat the offense,
and that frequent letters hereafter must
atone for this most grievous one?
I suppose you are laughing at me,
and chuckling because your vanity
suggests that 'little wife' must have
very much if she cares so much! Vanity

of course you are! I don't care! don't
care for anything or anyb. — will
never mind this time, I'll be good
anyhow, and will even tell you how
your children spent the day and
what ^{we} I did for them.

Christmas Eve we got them all to bed
as early as possible, and would have
let them hear St. Nicholas running
up and down stairs ringing his bells
(but St. Nick takes Aunt Mary) took pity on
the poor little Princes (five of whom were
broken out with measles) and went
out there to get up Christmas for them.
So Grandpapa Grandma and I took
the little 'cubs' in hand and got up
a nice little tree, full of candy
crosses, candy images and small toys.
Then Betty had given Bella her large doll
and Frank and Rob had drums.

At midnight we retired and long
before our weary eyes had rested the
children became restless, and were
anxious to visit the parlor; at length

all were dressed and leaving them in
the bedroom, I went to the parlor, collect-
ed the family and rang the bell, when
in came the three, hand in hand.
Bella immediately seated herself in
dignified style on the sofa, and
Rob and Frank came rubbing up
against me very bashfully; this all
passed off soon however, and they
began to pick out presents and
examine the tree; all day long they
enjoyed it and I think when the
rest of the tapers are lighted it will
be almost as good as new.

After breakfast Sallie Corwin brought in
some more toys, and still later Aunt
Lib's children sent in a host of little
things. — I had sent out the little
things I had purchased before leaving
home, and my money being short
had only sent large papers of candy
to Eliza's and Mrs. Brady's.

Now I must tell you of Eliza's kind-
ness: but must prelude it with an

"blues" before sister Brady, I would write to her to relieve her mind, but think it likely she would not receive the letter if I did. — I don't know how long she will stay, but I think she will enjoy herself for both her boys are there, and she is very proud of them; Luther, too, is very kind to her and will show her everything.

So, Emma has a bear! I am anxious now to get home for soldier bears need watching closer than men watch, and our experience in such men has not been very pleasant; neither do I like it that you don't know whether the nuts go roving or not; if you can, you had better remove such things to your own closets. And, have you ever nailed up that box? if not please do it and be sure to let me know the very next letter.

You speak of meeting me at Buffalo

of course if it is right and you can afford it, I shall be delighted, for half the fatigue and unpleasantness would surely be removed. Still I fear the expense will be too great. If you do come, lock up well and leave no chance for harm to be done. Who is the carpenter? and to what regiment does he belong?

Mary and I returned all our calls but three or four, yesterday; Uncle Jo and Aunt Ann took Tea with us in the evening, for it was Mother's birthday, she was 55. By the way she desired me to thank you for the book, and tell you that she and Father had read ^{it partly} and been delighted.

Mary will write soon to you, she declares that I prevented her today by writing myself. Well! if you are sorry that I wrote, why, so am I!

The Colonel's photograph is an excellent likeness, and Rob knew it instantly