

will probably have to borrow if I do, it is
however a bad time to borrow. — Let's thought
Bessie was breaking out to-day, and some
of the others showed signs also.

This letter will probably reach you on Christ-
mas Eve, and have to carry our wishes of
a 'merry Christmas'; Let it be merry I trust
but sober also. — And as for that upper
life, I hope you are not again breaking
the promise you made me; nothing hurts
me more, than to find you careless of your
promises to me. — Oh, may another year
find us united and happy in our own
little home; Father and Mother, and four
bright little faces around them, with other
dear friends dropping in to be glad with
them; and a ^{whole} Nation ^{at} Peace!

I was much amused with the queer Potter
the other day; I asked him for eggs, "no, I
have no eggs" he replied, then suddenly re-
minding me, he held out his hand and said
"Mrs. Bruer! I did not know you; yes'm I have
a few eggs that I can let you have", and he
bustled around at a great rate till all my wants
were supplied, talking bravely all the time about
you and the war; said if he hadn't been ^{retired}
just as he was, he would have gone with you
when you asked him as Commissary.

Now Goodnight, dear, dear Husband, and many
kisses, which I wish I could give myself. Adieu

Monday — The news from Washington is not very cheering this morning, and I fear there are but few
green people that will enjoy this
Ohio news this year, but I hope
the little people may not feel
the dark cloud hanging over
our country. Perhaps this
is a dark cloud, just before
the dawn of day. God grant
it! —
Dear Husband keep
up your spirits, it makes
me sad to see a strong
man and happy. Good
Day with you,
but if you cannot spare
the money to return
back, say so, I shall
not think hardly of it
but think of it as our
1st stern necessities of
these ~~the~~ winter times.
Perhaps you might be better-
off if I were here. I do not suggest
Uncle John has just
handed me a note to enclose with
my letter. From present appearances
it looks as if I should be detained
here longer than I wish, for want of
money, as I cannot feel quite as sa-
tisfied as Uncle writes about money coming
in this week. This worries me not a
little for I wanted to get Frank some
boots, and I believe instead of making
up cotton flannel for him I ought to
make woolen flannel, on account of
his cough. I had got cotton flannel
but luckily have not cut it out so that
I can use it for myself. He is quite
delicate, and has a little hacking cough.
The Dr. says his lungs are sound, but I
thought the flannel would be best for him.

Then I wished to buy all that I need for the "little stranger" as I shall be unwilling to go to the City often or ever this winter, never without you. I am sewing as fast as the children and my own health will allow, but don't suppose I can finish all before I leave, in which case Aunt Mary will have to take what is left.

As for Christmas, I have \$2.00 and don't know whether to spend it or give it to my washwoman. As it goes and I fear you are quite as bare of funds. It seems the taxes ought to have been paid by yesterday, but Uncle says any time this week will do. How other matters stand you will find out from Uncle's note.

It has become so dark that I shall wait till after the little ones are in bed before I write more.

Evening — I have read to the children and all three are asleep. Now if you were only here! — I hope your blue fit has run its course by this time. Mary congratulated herself that she

was not with you to get the benefit of it. She has just completed a group of lillies arranged on a mirror which she wishes to exhibit in Payne's window and sell if possible. Her class at the Seminary is small but she hopes to increase it after the holidays. Says give you her 'bestest' love. — Will leaves for his regiment on Tuesday, and we have been trying to get up a box for Howard, which Will is going to take to Memphis and try to forward from there; I very much fear it will not reach him, but we send it any how to take its chance.

Mrs. Brady does not start till tomorrow night for which I am glad, as it has been sleeting all day, and the walking is dangerous. Did I tell you that Katie broke out with the measles last Thursday? The poor child wanted to go to the Sunday school Christmas party, but they promised her a Tree at Home if she will stay to which the little thing has agreed.

I hope I can contribute to the tree, but