

Dear Sister, Dec 25. 1842

Dear Brother,

Through the kindness of Miss G, we have just had the pleasure of reading a good long letter from Sister Elizabeth & Susan; the latter also a moving pleasant reminiscence of the olden time; that she says I must <sup>(Mr. G.)</sup> write. Well - as she is still "the Captain" at our house, I have no thing to do but obey orders - to her I am, you in hand - not a single word are they - to do her will. But what to write I know not; for she cannot tell much a simple word she willing me to say. Still she wand in - "You must write some thing, if it is only to tell them how we are all - are still in the land of the living! And will this year will naturally infer <sup>you</sup> what of her all ready written, after having added my Epistle and attacks to the paper sent.

We are gratified to learn so many details of family interests; as Susan has so kindly pains; - particularly, that your health & safety are at present so good; tho' we deeply regret, that sister G. does not receive her usual copiousness of demonstrations. It must be indeed a severe trial to her to see thus explained; - but she has <sup>that</sup> spirit of her own resignation; which will not <sup>only</sup> console her, but render her happy, under all her afflictions & sufferings. We know that all is for the best; that the Judge of all the earth will do right; & that his present afflictions, which are but for a moment, will eventually work out for her a far more pleasing & extensive temple of glory. Who can suppose, that happy state of mind, can never be conceived under any trials. We are

my will be affected but I don't see 'I know that  
my Redeemer liveth' &c.

As to ourselves — we are well in the  
good — healthy, but we are getting the rapidly on  
in the dark side of life, & I sometimes fear will  
not bring much better preparation for our final lot,  
which cannot be <sup>my</sup> without <sup>any</sup> of us —  
we were enjoying a tolerable state of health & activity  
for two or three years withing when the 70th &  
75th years. Mrs D. however's activity however is  
far beyond mine. She is really extraordinary for  
one of her years. With a family of 15 to 20, including  
servants, she manages to make everything & keep  
all things, with about as much ease as ever. She  
is much to be congratulated that she has an able Adjutant  
in Miss Reed who is able with us, without whom  
we could hardly get on. We are protesting  
before getting up to get her. But she, like a good  
child as she has always been to us, knows all our  
affairs, & takes a kindly & liberal interest in all  
that concerns us, and faithfully directs us to  
our comfort & happiness. She has become, as necessary  
to Mrs D. as Susan is to her Mother. & on  
these occasions to come home for a stay in  
Nov, — why, she knows every paper in the shop,  
& when we return, we find all correct just  
as we left it. You can see, we, that this must  
be a great relief to "Dorothy"? & the number a  
case on the Christmas & friends having met at  
Mrs King, Mrs Taylor, or Mrs Weston, in the morning  
or afternoon & taking a journey to stay the 9 or 10 in the  
evening, — why, it makes no difference at home,  
and we hardly miss her, she I want to go to do.  
But I am by no means as active as she is. It  
is not so easy for me to get about — especially to  
go out of an evening. I am troubled with a kind

Don't D. understand? But she has given up the way of the poor body, yet it is easy to me & her as she  
see down — for the two years of the way of the poor body, yet it is easy to me & her as she  
in years, and



\* On the 28<sup>th</sup> of Sumner it was shown to 6 steam & 1  
fine steam it has been mild & temperate till last week, when  
on the 23<sup>rd</sup> it was down to zero. —

We have been this day enjoying a fine Christmas  
Dinner of Veal and other "Western Concoctions", and  
forgot to add the "Compliments of the Season." Thus, then,

SC we must reserve for my old Cousin's Parson wife to say of  
3246 the latter part of a long-remembered sermon for another entertainment?

at the same time not more than 1 mile; but the coldest spell ever known here  
in Nov. in from the 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. to the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. — 3 weeks. The average daily tem-  
perature, by Fahrenheit's way, at Sumner 20 degrees, at 2 o'clock P.M. 35. at 5  
31.



W. D.  
Hon. Daniel Chipman,  
Postmaster,  
Ripton Vermont

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Mrs D. has been fortunate enough to have spilled some  
ants — what you call "heap" — for the last year; but it cost  
as "a heap" (that's the Kentucky phrase) of bees. One Negro man  
at 100 Dols. a year, & 4 women at 190 in all — making \$340. in the  
whole, besides clothing, feeding, & Doctor's Bills, and paying tax, on  
them to the City, and to the State. Making a grand total of not less  
than 400 to 450 Dollars a year. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, they are estimated  
at more than 3000 Dollars — say about 3500.