

Jacksonville Ala.
Dec 24th, 1876.

My Dear Husband

The box of Fruits and p'kage containing Ed's suit came to hand yesterday for which we all feel very thankful, as none of us were forgotten in the gifts. Ed expected a pair of shoes, and as he cannot wear his brogans with his new suit I will just let him buy a pair here, however, I will wait a few days for the other package perhaps you may think of them when you go to purchase mine, if not he will get a pair here.

I am very much pleased

with my dress, know Sallie will be with hers' though she has not seen it yet. Walter came home a few days ago quite sick, severe cold high fever and sore throat, he was seriously threatened with pneumonia. I sent for Nisbet, he fixed him up some calomel pills, and today I hear he is much better. We are having very disagreeable weather now, it set in to raining Thursday morning and has been blowing and raining ever since.

I bought a hog in the early part of the week and made me some sausage meat for Christmas eating, it cost me \$12.70cts. I also had the fatted calf killed, it was in splendid order. And is

certainly the nicest veal I ever ate. Sallie and I baked a nice supply of Fruit and other cakes, so we expect to live high during the holidays. Walter & Sallie will be over to eat Christmas dinner with us tomorrow and if you were only here, what a happy time we would have!

I want to enjoy the present as much as possible, for there is no telling what the future has in store for us, much of pleasure I hope, but pain and sorrow is the common lot of us all and must come sooner or later.

Harris was married a few days ago, he will live with Jim Crook next year. I don't know what we will do for a boy

guess there will be opportunities of hiring.

Thieves have commenced their work among us. Mr Crawfords store was broken open last night and about half his goods taken.

No news of interest, and the evening is growing so dark I can't see to write further So good bye my precious husband; May God bless you and preserve your health and life is the earnest and abiding prayer of your ever faithful and loving wife

M.D. Caldwell [Mary D. Caldwell]

JACKSONVILLE
DEC
24
ALA.

U.S. POSTAGE
THREE CENTS

Jno. H. Caldwell, [John H. Caldwell]
House of Representatives,
Washington;
D.C.

Walter [Monroe?]

64 E 54 St