

Jacksonville Ala,
Jan 1st, 1877.

My Dear Husband

A happy New year to you! I awoke this morning and found the whole earth, and trees, and shrubs covered with a mantle of beautiful snow. Not a vestage of old earth could be seen, and as I stood by the window and looked out upon the spotless robe of the New Year I thought of that beautiful passage in Isaiah "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow". And I prayed God to blot out the sins of the old year and

clothe all our hearts in garments of purity, and I made many, many good resolutions for the future. I do hope darling that we as a family may love and serve God more faithfully than we have ever done before.

I set apart to-day to write to my absent loved ones, and as you are first on the list I give you the first letter. I have felt some uneasiness about Aunt Eliza's long silence but Johnnie went to the Post Office this morning and brought me a letter from her, she has been quite sick, is very much exercised about the situation in N.O. - She says the Republicans have taken possession of the State-house with the determination to inaugurate Packard, they have doors and windows barricaded. The police are inside and sleep there at night. Soldiers guard the house

day and night. The Democrats are equally determined to inaugurate Nichols but they are very quiet. She can't understand how southern blood can keep so cool under such aggravating circumstances. I still hope the present difficulties will be adjusted and we will indeed have peace. So much wrangling and contention is a sad commentary upon the virtue, intelligence and morality of the American people.

The snow is now seven or eight inches deep & continues to fall, drifting from the N.W. it is exceedingly cold. Since hearing that you intended to go to N. York I have been very uneasy about you, for I know you haven't on those flannel drawers I have been begging you to get, and I cannot see how you are to stand

the severity of the climate without getting sick. Life is very precious do take care of yourself.

Our new negro, Isam came to begin work this morning, though he can do nothing, but keep up fires and feed stock, while the weather moderates.

Do write me darling: and tell me all about your N. York trip. I hope you haven't a bad cold but I almost know you have.

We are all well, I have been suffering with neuralgia but am taking good care of myself. Hoping this may find you both healthy and happy I am as ever your

devoted wife

Mary

JACKSONVILLE

JAN

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ALA.

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THREE 3 CENTS

Hon' J.H. Caldwell [John H. Caldwell]

Washington

House of Representatives D.C.