

To Mr. A.

Dec 29/92

Dear children,

When I wrote to
you I had not received the
gifts of Conrad & Clara and
Ruth, for which I thank you
very much. I shall now have
plenty of pins, and letters to
wash my clothes and a neat
little calendar so small that
I can keep it in my purse
for reference, besides other things,
so you see I shall be very well
off. I am afraid you sent
us none of your Christmas
weather, though it did not
come in the letters, for we
actually had cold enough
on Monday and Tuesday to

50/02
Make a little thin ice on the
paddles and to give the
two white camellias very
brown edges. We have been
at once that view, and
have fine sunshine again.

I dare say Grandmama has
told you that we have
a pretty square with two oaks
and Magnolias and palm-trees
opposite our window. On Monday
night the boys took presents
of this and made a great
fire with barrels full of shavings
&c. They also fired off a vast
number of Roman candles
and crackers and some rockets.

It seems this is their way
of celebrating Christmas. Before
they were done some boys
came from another square
with Roman candles and
they fired them at each

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other so that the air was
full of stars, and it looked
like a battle. It seems strange
that a day set apart to us
many of Christ's coming should
be celebrated in that way.
I am sure it was not at
all like the angels that came
to the shepherds in Bethlehem;
but it was pleasant to the
boys, and perhaps it is as
well they should have pleasant
thoughts connected with Christmas.
We may learn to think more
seriously of it afterward.

And our dear children,
I wish you all, from big
Doe to little Currence, a
very happy Christmas and
New Year, and many returns
of them to you all as a
happy and united family.
We feel quite by ourselves here.

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Should not say lonely
because there is much
to interest us and we
are always so glad to
hear of all the dear
ones at home and
abroad; and we
often think of you
all and hope that
by and by we may
see you all again.

With all love
believe me your loving
Grandpapa

I wish for you
to be the little
very happy
New Year and every
of them to you all on
happy and sweet
The first part of