



Jan. 5, 1871

Dear Anna,

Happy New Year to you and all the rest. I got a great many presents at Christmas, I got two books, (William is writing a stupid letter I know by the way he goes on,) one Peter Parleys Journal & the other Adventures of an Emigrant, a port.-folio, two pictures, the Childs Friend, a box of wax matches, two boxes of sweets of which I have eaten up one & 1/2.

Mr. Hamilton has got to be quite a farmer he has 9 cows, 2 heifers, 1 calf, which he got on Christmas eve, as a Christmas box from one of his cows. 1 horse & about 20 or more hens. He let me have the horse whenever I like; he has a nice slag for it. The first two times I went out with him, but the other day I went out alone with Eva & Julia Parker who is staying with us; we went all over town I was going out today but the wether is not suitable. Eva & Julia went to school yesterday for the first time but I am not going till monday. Eva's doves layed two eggs a good while ago, the hatched them, they are now quite big & there is all prospects of them growing

up. It is great fun watching them getting feet, when they grow up they are going to be mine.

It is very cold here today & very blowy & disagreeable.

On New Years day I had great fun I took my cutter & facined it on behind the other big sleds the snow was very deep & as I was dragged through it in a grand stile.

I read through a great big book which had 536 closely printed pages in it, in a week, was not that pretty good.

We, (that is to say E. J. & I myself) are asked over to the Bagnes' to tea tonight.

The letter that you wrote to Miss, she read aloud when there were a whole lot of people there on Christmas night, gentlemen & all, & it did not sound at all nice with all the things you had in it, such as, petticoates, darlings, all kinds of things, then she would some thing & then they would all laugh.

Good by, I hope you will write me as nice a letter as I have written to you.

Ever your affectionate brother

or brother,

Jan 1871

Rankin.

Miss Bagnes - Rankin & Co.