

Thursday, Dec. 9, 1869.

Dear George,  
I received your letter  
on Nov. 29.

It has been very cold these last few days, & the sleighing ~~to~~ has returned on account of a snow-storm on Friday(?) last.

There was a parhelion today, at 3 o'clock, but it was a very poor one, consisting of two distinct, coloured, things at the two sides of the sun, & extremely faint halo & inverted rainbow. Please tell me if you see any of these appearances where you are, noting the time, &c., or if you see any very bright auroras or anything of that kind.

(It is ~~extraordin~~ extraordinary mental exercise to think of anything to write about!)

Papa is proposing to make a skating rink somewhere round, which I suppose will be an additional mode of wasting one's time, but then of course you get the exercise.

I suppose the Ecumenical Council is all the talk now.

Mr. Howe had a cold on Monday last, & so (as Mr. Kaler has left, & therefore Mr. Murray had to take his form) we had a holiday. I accordingly went with Greenshields for a <sup>snow-shoe tramp</sup> walk to his <sup>which is</sup> farm, about four miles out toward Sachine. We started at 10½ A.M. & got there at about 1 o'clock. We had our lunch there & at \$3 we drove back to the toll gate on Wellington st. & then walked home.

Believe me your affectionate  
brother,  
William.