

good wishes that a
 may have a very happy
 new year.
 Papa & I am glad to say
 is somewhat better. It
 is glad to hear you
 have good Papa's
 acquaintance. As he
 the former of us
 Christened. I at
 wishes for the Com
 from Papa
 Mamma
 the day to them seemed to be as happy as
 us. Papa & I missed Anna & got
 after we spoke of you & what your
 sorrow days might be. We hope you
 do not feel heavy, & yet we would be
 disappointed if you are to thoroughly content
 as not to think of home as a more desirable
 place. I suppose there is not one who
 speaks of God's word as spiritual things.
 Do not omit keeping up some communion
 with him, for altho' all the world should
 neglect or even despise his word, it should
 not affect us as we must each answer
 for ourselves. Whatever difficulties may
 be laid, the way of salvation is open
 & plain. But we have the enlightening
 influence of the Spirit we need not expect
 to solve the deeper things of God. Papa is

is having a little business for his fossils,
altho a great deal interrupted by arrange-
ments about his giving up the Normal
School. The new Medical School
building, & other plans about the College
property. The Governors are preparing another
appeal to the public. Besides he has a severe
cold. As I am writing in advance of
the time for mailing I hope to be able
to add good news about his health.

To make a little novelty & prolong the
merriment on Christmas morning. After the
children went to bed the eve before I wrapped
up every body's presents in newspapers, making
all the small parcels look as nearly alike in
shape & size as possible, then, with a large
workbox I got for Eliza, a box, large books
&c for a fontetive I built them up in the
centre of the breakfast table pyramidal fashion,
& with one I was told was very brittle, which
I knew from the gasalis, the pile reached the
gasalis - upwards of 40 parcels. In the morning
we breakfasted with them before us. The
table cleared, I took parcel by parcel & asked
them to guess who it was - The successful
guesses got a shilling & the first chance to guess

the next parcel. At ten time, O'Hara & Daphin
Came in & we were each only beginning
to unwrap our treasures. Papa has given
me the large sized Annotated Paragraph
Bible - A Copy I have long desired to have.

Yesterday I had a very fatiguing day.
Mabel & Edwina has been spending two days with
us, & I allowed Rankine to ask two of his brothers
to come yesterday & go home in the eve with Mabel
& Edwina. They came by rail from 7 to 12. & they had only
arrived when Willie Cross came bringing
Lillie, who I have asked to spend a week
with Edwina. It rained so that they could
not go out of doors to get any idea of
the noise & confusion. Lillie is well mannered
dear girl just Edwina's age. W. Cross sends good
wishes to you. Mrs Carpenter has much love
& Mrs Baynes shows her love to you. She told me
she was going to send a Xmas Card to enclose
to you. I think not he dis appointed should
she forget. Kennedy called yesterday. He is going
through exactly the same work you are. There
are 26 in the laboratory at Gal.

Yesterday we received an invitation from Prime
Archard to a Christmas party for January 6. of course
absent

William is unusually cheerful during these holidays. Practising on his accordion - Building forts &c He has been asked to write an essay to read before a religious association among the young men of Mr Taylor's Congregation. He has begun to read about Mr Peck's missionary work. I am not giving him encouragement because I want him to not go out after

Friday

Yesterday received your letter addressed to Anne & I could not refrain from opening it finding none for myself or any one else I read her. Now do pardon me if you think it was very rude. I should not have done it in ordinary circumstances. I immediately after I enclosed it to Anne with a note apologising Papa & thank you for your good wishes expressed through Anne's cards. Can help me to thank you very much for the one sent to her. Sophie was just leaving for home when your letter came Arthur had gone out with her to return on Tuesday. I had a letter from Mrs. Croome by same mail. She presumably writes papa & the rest her next summer. I attend the meetings of the British Ass. at Liverpool. I hope to write her & also Mrs. Stewart soon. If not otherwise I shall enclose a last letter. Do tell me what kind of table talk you hear at Mrs. Swifts. Send a sample. Give her my