

28 Dec<sup>ber</sup> 1852

as soon as Christmas bustle is over my dear Brother  
I hasten to chat with you before I reply to any of my  
numerous correspondents, because I know you will be pleased  
to get a letter undisturbed by hearing from me <sup>some</sup> little domestic  
details as you take interest in me and mine — we had  
I thought a pretty hard shaking in the cars, they were detained  
half an hour; & to make up lost time rattled on at 40 miles  
Give me the nice boat, where you can read and feel so  
much more independant, — my carriage was waiting for me,  
and I was soon in the embrace of my Ellen, and sweet  
little Lucy and Anne seemed delighted to have Grandma  
again, my children were all well and came as soon  
as they could to welcome me, about my Harriette who had  
had a severe turn of Neuralgia and was weak after it,  
I found letters awaiting me from William, John, & Harriet &  
our sister Harriette. — Christmas day came, and my kind  
Henry and his thoughtful wife had asked Mr Pennys family  
to dine there to spare me from all fatigue, I had ordered  
every thing on Friday that we should require, and I had  
leisure to devote to the contemplation of the event I love to com-  
memorate, old and young can "rejoice & be glad" on this blessed  
day, even to the sad & destitute the bereaved & dying, Christmas  
brings a balm, it is indeed "glad tidings" to all who will receive  
it. I had sent comforts and presents to many dependants  
and written notes to Maria Moore, Mrs Lowell (Harriettes daughter)  
poor old Dr Budd at Constableville &c. &c.  
I greatly enjoyed my morning & my prayers ascended for all



my absent relations & friends, I was entirely calm and composed, and my heart full of love and gratitude to that Benefactor who had led me for 50 years, to try me & prove me, and with his chastisements, blended so many mercies.

At five o'clock I sent the carriage for my children two damp & raw, but all was sun shine (from Gas) indoors, 15 children assembled and Eleven Fathers & Mothers - Theresa & her 4 could not come as her eldest shewed some symptoms of whooping cough, and she had Mr & Mrs & Miss Picknell with her. They were to leave in three days and she wanted to keep Christmas with them therefore I had 9 absent <sup>from</sup> my family & 12 children - but with what we had, there was glee & noise enough to almost craze me, I played the piano to amuse them - and that they might remember in after days that at 59 Grandma played for them. Then we had Santa Claus in his car (wound up) & with bells on his feet & fingers & giving his whole body motion, and running briskly round the hall the little ones shouting & pursuing it was quite a pretty sight. This toy I bought 8 years ago, & it never appears but on Christmas night, and this time I escaped the toil of getting a table full of toys, I sent money to each parent & they got what they chose. - at 8 we had a very pretty supper. Oysters plenty but not so good as Ahilas, I never eat any so fine - chicken salad sandwiches. jellies & blancmange. pyramids of Mougat grapes & spun sugar - every kind of cake (but Spanish Buns) four baskets of the most beautiful french mottoes - one basket had wax fruit ~~various~~ - one had beautiful & various flowers, the others were put

up with taste and elegance which none but the French can do, and were too pretty for any thing but to put among the little presents on the centre tables - every one seemed gay & happy & if it should be my last meeting with my dear children, the impression will be agreeable to all those that can remember it.

I have thus my dear brother given you a brief detail of what I thought would please you as you are interested in what interest me, and you can tell little Augustus about his cousins, I hope he had a pretty present, maybe his pappas picture, give my love to him.

Did you thank Rhida for her thoughtful kindness in sending that nice lunch, like a word in season - it did much good I shall not forget my pleasant tee at your house and must set down your wife as one of the best of house keepers to have every thing in such elegant order with such inefficient help.

I do hope she has a good protestant woman by this time & can order, & make her do, so that she may have leisure to read, & go about & see her friends, and not be such a slave. when she has every thing to make life pleasant about her - it would benefit you too dear brother to have Rhida more with you and to know she was not worried.

I saw Sister Matilda yesterday, she was well & expected a visit from her Emily before long the three who are absent were well and her Henry came to spend Christmas with them, she asked many questions about you and sent kind love, Dr Moore had been poorly and kept the house but said he was better, I bade Mrs Picknell good bye - and had a nice visit to Theresa.



I have had but one walk since I returned the weather too  
wet and I miss the exercise, and haven't the good appetite  
I had at my dear sons Mr Wiley, that sweet peaceful  
Rectory with dear Francis's care did wonders for me  
I enjoyed every moment, & cast all my home cares where  
I felt they would be cared for, I love to recall the days  
passed there, and I can soothe any little vexation (which  
arises in the best regulated homes sometimes) by dwelling  
upon the lessons imprinted by the conversation and the  
sermons of my dear Frederick — I hope you go and  
see them sometimes — James C. was here Christmas  
day — but I did not see him — I thought he was to spend  
the Holy days in Philadelphia — Sarah seemed to expect him,  
I have scribbled long letters dear brother and been called away  
many times, but as Rhoda begged me to write & you would  
it you will excuse the manner and feel that I am in  
every deed your attached and affectionate Sister

Anna M. Pierpont

I hope if Judge Kane comes  
to town he will favor me with  
a call