

Dec 21



Mrs. Albion M. Bourque
Erie

No. 227 Wash 6th St. ^{Penn}

Greensboro - N. C.

Dec. 21 - 1878

My darling wife:

11 - P. M. -

I got no sleep tonight and with it Sat. night, the idea occurred to me, to quit work early and go to bed. The trouble is, that I don't get sleepy now, until about 1 or 2 and cannot make up my mind to retire until I am. We are having our first winter weather - a very severe sleep with the prospect of cold weather after it. As I write, the wind is whistling about the house, in a style very suggestive of the climate you are now enjoying - I was down to see Hugh today and found him just preparing to go north to spend the Christmas with his family. I was very curious and greatly concerned the card fate which detours me from a like visit. I was half a mind to get hold of a little money and do likewise. I know it would be a foolish thing, when you need money so much but the temptation was a sore one - By the way, I think I have a chance to get some

money next week, and if I do, will send
you as much as I can at once. I had hoped
to get it in time for a Christmas present for you,
~~but~~ am afraid I shall be too late for that.
I did not get any letter from you today,
as I had hoped - Please write as often as
you can, dear - I don't know but it may
be the mails, that are at fault, for I
suppose the storm winds have blockaded the
roads at the north, very affectually -
I hope I may get one in the morning for
I am so foolish about you when I do not hear
often that I am hardly good for anything, at
such times.

This is going to be a stinging cold
night and I hope your coal fire still holds
out - I expect your hands will be very finely
decorated in the morning - I am question-
ing seriously, whether I shall ruin my
window when I go to bed, but guess my

which will be too strong for the weather. Oh Darling, I do wish I could see you. I am afraid I am getting so demoralized however, that it will be but little comfort to you to have me with you - I do lead such a queer life. I do nothing in the world, but write about this book. Julia Sampson is here and is much devoted to my comfort - but I have not seen her except at breakfast and dinner, but once since she came. It seemed so funny to me, when I thought of it yesterday - I happened to step into the other room and she remarked that she had been here two weeks or more and had not even spoken to me once except at the table - I take no papers and see none. Tomorrow I shall write some letters and then sleep I guess. I don't know what she is doing - Your Christmas festivities will, I don't doubt, be very cheering. I only wish you had one of those nice heavy grey dresses I see are being worn now.

I have got the MS back from Harper and think I shall try and work it over once, on a new plan I have thought out so as to take away the objection which I think lies

so much in now. The Dool's Errand I have done but little with - I may take a rest at it tomorrow, if not too busy. There is something I wanted to write to you last night and could not think of until I went to bed, and now it has crept on me again. I suppose you will get this about Christmas, so, I will wish you a very merry one and as I can send no substantial present will send my love, unless you think that so. All that it has from me. I sent you \$5⁰⁰ the other night - just folded up in a letter and am fully persuaded that you will never get it but because I have so often lectured you for similar carelessness. Please do not let her feel too bad because I have sent her no presents - I really don't know how I have lived during the past two months - If I have had any money I don't know where it came from. Yes, I do - part of it at least - I had some put in my hands to use in some business and a small part of it in my own support - I hope I shall get some before it is needed -

God bless you Darling - Herself and give my ever affectionate love - W. Elliott Duryea