

New York Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>/65

Dear Willie Kirtland

Yours, of the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, was received a few days since. And, as I am at leisure this afternoon, will proceed to answer it.

Charley <sup>Hall</sup> came down from Hallingford on Friday, a week yesterday, stopped a few hours only in New Haven, took dinner with Mr Scranton. He has gone, to-day, to Dr Hurd's, in Williamsburg, to have his teeth filled. I had one extracted, a few days since, and it has given me considerable trouble since. I do not mean the same tooth, but the adjoining one, which were loosened.

We received a letter, from Portland, a short time since. Father was in good health, But Mother, was not well. She has been sick a great deal since we left, and

although she is now improving, it has left her very much enfeebled. Cold weather has come on since then; and I hope may have a salutary effect.

Received a letter from Grandma a day or two back. All were well at <sup>booke</sup> Hallingford. She spoke of having received a letter from you.

Charley is going to commence attending the "30<sup>th</sup> St. Grammar School," the same one to which Walter is going, in the early part of next week.

I have made no business engagements yet. And may not do so until about the 1<sup>st</sup> Feby. If the latter is the case I shall endeavor to improve the time by, reading some useful work, and studying some important study, like English Grammar, or Arithmetic.

Charley and myself went, a few nights ago, to hear and see, some "Negro Minstrels" perform. The Negro character was

delimited very well, and it was quite amusing; but I consider the time, poorly spent; And do not think I shall go again, very soon,

Mary's birthday came on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, and on that day, or rather, evening, she had some cake baked, and some molasses candy, made. I did not engage in the pulling myself. But Lillie, Walter, Mary, and Florrie, all tried it. and after working, about two hours gave it up in despair, without succeeding in making any of it white. They were all tired of it. And Walter vows that he will never try it again.

I have been reading, to Randall, at night; he, being unable to use his eyes after dark. Have just finished a history of "Charles fifth" Emperor of Germany, King of Spain, and the Netherlands. It was very interesting. & The time described being that, in which Luther,

who founded the protestant-Church,  
lived. =

Uncle Frank and all his family  
are about as well as usual.

From your affectionate Cousin  
Alex K Hall

New York Dec 2nd/65

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Received a letter from Grandma<sup>(Cooke)</sup> a day or two back. All were well at Wallingford. She spoke of having received a letter from you.

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