

**Samuel F. Smith to J. Wiley Edmands.**

Newton Center, Massachusetts, 29 January 1864

Autograph manuscript signed, 2 pages.

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Newton Centre Jan<sup>y</sup>. 29, 1864.

Hon. J Wiley Edmands,

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

I am happy to comply with your request by sending you the accompanying words for the [*illegible*]ices. Perhaps their chief merit is the occasion and the circumstances which gave them birth. Such as they are, I am happy to have been the means through them of adding a momentary joy to a festive, or light to a gloomy hour. At the same time I sympathize with yourself and Mrs. E. for the sufferings, and congratulate you on the reception of tidings, of your poor wanderer. When this cloud lifts up a little [2] further, I doubt not light from Heaven will shine on his and on your head. Our country and our government are worth suffering for. May I not say with confidence that I shall find a response, both in your hearts and in his. Blessed are they who have fellowship in this mystery of suffering;—"tolerable," as, I think, old Polycarp once said,—“tolerable, because not eternal.”

Very sincerely yours,

S. F. Smith