

Ebenezer Pearce to Selina Pearce

Palmyra, Missouri, 24 December 1861.

Autograph letter signed, 4 pages.

Eben

Dec. 24, 1861

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Dear Selina

You say "Thanksgiving Day has come and gone" and before you get this, Christmas will have come & gone, how fast the moments flit along; seemingly the years become shorter, the more of them we journey over, how much more earnestly ought we to consider the shortness of this life, as we approach nearer & nearer its end, & how carefully should we gather up each little moment & freight it with its little burden of good, to pass on its way to the treasure houses of Eternity; there to accumulate for us to enjoy forever; my thoughts move swiftly back over the fast flying year to last Christmas & the pleasant happy family gathering around the fireside of Home; and I can but think & fancy all of you, as I trust you will be gathered on the morrow, and I feel assured that I shall be remembered by you all, I wish you & all who will meet with you a happy & merry Christmas, and also a happy New Year, believing that I can spend a happy Christmas even here, among [2] strangers, and the greatest part of the pleasure will be in thinking of Home & dear friends, & in believing that you are exempt from the privations, to which many a family is exposed in this and other States; I shall rejoice with you tho absent, & still hope & wait expecting to meet again; and by this I do not wish to be presumptuous, but to look forward to the time as coming, where we shall all lay down our arms and revisit our loved homes.

I am glad you had a very pleasant time on Thanksgiving day & hope you enjoyed the Turkey & pies; we are faring pretty well since we came here, having the opportunity of getting plenty of Liver and pigs feet to cook with our other meat, without cost, as they would otherwise be thrown away; Spare rib & the back bone of Porkers, are sold at one cent a pound, so you can see we can have quite a variety in the meat line, I went down the H. & St. Joe R.R. on Sunday to see about getting provisions, & came back with them on Monday, it will take a small [3] room

full to feed us for one day, when we all get to-gether, as we have more hopes of doing now than at times past.

Will you please to ask Fred if he can send a small bundle of clothes, & my watch, perhaps un-der the charge of Capt. Fell who I believe has start-ed for home, I don't know what was done with the things I sent back from Camp Dennison but I think I have in Charley's or Edgar's care one or two good shirts, a tolerable vest, and a thick coat (not overcoat) which I would be glad to have sent, together with my watch, & if pos-sible & convenient a small slice of Plum Pud-ding, in the coat pocket again, if Capt. Fell should not come, or should not be able to take charge I would like the things sent by Express to Palmy-ra Mo. if the charges will not exceed \$2.00. My journal (if you can decipher it) will give some account of our travels & the weather here.

There is no boy or man that I knew of in the Company; named Billy Stuart, there is one from near lower Newport by name John Stewart that is [4]as near I came to such a person.

I am very much obliged for your poetry & shall treasure it up to be kept with the rest you have sent me, I am afraid to try to write rhymes any more, for fear you will laugh at me, I will however enclose a song very pop-ular among us, until we had almost worn it out claimed to be written, by Mr. Allen, who has been at one time engaged in our Q.M. Depart-ment, but claimed by many others to have been prepared by Prof. Munson & daughter, perhaps you know the tune, or very likely you can find someone that does, to sing it for you. Our favorites when we want to sing with Vim are "Columbia gem of the ocean" "America" "Star Spangled Banner" and the en-closed, over which we generally make the most noise, I suppose Thirza is spending vaca-tion for a few days at home, tho I am not sure that I have heard certainly whether she went to Salem at all, I will trouble you (I guess not?) to kiss the babies again for their Uncle on Christmas if you are all together, I fancy I see the three little pets on the same carpet creeping around a little, & Will trotting up and down a-mong them, all as happy as kittens & as bright as the dancing sunbeams; well I must close, shall I hang up my stockings? I have got two pr. on, neither of which come much above my ancles. I will try & dream of Santa Claus and home roast beef and plum pudding. *I am invited to eat dinner at the National House in the City to-morrow. I think I will accept, so that I shall not be without some of the bounties that Christmas brings & now with

to
love to all I close, hoping to hear from you soon again & ^ have a description of your Christmas
and New Years.

Your Affection brother,

Eben

Notes:

“Eben, Dec. 24, 1861” seems to have been written by someone other than Pearce.

*This section was written vertically over the text on page four.