

Dec. 27. 1869.

Regina

Stittville



Oliver Johnson,
Office of The Independent,
New York City.

Ms. A. 1. 1 v. 7 p. 109 A


Roxbury, Dec. 27, 1869.

Dear Johnson:

As my article, "Fair Play for Woman in the Medical Profession," was printed in the Supplement to the Independent, (a place I would have chosen,) I only needed twelve copies of the Supplement itself, instead of receiving as many copies of the Independent in addition. Had I not better return these latter to you by mail, as you may possibly be short? If not, then I will distribute them to the best advantage. Please let me know.

I send you \$1.25 to pay for the same, with thanks for all your trouble and attention.

Can you tell me who "A. Plunker" is, who is writing a capital series of satirical sketches in one of the *Troy* papers? He seems to be well posted in regard to anti-slavery matters, and knows how to handle his quill in a very effective manner.

We all of us had a very pleasant Christmas at home, as I trust you all did at Mrs. Savin's. Mr. Villard got up  a tree for the grandchildren and children in the German fashion, and it looks so ornamental that we shall probably let it remain in the parlor until after New Year's day.

It is a little too late to wish you and Mary Ann "a merry Christmas," and a little too early to wish you "a happy new year." But, whether in season or out of season, you will, both, always have my best wishes for your health and happiness.

I am glad to see the announcement that the Rev. Dr. Spear is to follow Professor Taylor Lewis on the question of Bible reading in the schools; not only because he is an able and lucid writer, but because he is essentially in theological agreement with the latter. Prof. Lewis once wrote as ingeniously and iraculantly in reproof of the anti-slavery movement, (unless my mem-

ory is at fault,) but he was on the wrong track then as I believe he is now. It is no argument to say that if the reading of the Bible in the public schools be excluded, then some other readings must be omitted. But it is certainly very absurd to contend that lessons pertaining to absolute morality, (which belongs to no sect, and is monopolized by none,) and to matters of philanthropy and humanity, (which are also cosmopolitan,) cannot be read and inculcated incidentally, and without schism, in the schools, if the Bible be not retained.

Without the Bible in the schools, they are "godless," in the estimation of Prof. Lewis. With the Bible in the schools, they are none the less "godless," in the estimation of the Catholics. But I see God as clearly in arithmetic, algebra, and geography, as I do in any series of theological propositions.

The nation has sustained a great loss in the death of Edwin M. Stanton.

Always yours,

W. L. G.

P.S. Might it not help the sale of Rogers's group, "A Fugitive's Story," if, in the next Independent, the suggestion were made in an editorial item that, doubtless, its presentation would constitute a very acceptable New Year's gift in many a family? The likenesses of Whittier, Beecher, and myself, (as "revised and improved,") can all be safely authenticated; and this is a point of primary consideration to purchasers.