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Roxbury, Dec. 31, 1876.

My Dear Fanny:

Perhaps the enclosed letters for the little ones will add something to their pleasure to-morrow. "A happy new year" to you and Harry, and the realization of my best wishes and your brightest anticipations!

I was considerably relieved to get your postal card last evening, stating that Wendell had reported Mrs. McKim's condition to present more favorable symptoms; yet I am not without great anxiety on her account, as a seeming change for the better is so apt to be attended with a fatal result in the case of pneumonia. Her loss to the family would indeed be a serious one. She deserves to rank among the loveliest and worthiest of her sex—so amiable, so disinterested, so self-sacrificing!

You could not have sent me a more acceptable present for new year's day than the cabinet photographs of the children. Harold's mouth is rather closely shut; but the group is a very satisfactory one, showing slight but steady physical and mental development.

I am happy to state that Mr. Wallcut has not actually been discharged, but transferred to another department in the Custom House, though upon a reduced salary. I have not yet seen him, but this is his evening to take tea here, and I expect his coming as a matter of course, when I shall be able to get all the particulars.

I know you will set an exemplary temperance abstinence in any calls you may make or receive to-morrow.

Your loving Father.