

January 5, 1827

William Goodell to Clarissa Goodell

Written from New York

Letter folded to create envelope. Addressed to Mrs. William Goodell, Providence, R.I.

Remnant of wax seal on reverse

My Dear Clarissa,

Since yours of 22<sup>nd</sup> December I have not heard a word from you. I wrote you by Oliver Pierce which you have no doubt received. Opportunities of sending letters may not offer so frequently during the winter, but we must write as often as we can, and by mail occasionally, if no other means of conveyance can be had.

I hope you have had a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year." I have thought of you often, I assure you.

Monday being New Year's day was a leisure day with me, as the stores were all shut, and altho' a blustering day I followed the custom of the City by calling on several acquaintances, etc. At 9 in the morning, met our Sabbath scholars at the Mariners Church, where according to usage, presents of little books and cakes were distributed. Rev. W. Judson was there. I got introduced to him. Seemed glad to see me. Was quite sociable. Said he was acquainted with Wm. G. and had tried to find us in the City but could not. At ½ past 10 attended a prayer meeting at the Session Room when Dr. Spring made some remarks adapted to the season. After meeting I called on Wm. Talbot. Next on Amherst Wight, Esq. in Franklin Street & spent a few minutes. Mrs. W. quite smart ... considering ... but her form has not improved much in elegance since you & I were introduced to her last spring!

Unpleasant as the weather was, the city seemed all alive. Sleigh bells jingling. Side walks thronged. All busy making or receiving calls. Sideboards everywhere set out with cakes & wine and fruit.

My next call was on W.L. Holbrook. Mrs. H. has a young child ... & is comfortable. Did not see her. W.H. had heard from Emmons Johnson about 4 weeks since. Was preaching somewhere at the west where there was a revival. His health somewhat improving. Made a call at Uncle Guernsey's just in good time to get a dinner, for you know I don't love to miss of that. Called next on Rev. W. Cox... found him as prompt and communicative and eccentric as ever. Says he can't think nor write nor preach in the connected systematic manner that Dr. Emmons & some others do. He must go on in his own way or he can't go at all. 'Twould be as idle for him to attempt to chain his mind down to logical accuracy as it would to chain the wind. I did not (could not) dispute him.

Called next on Dr. Spring at his new situation in Bond Street. His tenement is one of a noble range of new buildings. Spacious & elegant apartments. 2 large square rooms connected with folding doors which were thrown open for the reception of New Year's guests, of which he had

no doubt had a great many. He received me very politely, but as it was getting late in the day I staid but a few minutes. A few steps from there, just re-entering Broadway, the name of "L. Willcocks" on the brass knocker met my eye. 'Twas the residence of my late employer & a princely mansion, too. Thot I would take a peep inside, so bolted up the marble steps, rang the bell & was ushered into a splendid apartment where sat "My Lord Mogul" sure enough, surrounded by some half a dozen of blooming maidens. I might have fancied him a Barkshaw with seven wives ... but he introduced them as his daughters. Told me he had sold all his estates at the corner of Water & Broad Sts for \$70,000. (He tried hard, when I was with him, to sell them for 60,000. Believe he would have taken 55,000, but I advised him to hold on.) So, after chatting a few minutes and (of course) taking a little cake and wine, I began to think of getting homeward. Intended to call at Uncle Cutler's but had not time. In the evening called on Wm. Corwin. All well there. Mr. & Mrs. Drake have an heir. Called also in Wm. Goddard. W. Goddard intends taking another tenement in the spring and taking a few boarders. Would particularly like to accommodate Mr. & Mrs. Goodell and daughter at a reasonable rate, should they in the city.

Wherever I called I met with others on the same errand. 'Tis a custom of city and if well used a good one. People on New Year's day can conveniently renew old acquaintances and make calls where it is pleasant to do so but where the transient nature of the acquaintanceship would make it intrusive to call on any other day. No man is surprised, on New Years day, to see any one at his house whom he had ever seen before.

So you have all the particulars and hope for as many in return. I thought of sending Maria some little present for New Years, but the dear little creature could not understand who it came from. Kiss the sweet child for me. My love to all the family. Hope to hear from you soon. Let me know, if convenient, how your money matters are. I do not want you to be in debt. I can send you more money whenever you want.

Your most affectionate  
William Goodell