

Allegheny City Jan^y 1. 1856

Coz Margaret

Next to confessing our sins is the important and absolutely necessary duty of forsaking them. your esteemed favor of Thursday 20th Decr only came to hand yesterday so that I presume it was not mailed at its date. It like so many of it predecessors begins with confession for sin. now I say to you "let not sin have dominion over you" permit not any thing to place you again in so humiliating a position. To me do your duty resolutely and as I think I have before said regularly. I have never been exacting as to the length of your letters, but I much desire frequently to be assured that you and yours are in health and prosperity. when I last wrote I did not know certainly your address and directed to the care of your brother and then to what I supposed was your residence and the outside of my letter was certainly a curiosity. fearing from your long silence that you did not receive it I intended last summer to have addressed you at White Plains but was prevented until I found it was too late and since I have every day been hoping to receive a line at length it came just as I was about writing at a venture and now I suppose you reside at No 6 Second Street

and so it appears that my birth day has another importance attached to it by bringing another Sands into the circle. may she be all you desire, and Alfred hoped. I love her from your description, and Alfred is a character I always wished to be if I had been blessed with a sister. Since the cold weather I have been much housed partly on account of real illness but more as a prevention. The cold clear weather affects my throat very severely and when exposed I suffer the penalty of a severe cough. Kiss Emma. Alfred & Frank for every good little girl & boy. Uncle & Aunt Sands. and tell them we have two sweet girls and one darling boy that we call Sands. that although he is not yet 3 years old would argue logically that his uncle was the dearest man in the world and that he would be a good boy if you would let him sleep in Uncle's bed. I have not any ~~marked~~ event to relate other than the constant amazing mercies of our Heavenly Father to us and ours, unworthy as we are. "New time new favors and new joys".

"Do a new song require"

"Till we shall praise Thee as we should".

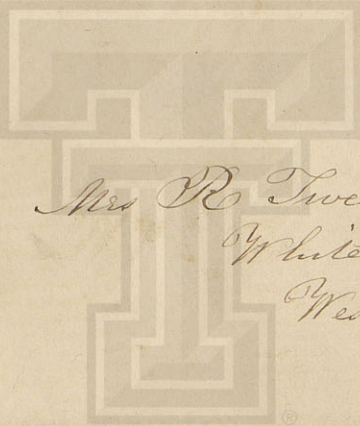
"Accept our faint desire".

Our most common blessings are our most necessary blessings and should be so esteemed. May we praise Him now

my dear wife says well now Cousin Margaret might come and pay us a visit when she has a sister to keep house in her absence & you can now arrive the next day after leaving N.Y. Could you drop in just now you would find me seated before a fine coal fire with a book on my knee which I hold with the left hand. while with the right hand I am tracing with thick ink these lines. my wife is busy with her needle at a little distance from me finishing a dress for herself, the children have slept out for a little time to see the New Year out of doors the ground is covered with snow and the merry bells tell us that many are enjoying their sleigh rides. but we are both beginning to have gray hair. and it befits us to be kept at home from whence we salute you and yours, and all our dear relations with a Happy New Year. and if you in future do not forget, I shall still be your Cousin John

Although this is dated Allegheny City. Still direct me at Pittsburgh as I get my letters through that office

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above matter. I have the pleasure to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours, very truly,
 J. H. [Signature]



Mrs P. Tweed Jr
White Plains
Westchester Co.