

 I have sent the chain in a
box by this same mail
don't show it to any one
until Christmas —
you should get the box by same
mail — ~~get it~~

Sunday Dec 17th 1876.

Dear Walter

Your letter dated
last Sunday, duly reached me
by last night's mail. I am
very sorry to learn as yet you
have not had any definite
or in fact any answer
from Uncle — but trust be-
fore this reaches you that
you will be in possession
of some settled arrangements.
My letter of course has
reached you telling you of
my continuance with Mr
Pulver at least for the
present at a very much
reduced salary. I thought
it much better than to

I am so very much out of
the way. & don't you ^{think}
me discouraged. what folly
would that be, in a young
healthy man of my age -
I have often felt it very
much, that I was not in
some position to render
you assistance - I don't
ever think of myself
for I know I have got
to support myself, and
that's the "Long & Short of
it", I am glad to learn
that Ella gets along so
nicely. That was a cheap
mess of crabs & clams you
had for 65¢ I really
should have enjoyed
a bite. - Shaw Mf. City is
the only place to live

in, take as you may - ^{And}
If ever a favorable ^{chance}
offers itself - I'll get ^{back}
there, and as I commenced
life there - End it there.
It seems very strange about
my overcoat. I am really
positive it was left at
Home by me - but I will
await your letter in
reference to it -
But if it's gone, why ^{that's}
the last of it. I am
getting all out of business
clothes, the one that is
the suit I mean now, is
a little shabby, but my
business, is a dirty one
and no one remarks the
appearance of the suit -
I have got a good, dark

suit out here - wear it
Sundays, and also at
Home some good dark Coat
tweed, heavy, but that class
of clothes don't do for my
position, but if they are
going the way of the over-
coat it would be economy
to wear them out.

Open the box containing the
42 doz Labins Exacts -
One for you - one for
Ann, Anna, & Ella ^{one each} - you
can take your choice
I use your own judgment
about what the rest
will want. Don't say
anything about it, but
to be given or put on
them Exfst plates, or as ^{you}

As you see if I could have
averaged \$20 - over and
above every month - I must
have been over \$100 ahead
in the Spring - but as it
is now my \$29⁰⁰ will have
to be laid away for
necessary repairing to
clothing boots to my present
monthly stipend hardly
paying necessary running
expenses - but something
else may turn up before
Spring and if business
gets better, why I may
do better with it. I mean it
is true I am improving
my time from the fact
that I am becoming more
conversant with the business
the more of which I learn



from this stand-point, and
the way it is conducted
in this Country, the less
chances I see in it - what
prospects are ahead out
this way in the Spring
I can't at present see
I feel often as if I would
much prefer being back
East somewhere - and if
I can at any time ^{make}
any arrangements about
being connected with ~~any~~
Eastern House I shall
decidedly do it - There
is most decidedly not
any chances right here
In my opinion Lower has
seen its best days - It is

If it should so happen that
the Sabius is not full - make
it out so as the four named
~~shall~~ ^{each} get a ~~parcel~~ ^{parcel}
may see fit as to time, on
Christmas Day - that will
leave 2 Sabius & 2 Al Rousos
for ^{me} some other time and
emergency - I have a Ham
chair, made by a Mexican
and which I bought on
my last trip, which if I
do not enclose in this
letter I may write a
little note and send it
to - morrow, or next day - no
but I won't have time I
must send it along by
this mail, the chair
will be for "Anna", that
to be kept back as a
Xmas present also - And
that's the limit of my
stores ^{and} ^{Frank}
now I'll have to treat ^{them}

both alike - they will have
to stand it - that no one
including myself, can
find any fault - ~~will~~^{will} all
be in the same boat -
us men folks. This letter
must carry to you all, to
be in time, my wishes
for a "Merry Christmas" and
"Happy New Year" and may
we all be together in an
appointed year "Roll Round"
Take good care of yourself,
and keep a stiff upper lip -
and push ahead! - my
same wishes to Joe & Aunt
Mary's family. Snowing hard
to-day - Health good -
with warmest love
Your son Alfred