New York 19 Jan. 1862

My dear bro. John,

Yesterday we had a most fearful account in the paper of the loss of more than 2,000 lives by the burning of a church in Santiago. It was caused by an accident in illimiting the church during a festival in honor of St. Mary. The result may prove a benefit, in releasing the people from the oppressive rule of the priests.

I have been writing Samuel this morning. We are waiting with some impatience to hear again from him, that we may know whether we have a niece or nephew.

Letter from Julia yesterday. All well there. I left home early in December to accom.
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Yesterday we had a most fearful account in the paper of the loss of more than 2000 lives by the burning of a church in Santiago. It was caused by an accident in illuminating the church, during a festival in honor of “Mary”. The result may prove a benefit, in releasing the people somewhat from the oppressive rule of the priests.

I have been writing Samuel this morning. We are waiting with some impatience to hear again from him, that we may know whether we have a niece or nephew.

Letter from Julia yesterday. All well there. I left home early in December – to accom-
Jeanie, a little girl whom sister Lucy has in charge, and who had been passing the summer on the hills, to New York. I have been passing the time here very pleasantly and hope somewhat profitably. Soon I expect to return, for I feel Julia must be lonely without me. On my way home I may pass a day or two with cog. Lucie da - if she is living. Now she is very ill. The Dr. thinks consumption is added to her other disease.

Andrew is much occupied just now with his annual report. Sister busy with school affairs. Brothers at west were both well & their families, when we last heard from them. We are much disappointed in not seeing others here this winter. Business is pressing his leaving. He sent a Christmas present to No. 1 of turkeys, geese, chickens, prairie fowl, guineas, etc. If opportunity offered, he wished come sent to Green Hills to bo Williams.

What a generous hearted fellow he is. Mr. Turner is kind. I wish they were not so much immersed in business that we might see them oftener. Last autumn Martin sent us a bro. W. D. of earned preacher, raised on his place in St. Joseph Mich. Not long since we had a letter from Cay. O. Phimplot. Cay. Augusta better. She had been very ill; not expected to live. Aunt L. was pretty well.

On Wednesday Dr. D. Williams will deliver a discourse appropriate to leaving their place of worship. The church and much of the property in the vicinity has been sold to Stewart. They have not yet decided upon any hall in which to meet till another church can be erected. Andrew had one or two photographs taken of the interior of the building for Dr. W. & himself. In one of the pictures there is a group. Dr. W. Mrs. Dr. colded son, one of the doctors cons & wife. Bro. A. sister in myself. Jellie, not very well taken owing to faint light.

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Andrew is much occupied just now with his annual report. Sisters busy with school affairs. Brothers at west were both well & their families, when we last heard from them. We are much disappointed in not seeing Oliver here this winter – Business prevents his leaving – He sent a Christmas present to No. 1 of turkeys, geese, chickens, prairie fowls, quails etc. If opportunity offered he wished some sent to Green Hill & to bro[ther] William. What a generous hearted fellow he is. Martin too is kind. I wish they were not so much immersed in business so that we might see them oftener. Last autumn Martin sent us a bro. W. 2 dog. of canned peaches, raised on his place in St. Joseph’s Mich. not long since we had a letter from Esq. O. Plimpton – Co[u]s[in]. Augusta better – She had been very ill; not expected to live. Aunt L. was pretty well.

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We have from time to time pleasant letters from Willie, who is with his regiment in New Orleans. There does not seem much prospect of a speedy close of the war. Some are very hopeful and some are despairing.

It is a comfort to know that the Lord reigns and that all things shall work for good to those who love Him. P's birthday will occur the last day of this month. I hope to be at home to keep it with him.

Sister Sullivan will come in a few days after Bro. And has purchased for her a nice travelling trunk. This is to be a surprise to her. She knows nothing of it. Bro. A. gave me a nice cloak for New Years present. I could not begin to title what others gave. For they are all the time giving something. I think no one was ever so blessed as I, in kind sister and brother.

Jan 26. Just space enough to say that I love you my dear brother. I hope soon to hear from you. Goodbye from L.H.
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Transcribed by Emily S. Dunster