

Friday Evening

My dear Mrs. all. I wish I
were indebted for such a
lovely Xmas box as you sent
us; I want to thank you.
Every thing was appreciated.
I must tell you the most
disagreeable thing. I had
given Charles & Frottie
each a cake doll, & a couple
of cakes, & had left the
others in a box in my
room, but had not said
any thing about them. I
had to be out of the room
a great deal during the day
& the children & their Papa
were in it a great deal,
well! at night when I
chanced to look in the box
there were only about half a
dozen cakes at all, & these

the round ginger ones. I
said to Geo. "Why! where are
all the cakes out of this
box?" "Why," he said "The
children have been eating
them all day long". "Strange
how the children had not
even had a smell of them.
Wasn't it disgraceful? But
C. & M. were perfectly in-
nocent about it.

What a lot of work you all
did for us all. If it was
as great a pleasure to you to
prepare the box for O'ford
as it was to me, the one for
Clifton. I know that you feel
fully repaid before you were
thanked. Evaluate them only
were just lovely. Much Geo. was
delighted with his, for you know
he always has one in each
vest. I think the group is
really very good, but a pity
that it is finished in that man-

forming brown, isn't it? I
want one of Seldue alone
I have no picture of him but
the one in the group. His
one is so good. I am so
glad he had it taken.

Worth, Dr. Mother H. Ein
send you a picture of
Mary Wheeler, the head the
spoke of honey taken from
the one taken with her little
nest & dramas on. Please
answer. We all think
Mary & Ellen are my clever
to make such lovely pen &
ink sketches. Uncle Geo.
is just delighted with his,
so am I. I am going to
carefully lay it away till we
get into our new house.
The children were delighted
with the dolls, the Broom, the
Ladies. that dainty work from
"Haw Swan", & in fact we

really just had a Christmas
one again. Thanks for the
Japanese ink markers. Clara
& I had a great time to de-
cide which to select. Christmas
my recipients to have me take
the one with the yellow string
& I saw Clara likes that best
so we chose hands one row
again & finally it came out
that I was to have the yellow
one, then I decided with the
consent of C. to let Clarence
it to match her room, & she
said she'd hang it some where
so she could enjoy it.

I think my ink marker from
Wrentham is fine, & I shall use
it all the time. Wrentham you
know that my really gift to
you for Xmas was having big
Ellen mended. We still
have the tree in dining room
& have it lighted for a few
moments, nearly every night.

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Both children have had colds
& Charles a bad cough. Cha's
is very much interested at school
& gets along remarkably well.
Today has been one day to
be remembered. I have spent it
in the delights of studying.

Bah — — — — — !!

Chas. Joe & I went to the early
meeting New Year morning.
Gr. remains at home with
the children, Anne was away
& I thought — my work — that
by the time I got home, I'd
find Gr. & the children
all in a state of anxiety
about having breakfast, but
though it was not far from
seven o'clock when I peeped my
head in Mother's room, they
were all still asleep. Joe
didn't pretend to have a
grand New Year dinner. as
we had no help. Joe took a

party of young people to Hope in
a sleigh ride. ^{afternoon} Mr. Au dildan
& I had a ride with the
Piquet. & should quite have
enjoyed it only that the seat
kpt slipping back, & we had
to get up out to push it forward
again - ^{after each little hill we ascended.} - no easy matter as
Miss Trotter slept most of
the time.

Anna is still away. I can't
say that I enjoy, really fully
enjoy the luxury of being
without help. Especially when
as happens from time to time
there are such stark of milk
cans, & pails & pans to be washed.
I am writing on my lap, and
my pen is fearful, & the holder
a very slippery one, but please
try for my sake to make over
this fearful scrawl.

Jan. is here, with its Elegant
sleighing, & clear weather, & delightful
bills. I hope you have some of the
little up at C.S. Lots of fun & thanks
to all. Continue