

I did not observe until after I closed  
this letter that I had unnecessarily  
used two sheets of Paper. Please overlook  
it. It is the first mistake of the kind  
I ever made.

27 Dec 1863

Cincinnati Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Cousin

Yours of "Christmas 1863" reached  
me last evening. I feel greatly at a loss how to  
write you, still more to express the pleasure I de-  
rived from the reading of your letter. You very  
appropriately head your letter Christmas 1863. What  
pleasing recollections a reference to that day brings  
to mind. It particularly brings most vividly to my  
mind the many, very many, delightful days which I  
have spent at your house. When reading your beautif-  
ul allusion to some of those days, I imagined myself  
there, and a dear little cousin, now sitting by my side,  
then tripping about, endeavoring to make all around her  
happy, as happy as she seemed herself, next trying to  
clear some unfortunate creature's face with snow,  
or brighten the color thereof by an application of soot,  
and again I would find her by my side, the very place  
I wished to have her. So as to have the full benefit of  
those sly glances and pleasing smiles, which uncon-  
sciously, to her, interested me. As was the case