

Revere, Dec. 24th, 1888

My dear sisters: -

I can but - recur to the thought every now and then of your disappointment at not - seeing us all last Saturday; but I am convinced we decided for the best in remaining here. The baby without being actually ill is not yet very robust and these sudden changes are trying for him even here. The truth is I fear that he has not been very well nourished since we commenced travelling, so he has not thrown off his cold as he might - otherwise have done. I am so hoping that ^{you} Martha will come out tomorrow, for if ~~you~~ does not I fear you can not see Sumner before we go to Amherst.

I have thought - that without a word of explanation, my brothers and sister might think I am forgetting the usual Christmas remembrances. It is not the case, however; while not, of course feeling bound, so large is our family, to go all round with substantial presents, we have yet many little things in our boxes which are coming from over the water which we have thought - would perhaps be more

appreciated than things bought here.

You must consider your Christmas ^{from us} presents as belated. The rein-deer have not been able to cross the "little pond" yet, probably because it has not frozen over.

Meanwhile accept our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and our warmest love

Wm P. Brewster

P.S. I shall probably be down the latter part of the week: but shall have to go to Amherst a week from to-day, so shall be very busy.