



Mrs Alice Lord

Warehouse Point

Conn

Dec 31-18-72

West Springfield Mass

Dear Alice

I now sit down to answer your welcome letter which I received this Afternoon and was very glad to hear from you I hope that when you get this letter that your cough will be better also was glad to hear that Mother was getting some better I hope that ere you get this she will be considerable better Myself and the little ones are all well In regard to keeping house I would say that I get along nicely all I have to do is to give them enought to eat and they are all right

they are real good. Boys all of them
I ought to be thankful to
the Lord that I have such
A good Family of children
Bozal gets up in my lap
and says where is Mamma
I tell him Mamma gone
way of down to Grandpa
then he will say Mamma
gone ^{way} way ^{way} of then he will
put his arms about my neck
and love me then he will
take hold of my nose say
padding paper now make big
eyes now see what big mouth.
• Merrin & Pimey got A present
on the Christmas tree down
to I had have cry was A watch
and chain & Pimey was A paper
doll in A large envelope it
has A cap and two or three dresses
cry feels pretty crank over his
watch he says he is agoing to

wear it to meeting next
Sunday in regard to
Mother going down to Mandan
I presume she would like
to have her come down not
only one Day but A good
money more if she would
do the work you know
what I mean you know that
I am mean enough but enough
of that to Night is the last
of the Old Year 1872 To Morrow
will be the first of the New Year
1873 I have been thinking while
sitting here all alone if I
was ever alone A night before
New Year in all my life before
I believe I never was since I
can remember I have been
A thinking back through my
past lifetime I can see I can
see way back when I was
A little Boy and used to go

to school I used to play
marbles & slide down
hill & skate &c &c &c I can
see some of my past life
has been A blank to me
but it may be all for the
best in the end the Lord
only knows you know that
God works in A misterious
way sometimes his Wonders
to perform I have just looked
to see what time it is and
it wants ten Minutes to Twelve
allmost the New Year is up on
me so I must bid you A
Happy New Year and Good Night
Get Kiss and something better
if I could may the Lord be with
you and with us all is the
Prayer of your Ever Loving
Husband

J. Russell
Ford

The Departed Year

Midnight! the Year is fled
turn back thine eye

along thy path of life and mark
the way o'er which thy soul with
many A tear and sigh hath
reached the dying Year's departing
day, hopes blighted love estranged
and friends grown cold the gorgeous
dreams of youth in darkness lost—
these are the wrecks our saddened eyes behold
on life's dark sea all wild and tempest tossed
or if thy way were deck'd with tree and
flower and calm blue skies were brightly
o'er thee spread were well that solemn thought
at this lone hour should whisper know thy
happiest Year is fled

Hark on the breeze the
lingering echoes swell thy voice is hush'd
thou dying Year Farewell #

N. B. in regard to sending you
some Money I would
say I would send you some
in a Minute if I had any
the Milk folks have not payed
me any and I hate to ask
them fore it I guess you can
carry enough of matter to get
home with of some of them

E. P. R. Lord
Alice Lord