

Thursday January 1st 1863 - "War Dept Wash DC"
The clock has barely struck 12. another year commenced
& with it perhaps a new era in the history of the
Country. Certainly a new era for liberty but
what will be changed? Mysterious future! a blessing
to all hides from our view the end. Our destiny
(if there is any) will show hope till then will strengthen
us. Now I open another sheet. I commenced
the year in the War Dept may I end it in a peaceful
home or peaceful circle of friends discussing the
past. The day is clear & cold. Took breakfast Mrs
Leasons about 8 Am. At 11 went out. Considerable business
on Street not half as much as Christmas, the great
feature was the Troops reviewed. Officers of Army under Gen
Halleck met at War Dept Navy officers at Navy Dept
Army officers dressed up considerably some Capt & Lieut
having Epuletts & Coated hats while Maj Genl had
plain Shoulder Strap. But Navy officers who are more
intelligent & finer looking body invariably displayed
full gold Braf. Coated hats epuletts swords & fine
Uniforms. Both Navy & Army officers passed Enclomment
to White House, while a considerable crowd was outside
the gates. At the moment of these officers going into
White House the Foreign Ministers Diplomats &
Cabinet Officers were going off on the fine Carriages with
differently draped Coachman. The minister in full

day of the Court of their Nation. Soon the Army & Navy
Officers filed out. Among Navy officers noticed
Rear Admiral Fox in full dress Carriage. At 12
Gates were opened for the Civilian. At 1. P.M. I
attempted to go in myself. The Crowd was large &
Old Ladies young ladies babies Children Soldiers &
Civilian were all mixed & jammed kept off by squad
of Soldiers with Bayonets. The Metropolitan Police
were inside the House. I got in. The Post looked
rather cheerfull, his whiskers cut within about an
inch of his face stood in Centre of Room & shook
hands with every one remarked to me How do you do
sir, to a lady going by before me Hows the baby?
I did not see Mrs Lincoln, perhaps on account of
her being in mourning. The East room Carpet was covered
up. Took Dinner about three P.M. Annie Kearns introduced
me to her Cousin Kate Kearns a girl about 13-14
& Mrs Kearns added she was my Cousin I being her
Son. My new Cousin was quite agreeable & before she
left & Mrs was were quite at home with each other. Played
Cuchre with her as partner but as I havnt played
in 5-6 years I was quite green. Went to office
at 10.30 P.M. Star has Proclamation of President
setting free by his authority as Pres of U.S. & Comdr
in Chf of A. & N. all slaves in States of La except
some parishes named including N Orleans. Miss. Fla
& Tex. Ala S. C. & N. C. # Ark Ga & Va excepting

some Districts near Norfolk & West Va. News otherwise
incomplete except that Banks had arrived at S. O. super-
ceded Butler. Gen Burnside left here for Camp this
Am.

Friday Jan'y 2^d 1863

Weather cold & clear. Stayed in house most of day
in office from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. Letter from Leach -
30th Dec snow in Clev'd 4-5 Inches deep. Tended -
Call of N. Gen App. & enjoyed herself. Her Cousin
Sarah engaged to be married. News today con-
siderable fight near Murfreesboro Tenn
reported we drove Confeds back & occupy Murf.
Genl Willich killed, Lt Col Garretts Chf Staff - of
Gen Rosecrans & large number officers wounded
Confed Genl Rains killed Cheatham wounded &
prisoners. Annie sick with fever all day.

Saturday Jan'y 3^d 1863

Very fine day clear & mild. Wrote long letter to Leach.
Enclosing notes prop'd, eng. next spring, unfolded plans &
condition of prospectors work &c. Not mailed yet. Annie
still unwell. Went to Dancing School this Ev'g & to my
astonishment found Prof Marine to be an Italian
who had been introduced me & I supposed some
big gun in military circles. The Room or Hall
at Temperance Hall very poor concern