

North East Erie County Pennsylvania

January 1-1875

Wister Editor allow me to wish you all a happy New Year
And again a small space in your Scrap Book; And the
attention of your Literary institute for a few moments;
As before I shall quote from Daily Journal; I left Grand
Rapids Mich Dec 1-74 and arrived in Chicago the evening
of the same day and was met on 22nd Street by Brother John
and escorted to the Arcadian Club House 119 Dearborn Street
occupying a central position in that busy commercial met
with its four hundred thousand inhabitants; with a diversity
of pursuit as varied as the moving hosts upon the street.
with him I visited all parts of the city worthy of note from
the tunnels to the stock yards; from the glass works factory
to the water works; and the foundry that produced those
Pneumatic Engines; and from the Belvideres to Lincoln park.
And on the fifteenth took the express train for the East;
Stopped off at Hillsby Ohio remained in that vicinity for
eight days; and during my stay visited the temple built
by the Latter day Saints in 1834; Time and the spoiler
are fast doing their work. Both it and the town in
which it stands seems to have been visited by the

frauds of Divine Providence. And on the 23 of December I
arrived at ~~South~~ this place ~~at~~ one in the evening attended
the wedding of Miss Elizabeth Belnap and Butler Hitchcock.
Since that time my attention has been directed in the search
of the history of my fathers, whose history I trace as far back
as the year 1513. long before these lines reach you 1874
will be a thing of the past. I give the Literary Institute
the heartiest of good wishes; and exclaim with them,
Ring out the old ring in the new year. why should we
echo our adieu to the old year; as well as express our welcome
to the new. We shall feel no gulf or gap when the train
crosses the line which divides two years; And when the
clock strikes the hour that tells us 1874 is ended and
1875 is begun. Not a ripple in life's river will be
caused by the change. Memory alone will be busy with
the past, and hope will start up afresh. Go reach her
crown of laurels, for the victor who shall stand
forth successful at the close of the coming year,
And why should we feel sad in the consciousness of
growing old; Has life no charms but for the young;
The wise man looks upon the years as they go by, as
messengers sent to build up the race; to increase our

experiences and to make the world and society better through
the opportunities they have given men for useful effort.

Human life presents two beautiful pictures the cradle
and the old arm chair. One is simply the other filled
out. A halo of innocence may encircle the brow of the
infant. But a crown of glory rests upon the aged fount
in the way righteousness gather around the couch of the
old dying year; Listen to its tale of joy and sorrow.

What report does it render to us; (growing old) is that all
No successes gained, No victories won, No good accomplished
Is it a common habit of men and women in reviewing
the year to look back; outside of themselves and at the
ways of others; the course of public men and the aspect of
society. The errors preceptable in State and National policy.
Or the faults ~~near~~ neighbours; or the little aversions in the
and jealousies in the church; one after mentioned one
commented upon. Better that each one examine himself
not in a spirit of mourning over the past. But with
a view to discover where improvement is possible. That is a
poor tree which has gone through the year without increased
growth and strength. Even a plant would be banished
from the garden if it did not bloom. We must simply

We must not simply exist but must make our existence
count for something. And the festivities of the new year day
it is worthy of our remark that in nothing are we more
the subjects of influence than in the days set apart for
observance: religious or social. So philosophy: so argument
so apathy can prevent our being affected by the departure
of the old and the advent of the new year; whether we desire
it or not the hilarity of the season will attract our
attention; and compell us to share with our friends.

While we are in the world we must admit in a certain
sense to be of it. The instinct of our own nature
inforce the truth when we look on the gladness and
hopefullness of youth; Duty suggests it when we shall
be held accountable for the example the instruction; The
warning and the views of life and truth which we do
or do not hold up to their inspection and imitation;
Performing or failing to perform; We are equally responsible
and should therefore see to it that obligatory duties are
not discharged but discharged fully and conscientiously
The exigencies the injunction of that Divine philosophy
which requires us to work and to work in faith
cannot be safely disregarded

Let us greet the new-year as a friend whom we trust
to use better than we have his predecessor. The apprehension
we come for short of fulfilling all our good resolutions
should not deter us from the attempt. For the young, be
unincumbered. For the mature let reason mingle with
gayety and sound sense with moderate mirth. And at the
close may all have what cannot be taken away by misfortune.
The recollection of the opening day pleasantly and innocently
spent and of ~~wisely~~ wisely conceived and faithfully executed
purposes for the future