

Columbia Barracks, Cuba,

Sunday, December 30th 1900.

My dear Jennie:

Your doleful letter written on Xmas day came yesterday. I am glad you sent the dress suit and I hope the patent leather shoes are put in with it. I have found the studs in my shirt. This is the holiday season here and there is to be a dance tomorrow night at the Governor General's palace in the city. I received an invitation but shall not go. Dr. Reed is designated to represent the Army at the Pan American Congress which is to meet in Havana in February. He is to read a paper there and after that we return to the United States. I expect to be home about February 15th or 20th.

I went in to the city yesterday and drew \$950.00 from the bank to pay the men upon whom we have experimented. Out of that I paid \$129.00 for a watch, chain and charm to be presented to one of these men for his courage in submitting to the inoculation. I suppose time will bring me something but I have heard nothing as yet. Reed was very nasty this morning in the way he spoke to me in the presence of Major Kean. I resented it and have not forgotten it for his manner was positively insulting. This evening he invited me to go with him and pay a couple of calls, one to Major Godfrey our present commanding officer and one to Col Burton the acting Inspector General who is an old friend of his. The calls were very pleasant and I enjoyed them better than any I have made so far. The weather is simply delightful as yet. We have no fires and do not need any. It is too warm for heavy clothing though I wear my woolen undershirt with my heavy cotton drawers. I do not have any wine here and I cannot afford to get any. All I can afford is to buy a few cigars to smoke and I need nothing more at present. The Army bill knocks me out so that there is no prospect for me in that line. So long as you pray for me the Lord will do the rest.

I am sorry you went to the trouble and expense of sending me a lovely cake and such things. You do not say how you sent them so I do not know how or when to expect them. If you sent them by express I shall have something to pay at this end because they always add something additional here and their charges are pretty steep.

Wishing you all a happy new year and that something may come to us before long, with love and kisses.

Your affect. husband

James