

Columbia Barracks, Cuba,

Wednesday, December 5, 1900.

My dear Jennie:

I received two letters from you today one of Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> and one of Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. The latter was written with white ink on a peculiar purple paper and I could not read it. I would advise you to use black ink, otherwise I can tell what you want to say.

I am very sorry indeed to hear of the death of Jamie Carleton's father and I tender to her and her mother my deepest sympathy.

I hope you will soon have some success in renting your rooms and when you do I trust you will receive more rent. Congress must have met and between that and the centennial celebration I think you should have plenty of applicants. I have heard nothing as yet from my application to Gen. Wood and I fear the matter will rest there still I may be mistaken. My friend and Dr. Stark were in close consultation in a spare room this evening perhaps in connection with that. I had a delightful ride this afternoon on a good horse which belongs to Major Keen. It is his private horse and whenever I want him all I have to do is to tell the man to bring him up.

I have been out this evening playing cribbage and I have quite a reputation as a player. I beat one gentleman four straight times and this evening the Major and I beat Gen. Baldwin and Lieut. Watson. I am taking care of myself now and trying to build up.

I would like to answer the white ink letter but I cannot read a word of it. Yes Jennie you can certainly have ten dollars for Xmas presents and I will send it to you as soon as I receive any extra compensation if I ever do. I think it has been killed however because my friend is so much more cheerful and pleasant since Monday and besides he was very careful not to let me see what he wrote on it when he forwarded it. I wish you would send me one of the annual reports of the Columbia Hospital so that I can get Gen. Sternberg's address in case I should want to write to him about it.

Why does not Jamie write me a letter? I am waiting very anxious to hear from him and he knows I will answer every letter he sends to me. I would like to know what he is studying at school, how he progresses with his music and what he would like to have for Xmas.

Reed gave me a dig the other day about not being insured – in the presence of others and I told him very promptly that I did not allow insurance agents to scare me out of my boots.

I think it is very wise to decline the presidency because there would be such a strong opposition. Still he would make an excellent one and it is a fitting honor to have his name mentioned in connection with it.

I think you will agree with me that this is rather a long midnight letter so with kisses and love to all the children and many kisses a hug and best love to your dear self

Your affect. Husband,

James.