

Saint Louis Jan'y 13th/56

Dear Mother

I had been expecting to return home for the last 3 or 4 wks and that is the only reason why I did not write. I hope you will forgive me for being so neglectful and am sorry for being so but promise to be more punctual in answering your letters in future. I derived a great deal of pleasure from your last letter it seems still to be the old story @ home hard work & trouble for you dear Mother for the rest of your days. I would most probably have went home last summer but for something of which you had reference to in your letter and of which I still had a little thoughts in my mind about there is nothing interesting here to write about excepting that I am well & have enjoyed good health ever since I got over the Fever & Ague the river has been frozen over here for about 3 weeks & waggons loaded with coal have been crossing, something which has not been known for years. I see dear Mother that ^{you} judged from the tone of my letters that I did not enjoy many privileges. I did not, Dear Mother, excepting in this way that I had the privilege to shake once or twice every day for three weeks. I am now attending in a wood yard office. My wages are not very high but I have a very good

time of it. I never knew what a Greeny I was until I came here but I am ^{now} getting a pretty good knowledge of Business. I see the way the world goes now (which most likely I would have known nothing about had I staid @ home) it is this keep all you have got & get all you can

and that rule a man must follow if he wants to
make money @ least in this country.

A Happy New Year to you all Father Mother
Sisters & Brothers & I sincerely hope this will
enjoying the same blessing which Providence
has particularly favored me with at present.

Do tell me where in the world Carry has
gone to. Rebecca told me she had gone to Iowa
but I am not any the wiser for that because
I do not know what country town or township
let me know in your next letter if you please
for I want to write to her.

Give my compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Graham
& Mr. and Mrs. Walker & all inquiring friends.

Love to all

Believe me

To be your Affectionate

Son Wm DeWitt



O Dear Mother

Saint Louis Mo 13th / 54

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Give my Compliments to Mr. & Mrs. Graham
& Mr. & Mrs. Walker & all Inquiring friends
Love to all

Believe me
To be your Affectionate
Son
W. L. Pellett