

Newport Bk

Dec 21st 1863

Dear Maria

Today is Monday and I can see you in imagination bending over your wash tub hard at work & thinking how much easier it will be when your Cistern is filled and pump in working order.

Nothing new here. We have had no mail since I last wrote but expect a steamer in from N. York at Newbern every hour. Last night was our Coldest and ice froze in my parlour doors $3/4$ in. I am not ⁱⁿ my usual hour as I expected a week since but I dont see any thing to hinder getting in now in 3 or 4 days. It is quite a stylish building 18 by 36 feet & my room is 18 by 12. I have got a man putting up a chimney this morning - I have got a new Sarsky now my old one had a wife at Dantz town so could not stay. The one I have now is Sarsky all over.