

Washington City
Dec. 25. 1856.

Mary,

I entirely agree with you in the opinion that if the gas cannot be entirely relied on, if you must still keep yourselves provided with other means for lighting, & especially for all parties and company, then it is very much better to be without it. I should myself submit to but very few such annoyances before entirely cutting off the whole matter & returning to those on which we can rely.

It is now what is called the holy days, that is entire suspension of business in Congress, & really of great