

Newport Dec 26th N.H.
Jan'y 1st 1864

My dear Maria

I wish you a
happy New Year my darling and
hope before it closes we may both
be so happy as to have the extreme
pleasure of again, being together
in our snug little home, I assure
you Maria I look forward to the
future with the greatest of pleasure
and anticipate many happy years, which
will be made twice happy by your
presence. I think the future, as far
as our war is concerned begins to look
some brighter and my hopes are very
strong that another year will close it.
It seems that the 30,000 recruits,
now coming into the field will give
us such additional power, that
short work will be made, with the
third ranks of the Rebels —

I am well and weigh 164 lbs which is as
pleasing as you ever saw me
Feb