

Washington, D.C.  
Jan. 5, 1864

Dear Mother

Having a few spare moments to my self I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how times are here. New Years was a fine day there was a reception at the White House which was attended by large crowd of Officers and citizens Foreign Ministers were excepted first Army to Navy officers next at quarter past eleven all the officers of the Navy met at the Navy department and at half past marched to the White House at 12 the gates were opened to all ten there was a rush to see who would be first old men come on the double quick I come off of guard at 11 oclock and went up to see the fun. I seen Lord Lyons the British Minster and thousands of men of note yesterday morning about 10 oclock it commenced snowing at five in the afternoon the snow was four inches deep and the folks were out sleighriding their fun will be of short duration for the snow is going off very fast and it looks some like rain New Years we had an oyster supper prepared for us Lt. Dickson footing the bill which was very good in him. I got a letter last week from Bill Lorkin he said little George got burned very bad how is he getting by this time how does Grandmother get along this winter w<sup>h</sup>l I hope I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you all enjoying the same great bleysing write soon from Willard A. Cutter.