Fort Hamilton  
Dec. 23

This is pretty near Xmas, my dear, but I
afraid it won't bring much fun for
either of us this year. I don't know
but I may go up to the city there and
on New Year day to see how they do things,
in Gotham, but I am not certain that
I shall do so much even as that.

Your note reached me yesterday, but
as you have not told me when the tax,
must be paid and what is the amount,
there, I can do nothing till I hear
from you again. I am sorry that it is so
long coming. Good for inter
1862

But I am afraid she will
hardly be paid for her long and to-
some journey. However, travelling is not
much harder than working as she
does at Home, so I hope she will
enjoy it. I shone be very glad to
see her there, but do not expect to.
Emma, I believe you quite capture the
Carpenter. He has made her a very nice kitchen
table which was brought home yesterday. She
says she is to have it when we go away.
In night she is "keeping company" with "the
kitchen. I suspect they have not each
other at hands, and that the spirit is quite
agreeable. I believe he has been at the back
of bringing the things from the shop to the
day, for a week or two. I suppose the
things are tools which may the bond
those quite as well as stairs are said to.

Gen. Schenck, you see, has assumed com-
mand at Barton now. I had a chance to
write a letter to him today, but pre-
ferred communicating directly with the
Adjutant General. I may have to write
to him yet. If I will be very pleasant to
subordinate my self "from office rank" to him
wont it? But there is lots of humble
pie in the world and somebody must
eat it. It seems we are deficient in me
so decline eating my share and therefore
let some poor fellow to eat a double for
me now. So I shall tell you.
Life is quite dull in the hot, tho' you never knew. I doubt not you enjoy think it pleasant enough. I have written what I think about your coming on, and hope you will not be in too much of a hurry to get back, if you think staying will be pleasant and beneficial. I don't want you to depose yourself to a long and cold ride to come here to find the house for it all winter. Some visits will have to be made, undoubtedly, but I should like to make it as small as possible.
I can't very well lend you any money till after Christmas, perhaps not then. There is some doubt as to whether the Pay master will have funds to pay in this month. I shall try to get it if any money comes, very hard. I was lucky last month, but may be less fortunate this. You had better not make your calculation to start before the 15th of Jan as I intend, if I can manage it to meet you at Buffalo. That is, on the whole the pleasant route, and I can meet you nearer home or if there are any other.