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Newtown Centre, Mass. Jan. 1. 1857.

My dear Dr. Hill:

I wish you and Mrs. Hill a very happy year. How many times this wish must have been given and received by you today. I should be delighted to know how you are spending the evening. We have a clear mild evening, almost like an Athenian winter evening. The ground is thinly covered with snow, of which we had a slight fall last night, and a more considerable one about ten days ago.

I have been this evening to our Pastor's, where there is a pretty general gathering of the congregation. I left Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. May there, and came home on purpose to write to you, which I have been purposing to do for a considerable time. But I could not let Christmas and New Year's look pass without writing. This season brings up

Mr. Parks; (John C. Parks, I think, is the purchaser's name;) and I must say he does not look like a man that would willingly pay his debts. Still he says he will; and it is not impossible that he really means to. Messrs. J. & G. seem to think there is no way of constraining him to pay: they know of no property which they can attach. I shall not fail to torment him from time to time.

You must remember Mr. Alexander, who, if I mistake not, made some application to you, when he was in Athens, and ^{who} wrote so many languages so neatly. We have had a visit from him and his wife lately; or rather Mrs. Arnold has;—for I happened to be out when they came. He was in Boston, trying to get himself introduced to the public as a lecturer. I do not know

so many pleasant recollections of you and Mrs. Hill, that I could not obtain my own forgiveness, if I should let any hindrance prevent me from writing.

Christmas week brought me no holiday this year. It was one of the busiest weeks that I have ever spent. I am obliged to forego all holidays until the end of this month, when our vacation of three weeks will begin. On Christmas eve however we had a pleasant S. S. festival, in which I took part. There was a Christmas tree in the vestry, and every S. Scholar had a present on it of some sort. Of course many of the gifts were of trifling value, but all the children and teachers seemed to enjoy themselves. This is the first Baptist Christmas tree that has been raised in our town within the memory of the oldest inhabitant." Some of the scholars, contrary to the canon,

took the liberty to make their teachers presents, My dear wife, who has a class of young ladies of about 14 years of age, received the gold pen with which I am now writing.

I remember that I wrote you last year about my going to hear the Bishop preach. This year I did not go into Boston; but my cousin who boards with us spent the Sunday previous in the city, and went to the Church of the Covenant, (Wp Southgate's,) where Bp Eastburn confirmed between 60 and 70.

I presume you have heard of Mr. Gilpin's Address before the Episcopal Convention in Philadelphia. You will see it in due season, if you have not already.

I am very sorry to have to speak more discouragingly than ever about the pay ^{for} of the Melodion. At the request of Mrs. Janigot Goddard, I went to see

Undersheet

what has become of him. It was
some two months ago, that he was
here. I think he did not meet with
any encouragement in Boston. I see
by the paper that Prof. Felton lectures
in Boston one evening this week, on
"the kingdom of Greece, and the city of
Athens." I have not seen him for
some weeks. Mrs. Felton has been
seriously ill; and I believe she does
not yet go out. Prof. Agassiz was won-
derfully delighted with the fishes which
Dr. Roeser sent him; and he identified
one of them with a fish described by
Aristotle, - the Glanis, I think. It
seems Aristotle described its structure
and habits in such a way that Cu-
vier had pronounced the fish "a myth",
believing that Aristotle had been im-
posed upon. The fish in Dr. R's collect-
ion came from the very place men-
tioned by Aristotle. But very likely

nothing of this may be new to you
Tuesday morning, Jan. 6. I must post this letter
before 8 o'clock. - We have had a very pleasant
visit from Mrs. Hay. She came just in time to
see the Christmas tree; and expects to return
to Providence tomorrow. Baldwin seems to
enjoy the ice and snow very richly. Since
I began this letter, we have had the heav-
iest snow storm of the season. It began on
Saturday morning, and snowed steadily
all the day, and a part of the night. The
snow is perhaps about a foot deep on a level,
but it is very much drifted, and it was
with some difficulty that people got to
church on Sunday morning.

Renewing my best wishes for the
health and happiness of yourself and Mrs.
Hill, and all your ~~social~~ domestic cir-
cle,

I remain,

Yours in the friendship
A. N. Andrews,

I enclose a note for Miss Baldwin.