

(3)  
is in a bad shape, but  
not as bad as sister's  
for she drank much  
punch, while I only  
took ice-cream and  
water. Since Christmas  
day there has been a  
continual stream of  
champagne and every  
other thing about me  
- but I have religiously  
abstained.

I am sorry you don't  
like Boston and Bostonians;  
some of your warmest  
friends and admirers  
are here.

From: West Medford, Mass. (1) From: Alice Ruth Moore  
To: Paul Laurence Dunbar  
W. Medford. Dec. 31, 1897.  
to Jerome St.

My darling, - This is the  
last day of the old year,  
a year that will always  
be memorable to me  
as the one in which  
I met my Paul and was  
wooed and won by him.  
Somehow I feel very serious  
this morning, I don't know  
why, unless it be the  
thoughts of the new year  
coming in with its  
unknown possibilities.

I have just received  
your letter. Don't call  
me "Dear Alice" again. It  
makes me think you  
are angry with me.

I did not see <sup>(2)</sup> Ella Smith again, tho  
I wanted to. I had so many engage-  
ments to fill. She left - Wednesday  
afternoon.

So you and Rebekah are friends  
again? That's good, only don't be too  
intimately dear.

Sister and I had a long talk  
about you this morning. She is perfectly  
willing and says she'll give me a  
pretty wedding when I want. Mama  
isn't so reconciled, but sister rules the  
roost, you know. I forgot to tell you  
that sister wrote you that letter, not  
mama. My brother-in-law is delighted  
and anxious to meet you. Oh Paul,  
if you will only be a good boy for me,  
we shall be so happy.

I want to, I must have a long  
talk with you. You must come to  
N. Y. very soon. won't you?

I played whist with a party of  
40 in Mr. Marshall's rooms until three  
this morning, and of course there is  
no sleep at all for to-night. My head

day night<sup>(6)</sup> Mr. Marshall  
has a whist party in  
his rooms, all very  
young folks, with my  
sister as chaperone.

Thus Friday night,  
a New Years Eve dance  
at the Arcade - Satur-  
day morning a sleigh  
ride. Saturday after-  
noon - matinee - and  
Sunday I'm going  
back to New York. I  
hope I'll be alive  
when I get there. Don't

It was one o'clock Christ-  
mas day before I got  
home. The folks here  
were wild with ner-  
vousness, as all sorts  
of rumors of ship-wreck  
were abroad. I jumped  
and sobbed when  
I did get home, and  
swore never to go by  
way of Fall River again  
- and I won't.

But Christmas after  
all was pleasant. We  
had quite a party here

to dinner, Mr. Marshall, Frank  
Stuard and Ida Hall bringing  
the number. After dinner we had  
a dance. Yesterday I had a lot of  
callers all day. The snow is very  
deep here, so this morning I had a  
long and delightful sleigh ride way  
up over the Arlington hills. To-night  
I will Boston turns out for the  
operatta given by the girls. To-morrow  
night is the dance of the season,  
for which mamma made me a  
lovely white silk affair as a  
Christmas present. Wednesday morn-  
ing I have a lunch to attend, Wed-  
nesday afternoon a matinee party with  
a party of girls, Wednesday night  
an impromptu house dance. Thuro-

it again. <sup>(9)</sup> I kissed it  
and cried over it like  
a child. I received  
many pretty presents,  
but I appreciated  
that one best of all.  
I love you my darling,  
and I long for you.  
With tenderest kisses,  
and hoping your  
holidays are bright  
ones. I am

Your own wife,  
Alice.

you? <sup>(7)</sup>

In the intervals I am  
being cuddled and  
patted and I am  
really resting. Writing  
this letter is the hard-  
est thing I've done yet.

I find that it is  
generally understood  
here that we are  
engaged. I neither  
affirm nor deny. The  
ring is inspected and  
taken as proof positive.

(8)  
My bridesmaids have been picked  
already, according to gossip.

How I wish you were here. So  
many folks expected you, thinking  
you would surely come. You  
would meet a warm welcome,  
dear, everyone is anxious to  
meet and know the man - who  
- will - to meet you.

That Philadelphia yarn is  
muchly around here. My good  
friend and lawyer, Will Lewis,  
was in Phila. that night and  
saw you Oh!!!!

I got the watch, and I do  
believe it was the happiest mo-  
ment of my life when I saw