

Leander.

Dec. 1/57.

Dear Jack /

I suppose you know this is the first day of winter. Now look out for snow and ice, sleigh riding and skating wet feet, chilblanes, cold fingers and a red nose. Hurrah! for sliding down-hill, and making snow-men, and getting bit aside of the coconut with big snow-balls or some where else, perhaps where that Kanchman got bit when he was knocked "to the other side of Jordan". "I looked to the East - I looked to the West - don't you remember? I was very glad indeed to get your letter. I have been expecting it now for a long time and I had a great mind to scold it for not coming sooner but it was such a good looking one that I didn't. Christmas will soon be here now won't it? What are you going to give me you young rascal you? If you don't give me something ^{all} send you further than ^{to} the other side of Jordan I tell you. People don't hang up their stockings here

but the boys hang up their Pantaloon's tied
at the bottom so the ~~bottoms~~^{bottoms} wont slip
out and the girls hang up their hoops
and get them fuller than they ever are
at other times I tell you. I know a
Young Lady who got six barrels of sweet
-potatoes here in that way last winter
and expects twelve this year. Tell Mother
that I have received the shirts in good
order and am much obliged to her
for them. Tell her that one or two others
have small holes in them, but I
would rather they would than not, because
I can't bear to live in a close atmosphere,
and I think a draft is very good ^{for the} Body.
Besides I always remember Hood's
better when my shirts are falling to
pieces. "It's not your linen you're wearing
out" and I try to believe that it is true,
and that the linen isn't wearing out.
But I forgot you never read Hood.
You've read "Little Red Riding Hood,"
but that's another one. This is something
like that; only funnier, though right.
Wouldn't you like to be back in Ellonestown

again? I wish I were there with you
& Geordie Eddie & Ann to have a
rump in the old hall. How we'd make
the dirt fly wouldn't we? Never mind
will get there some of these days again
I guess and then will have a pick-up
or is a pick-up. How are you
getting on with your lessons? I hope
you are studying hard and so doing
dear Mother's heart good. Remember
my Boy loves much she loves you and
does for you and try all the time to
give her as little trouble as you can.
When you grow older you will be glad
that she has made you study and do
what didn't seem pleasant at the
time and now and then scolded you.
Only try your best and to be quiet while
you are saying your lessons and keep
thinking of what you are about and don't
ask too many questions and you will soon
learn. Give my love to Sister Eddie and
Eddie Geordie Fursie Granby Sellar. And
kiss each one of them all over from head
to foot for me. Perhaps I will see you soon.

Christmas but may be not. I cannot write
any more now old fellow.

Good bye

Your funny old Brother
Sir.

To J. W. Miller jun.