

1st letter copied

Jan 9, 1858

Cattle Iron

Dear Brother,

I received your letter a few days ago and hasten to reply ~~as~~ I was away when your letter came down in ~~the~~ buying rope and baggin. The Merchants here ask such prices for things it take all a man got to buy a pair shoes and no clothing we had to go naked half the time. We are all so poor we hate to go into Company. But hope there is a better day ~~is~~ coming. When the sun will shine brighter on we poor ~~the~~ Indians, and may we be remembered by the all living on above and be clothed better this year. I put my beaver on last week for good luck as it was a new year, and had one of the biggest fox chases you ever read of. I tell you it was a snorting chase for about 9 or 10 hours and ~~and~~ runned the devil in a hollow tree. it was one of the largest ~~chases~~ foxes I ever saw.

went up to down the other days
to see the down people, and left
with silent contempt, they all ask
half a dollar for a man to speak
to them. Ten dollars for pair shoes
a man cant get a suit of clothes for nothing
under 300 dollars ~~and~~ that is the common ^{cost}
kind nothing like fine or good.

We have three little stores in our
two horse town, and two dandies
one fopp ~~and~~ ^{all} drunkards
so little or no trade. ~~etc~~

There was a big ball down
the line Christmas, but I stayed
home and will hold all day
for my big indian to eat
My little baby is a perfect indian
a full blooded Petchy
and smart as steel trap
can almost crawl

Nothing new times dull
potatoes, cheap corn dear
cotton on arise, and Ruben
send his love to you says howdy
and wants to know if you want to
get on a big spree.

Yours

Brother J. H. D.

Uncle Pats How'd'ya do

I've just had a good long pull at the titty, and have got on a clean warm diaper and feeling pretty comfortable.

My old mamma had all the negroes head shaved the day for I hoped to go into the ~~street~~ kitchen and get loosey. Suppose it was Miss Bob that mad me lousey so much for a loose.

Well my little sow had four pigs one died and that leaves 3. I had our little boar altered the other day. Well I have got two little chickens one of them is a rustie and do you know what the other is why it is a rustie, our old gander is living yet. What a fine time I have in milk and betty. My little pony got out the other day is now come back what a fine time I will have when you come home for I know you love to dance. I got a whipping last night. Love to all inquiring friends
Your affectionate
Cousin Petchyann