

got thro. dinner fried pork & gravy
 & cold water & bread of course, quite
 a contrast. from dinner yesterday,
 but they stood it pretty well,
 "Did I tell you about our having a
 pudding" well "Della" staid to din
 ner & John W. Made a steamed
 pudding & it was splendid, it was
 made of one loaf of bread, 6 Eggs
 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ of milk & one lb of Raisins then
 we had some remnants of Turkey
 Pickles Tomatoes & Coffee, This was
 for our private Mess. We Mead the
 L. M. Serg. & Serg. & Lane, who helped
 buy the stuff, & 4 of us cooks.

But I guess that will do for
 the descriptive part, "Della" has
 just left for home, & John has
 gone "part way" with him, "Jere"
 is mending his suspenders & John
 Frenchman & I are writing, It
 is a lonesome rainy day & so foggy
 that we cant see a dozen rods, it
 rained all night like soap, but
 your "uncle Dudley" had a good

ibed & under cover, & that's consid-
erable in this God forsaken count-
ry, but "Thank the Lord" The signs
& prospects now are that we shall
get out of this whole business
before a great while we have
just had glorious news from
Sherman, come while we were

at dinner. Tho. they fired
2 or 300 big Guns at the city
in the morning, & we mistrusted
what it was, but the news is
that Savannah has surrendered
with 20,000 Prisoners & 300 pieces
of Art'y. hope its all true tho,
its most to good to believe,
we have not got it Officially

yet & it may be modified some
But what pleases me as much
is to hear such men as Foote
of Tenn. & other of their leading
men in the Reb Congress howl
& own up, & Foote even telling them
that he shall go to some Foreign
country where he can enjoy peace of mind

5 of the Co. we commenced at 7 o'clock
 I opened the meeting & The Sec ("Here")
 read the Proceedings of our last meet-
 ing. Then "Here" John & I sang "Marching
 along" The Ladies helping us, I then
 introduced the speaker to the audi-
 ence & he spoke about 40 minutes
 (had it written but did not have to
 read much of it) & we were all
 very much pleased & happily disap-
 pointed too. for it was a ^{not only} very good
 but a smart lecture after he got
 thro. we sang "America" all hands
 joining. then I gave an invitation
 for remarks & one or two members
 of the Society spoke a few words
 & one an Irishman. John Fortune
 (guess I wrote about his signing the
 Pledge) got up & said "by the blessing
 of God" this is the first Christmas
 dinner that I have taken for 10 years
 & the first one that I have not been
drunk" & said he "I went all my Officers
 & brother soldiers to know that I have
 signed the Pledge & "by the blessing of God"
 "I mean to keep it!" & I tell you it affected

Hamilton College Library Digital Collections

all of us Officers & all. The society
then passed a vote of Thanks to
the speaker, after which we adjour-
ned, & "now was not that a good, &
fitting wind up, to our Christmas
dinner" I think it was & I know
you will agree with me, & wish
us "God Speed" But with all our
work & excitement, my thoughts
were far away with my darling
wife & children, & tho. we had
such a good time & everything pass-
ed off so pleasantly, how much
more pleasant to me would have
been the society of my dearly
loved wife & "little ones" - even with
no dinner at all, but as I could
not be with them, could only
pray God to bless & keep them.
& that is my prayer now & ever.
It is time to set the tables for
dinner & I have been stealing the
time to write what I have, but must
adjourn now, so for the present "good
bye" H. 2 o'clock P.M. Well we have