

Rockville Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst  
was received yesterday. I don't  
know how to commence but  
as you will probably never  
see this it makes no difference  
First the news about here  
The rail road is progressing  
finely. It ~~was~~ commenced in  
December. the contractors  
agreed to have it done by  
July first for the sum of  
forty three thousand dollars  
That little man big which  
you bought of Mr. Wright  
under my special care  
reached the great weight  
of four hundred and six  
pounds on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1862

I bought a pig which I think could  
beat yours at jumping. I brought  
him home (not on my back) Saturday  
Or Monday, while I was at school  
he jump out and ran off I spent  
the afternoon searching for him  
but was unsuccessful the next  
morning I started out and found  
him at Mr. Morrisons It took  
father and I most of the forenoon  
to get him home and fix the pen  
We watched him jump father  
said he was a good jumper  
but could not get out. I went  
down before I went to school in  
the afternoon he seemed quite  
contented. When I came home at  
night he was gone I searched in  
vain until dark the next fore-  
noon was spent in an unsuccessful  
hunt. At about two o'clock in the  
afternoon I found him at Mr.  
Newell's in Ellington

I got the horse and Freddie and myself with some trouble caught the pig boxed him and got him into the wagon brought him home fixed the pen <sup>and</sup> put him in to it where he has since remained.

Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>

Mother received your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> just to-night.

Now for the war news The battle which you referred to in my letter was probably the battle at Arkansas Post in which our troops captured the place and from 7,000 to 10,000 prisoners. Our loss was small.

I suppose you have heard before this that Gen. Burnside resigned and Gen. Hooker has taken his place. A few weeks since the insane asylum at Brattleboro, Vt. was mostly burned down Rossiter is in the retreat at Hartford. The patients lost most of their

clothing and Rosseter with the  
rest. I think you must have  
a great deal of influence with the  
captain for it is just like you  
to be chasing your own goats and  
the stars I think probably that  
star was a light on the Alabam  
herself. Please answer this  
soon

Very spitefully yours  
P. A. Talcott

P.S. I put on the please to counteract  
the effect.

<sup>know</sup> Dear Brother  
I do not <sup>know</sup> but you will think that Phinnie is  
better to answer your letters than I am but  
I intend to write you a long letter pretty  
soon  
Freddie