

"Buxton Place" N. C.

2nd Jan'y 1879.

My dear Elias

This is the first letter I have written in this new year - 1879. and you and yours have my best wishes for a happy one, and many happy ones - and not only that, but may ^{you} so live in this world, that you may inherit eternal happiness in the world to come.

It may be, I am not the right man, to advise & caution you about your eternal welfare, that my example is not such as it ought to be. but you may rest assured, that above all things, I desire to be a good Christian man, which is above all things, for this world is so short, and unsatisfying, & the one to which we are hastening is eternal, and is certainly worthy of our most serious, and diligent attention, and that I feel a deep and abiding interest in your present & eternal welfare.

The nice "Shirts" you sent, were received some weeks since, and I certainly felt complimented, that I am never forgotten by you, in some nice remembrance of a present, about this season -

I have delayed writing to you, hoping I might so
arrange matters, that I could pay you a visit about this
time, but so far, with all the multiplicities of cares, and
business attendant upon this season of the year, and I may ^{add}
the infirmities of age coming in upon me, I find it ^{impracticable} ~~inconve-~~
for me to go so far, and to be absent from home so long as
a visit to you would require - I feel that it would
certainly afford me as much pleasure to visit your
hospitable home, as any in the circle of my friends, and
will not give up the hope of doing so at some future time,
but at the present must decline, or defer, to some future time -

I hope you have made a good crop, & have it
all secured - My crop was rather short, & the price ruinously
low - Many good people who owe money, will be seriously
distressed, & who does not owe money? They are rare exceptions -
Our family and neighbors are generally well and nothing
of particular interest transpiring, We have ^{had} a quiet
Xmas. & if we could arrange matters so as to get to work, I
would be much better satisfied, for this season of the year
is always afflicting to me -

My wife unites with me, in warmest love to you
& family - I remain as ever your aff. Uncle
Write to me -
J. Duxton Williams