

P.S. I send no Christmas greetings as I
am old fogey - an abolition in that part
ival. 7.7.

The Maunce
Mitis Dec. 21/80

Dear Doctor

I hope you are all well.
To my surprise and pleasure
I found my mother a good deal
better on my return from Mont-
real. She has continued so. She
is far from being quite well but
she is very much better than she
was this time last year and that
is a great cause for thankfulness.
She is so well that she is going
to do a share of the baking for
N. Year's season.

I am very busy prepar-
ing for the arrival of one whom
we have never seen before and
can see only once - I refer to
Janig l. 1881. I have inter alia
begun two portraits in oil life
size - one of Croyth near. 1661
the other of Kears. The first is a

2211/75/92

present to Decemr. - the second to
the Pub. bill. Montreal.

Of course the marriage ques-
tion will come up again in Parlia-
ment this session. If the bill
pass "the united wisdom" of
the Dominion will be placed in
a ludicrous position. It will
say that a man's wife's niece
and a man's wife's aunt are
more closely related to him
than his wife's sister is. It will
also say that a man's divorced
wife's sister is nearer of kin to
him than his deceased wife's
sister is. The Commons by a
majority said so last year. So
did half of the Senate minus
only one. They also said that
a man's father's brother's wife
is nearer of kin to him than
his own brother's wife is. Humbug!

It is to be hoped that at
any rate the impious and impa-

seems clause about the brother's
widow will be struck out. Par-
liament would not be guilty of
greater impiety if it were to ab-
olish the Sabbath than it will be
if it enact the second clause.
I am an anti-dec. wife's vid-
man but I am more lenient
with those on the other side than
I am with the br. widow's men.

I was at a baptism or ra-
ther blessing of bells here last Sept.
Before the ceremony I was intro-
duced to the Bishop and clergy.
I had "a chief seat in the syna-
gogue." I did not bow myself
down in the house of Rimmon
I put nothing into the plate
but a few days after I returned
from Central I made the priest
a present to Timmally of a Scrap
Album which I had filled with
several wood cuts and Scripture
cards. He seemed quite pleased

with it. On the same ^{Fennwick} occasion
at his request I took a sketch
of his church. After I had done
I had tea in his home. Fancy
a "fossil" Presb. minister tak-
ing tea in a R.C. priest's home!!!
I have twice written to him on
the right of my son to read the
Bible. I cannot here explain
how I was led to do so.

In return to the marriage ques-
tion for a moment. Is it not a-
musing to see how the Ed. of the
C. Presb. steers clear of it? He
is constantly writing against
drinking betting and other gross
sins but he never gives his views
on the question referred to. Policy
no doubt. A year ago he would
not let even the brother's widow
be referred to.

My mother and I unite in
very kind regards to yourself, Mrs
Dworn and family. A very happy
New Year to you all
Yours J. Fennwick