

1856

Behold the New Year now has come
 O may it prove a prosperous one.
 May everyone that now is here
 Remain to greet another year.
 How many changes time does bring
 Some painful and some happy things.
 Within the year that now is past
 Many to us, have breathed their last.
 Some to a happier land have fled,
 Others in thorns have made their bed.
 Left home and friends and all for what--
 The lowest pleasures earth has got.

- 4 Jan "Elder Sister is making a surtout for Elder Bro. & she is trying to get it finished before he goes the journey with CC."
 Abby is working on table mats, Clarissa wiring bonnets.
- 7 The brethren have had "a number of things taken from their sleighs & wagons where they stop (in Albany) & no clue could be found to the thief. A few days ago, FSW had two pairs of mittens taken & today they met someone who knew of their mittens being offered for sale. The boy was found & sent to jail to await trial.
 Vandemark came in the evening to talk with the brethren about buying the wood on the River Farm.
- 8 CC & FSW start on western seed journey.
- 15 CM attended court about the stealing of the mittens; the boy was sent to the penitentiary for 3 months--there were other offenses brought against him. John Decker takes a donation to the Albany Home for the Friendless.
 For dinner they had some of the Weed family & the wife of John L. Schoolcraft.
- 16 Sylvester helped the SF butcher yesterday & today a SF brother came & drew 3 loads of bricks from Winne (at Niskayuna) for him.
- 18 Two women brought 3 children named Simons--2 boys, 1 girl, youngest 5 yrs. They left them on trial. The grandmother, who has taken most of their care, lives in Greenbush, the mother in Albany.
- 20 Sun Quite a number of sleighloads came, thinking we had begun having meeting. "They came into the Office & warmed as long as they pleased."
- 21 "An Englishman came last night without money or friends, wanted work so they concluded to keep him a while."
- 23 Have a woman, Adeline Watson, come to show the sisters how to operate a Wilson sewing machine.
 Abram Lansing came from West Troy bringing a poor woman named Halsey who wanted to have her 5 children taken, husband dead.
- 25 Orin Bates Sr. came to see his children, Lucy & Orin; behaved right well.
- 26 Elder Sister & Maria Gillet went to Troy to see the children.
- 28 Brought the rest of the carpets they ordered home from Schenectady.