idea of a Homestead is passing from among us - perhaps it is being obliterated, (from the time our ancestors cast their eyes on the big-wam) - I hope for sometime to come, you will plant your foot by your Mothers side, & give her the life long pleasure of seeing you steadily pursuing the object that you are best fitted for. As you have attained your majority, & been so long obliged to exercise her self control, you begin life at home under great advantages - the experience acquired under unforeseen circumstances - Be moderate in all your undertakings, & do not, in haste to amass wealth, give your whole soul to this object - for this is not your abiding place but your School for a higher state of existence - When you left here - I did not think to meet you again - but the Spring time is near & we may yet hear the songs of the birds together, & see the manifestation of beauty, love & mercy through all creation. In extenuation of my seeming neglect. I should say that I have been living for more than three weeks, so much in darkness, that I have not taken my pen - I was scarcely out of my own sick room when I came here & Friendship enjoyment immediately succeeding it, prevented me from using my eyes in the light

Very affectionately
Your aunt
R G Channing

Milton Jany 24 1853

A Happy new Year to you - & all, with love

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