in his brother's absence. I ought to have written to him and the Dutchess before, but will do so by the next steamer. I wish I could see her jolly old ladyship, in her dark striped silk, trying to look tall and slim. Tell her for her comfort that ours is doomed to be a fat family however poor it may be in other respects. I expect to see Wolcott as large as Harry [illegible] of these days. So long as her babies are fat and hearty, she ought not to growl if she keeps them company. I am sure that Lucius prefers it to the pinched up style of beauty. I am glad to find myself remembered on the New Year, by the old set. Even the mention of their names in your letters is a pleasant thing. Except among them I should already be in New York a stranger in a strange land. Eve Smiths visit to you was in his hearty way. I wish to mercy he would come out here again and bring the "Pirate" with him. No one likes Hitchcock & few respect him. Always when you see them remember me to Mrs William Gracie, Mrs Vandenhuevel &c I suppose Mary Gracie must be a pretty young woman by this time. Love to Laura, Eliza & the boys and a great deal to you dear mother from

George

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