



HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, HENRY

Dylan McMahon, 4th grade, Whitefield, ME

December 25, 1850

Dear Journal,

Today I visited the Longfellow house. When I knocked on the door a servant came right away. He said, "Ah, Mr, McMahon this is an unexpected visit, we weren't expecting you on Christmas, right this way." We walked a little. When we went through, there were two servants standing in the kitchen. One was setting the table and the other was twirling the turkey to cook it for dinner. Then, we walked a little more and took a right. In the living room was the whole family with the exception of Zilpah. The servant said, "Everyone is here except Zilpah, she is terribly sick, she just can't find a way to get warm." Young Hen was playing with a set of wooden dominoes. Young Hen's aunt, Anne, invited me to have some tea. We chatted for a while, them asking me how I've been and me asking them how they've been and Alexander invited me to have dinner with them. I replied, "yes". About fifteen to twenty minutes later young Hen wanted to show me his room. He urged me to go upstairs. So we went upstairs. Once we got upstairs we went into young Hen's room and in his room was the most beautiful rocking horse. Also for Christmas he had received a stocking with an orange and a few pieces of candy. We entered Zilpah's room, she was lying in bed trying to get warm and a medicine kit was right beside her. She said hi to me and I said hi to her. But that's all she said so we went back downstairs. Just as we entered the living room the servant notified us that it was time to have dinner. Then we went into the dining room and sat down at the table - it was already set. We said grace and then we dug right in. At the end I was so excited because we had oranges! I couldn't believe it. Oranges were so special we never had them - they came all the way from Cuba. After the meal I thanked them for inviting me to dinner, and I thanked the servants for the meal. I told Young Hen to behave himself and I said bye to Anne and Alexander then I left.



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