

sight, soon not even the smell in the house,

Tuesday 21
snowy

Maria & Lisa were in Berlin. Busy computing. I went along with Maria to drive her over the bridge and also met her coming home, as the men are still at work laying on the planks over the new iron bridge.

Thursday 22
Cold
cloudy

Busy computing. Sleighting begins but is not good, as it has no icy bottom. - In morning I drove Maria to Mrs. Patterson where she assists in preparing cakes for the evening party. In the evening Maria did attend the dancing party at Mrs. Patterson which was quite a pleasant affair. Quite a number of out-siders were present.

Friday 23
pleasant
cloudy

I lay aside my work and attend to making Christmas presents. We have had as yet no crisp cold winter weather.

Saturday 24
cloudy
pleasant

Cases large & small that have rested quietly for a year are taken from their corners and brought to the library where they visit their custodians to the Christmas tree, the cheering emblem of this festive season. The children assist in the decorating. In the evening I go to the Station to meet Aunt Lelia & Aubie; Carl, wife & children also arrive, the former stay with us. At 8 P.M. the boys proceed to mother's & bring up that household heading the procession with Chinese lanterns; shortly thereafter I have all the lights & Christmas tree lit, ring the bell and all enter the library, I being the first to receive presents which the boys carried, Maria gives me a beautiful case with crocodile knot, also a leather writing pad & the boys bought a clock for my library. Each one soon finds his place as a card with the name lies there. - The amount (value) in presents this year was not as large as has been in some former years, and for two reasons, one was the foremost one probably was that I did not wish to spend much money, & the other was that the boys have everything, all imaginable plays, books, skates, toboggan, sleighs &c.

In buying presents I always have an eye to the useful also. Marie I gave Godeville's work, a cross-stitch chair and "fina Raika". The last is in a measure indefinite to her, altho' she will know that it means to the Pacific Coast - British Columbia, but if my plans succeed there is something further in store for her. - Music was rampant. Oskar has a flageolet, later a piccolo, clear a fife + Waldemar a cornet of some kind. Max + Lulu play together on two guitars to the surprise of the visitors. The evening was spent pleasantly chatting, whereby the uncut man was not allowed to suffer either for liquid or solid. We broke up at 1 a.m.

Sunday 25 Christmas Day. - We fortunately were all in good time for the Xmas dinner, and our turkey left nothing to be desired. Happy + profitable Sunday day we arose from the period table. In the afternoon George + Henry + Ed, + Prof. Patterson + Fred. Clark called and were much interested in my record collections from my travels. For tea we were invited at mother's, and quite a table-full it made. After tea another "Werkmeister's Sektzermy" took place, and as one was forgotten, the boys amused themselves with their new games - paddles, billiards + pachessi - , and we chatted and played "anagrams" for some time.

Monday 26 Municipal Nominations Day. - I attended. - There seems to be a strong feeling among a certain class - German rabble to defeat M.A. Abbey, the most efficient councillor of the past season, the man to whom is due especially the erection of the town hall, but his shortcomings in their eyes are that he has a mind of his own and expresses it, and on the other hand does not loaf about taverns and make common with them. There is very little encouragement for a man of education + principle to attempt to participate in ^{the management of} municipal affairs, his love for the welfare of the community must be great