

Mr. Pitts place is all improvements house altered two new wings, lawn laid out in front sweeping down into a deep gully. Water laid on from a gully up the hill, to within a few yds of the back door, garden nicely laid out, & even now looks beautiful although most of the flowers have done blooming & labours of dullace work. choice creepers planted around in a few years it will be a very nice place the main walk is 70 of a mile long. Plenty of fruit, garden in good order & trees well trained, supposed some time he says, that 155 was far better than this summer & read a portion of a visit which is nicely written & very interesting.

Back to Mr. L's, had a game of chess with him. I had almost forgotten how to play it.

Dec. 22. Tuesday, dew fine, S. E., gathering fruit & etc a.m. I bid them & the boys adieu & returned to Chelmsford & commenced helping at Mr. Gaddons, frosty up & etc.

Dec. 23. Wednesday, dew fine S. E. putting books together & helping in the shop, to Brown in the evening.

Dec. 24. Thursday, dew fine S. E. helping in the shop busy day, begin to like my new occupation.

Dec. 25. Friday, dew fine S. E. Christmas day within reading & etc, to Mrs. Boyce's tea & evening, in Colons to next door to Gould & Child's.

Dec. 26. Saturday, dew fine S. E. S. E. by dust, cleaning out my shop, knocked down old counter, & hung the harness in order a.m. helping in Mr. C. shop P.M. to Cockham house in the evening, saw Miss Chiswell, she arrived per Capt Cook, I recognised her, she is much improved, spent a pleasant evening, talking over old things & times. Mr. L's shop looks well from without. it is a good stand. English Mail on received a letter from Mother.

Chelmsford theatre was opened to night.

Dec. 27. Sunday, misty rain, for a few hrs a.m. by all quarters S. E. & dry rain after 5 P.M. to Church a.m. within reminded me of days of old, when the old Ch. at Stoke was bedecked with evergreens, happy, merry Christmas, wherever an Englishman goes he will if possible keep up the customary rejoicings of this joyful period. The interior is nicely decked with evergreens mostly native plants, but the Holly cannot be dispensed with & although scarce yet there was sufficient to remind one of home, along the centre stretched up on painted yellow ground. These with words made of Holly leaves, "Unto us a child is born, on earth peace, good will towards man." over the door, "The prince of peace." over the communion table hung a wreath of evergreens & in the centre "I.H.S." above this another wreath & the prince of wales crest, made with a splendid specimen of native grass, over the communion table, was