

wait but a little while and time will prove
all

At this moment I hope that
health and pleasant dreams are hovering
round your fellow and I send love
on feather wings to keep their sentiments

From Your Loving
Husband
Will.

A Happy New Year to all
Good morning

Dillon M. J.

Dec. 31. 1888

Daisy mine

It is now 10-30 and
all of the household have retired
but I can't until I have written
my last message ^{of this Dec 31st year} to the one nearest
and dearest to my heart - If you
remember years ago when we were
not one I promised to write you a long
letter telling you of my life in the year
just closing. Times changed
since then but to night I feel
under obligation to keep my old
promise seeing this is the first old
year that has passed out and we
separated. At the time mentioned I
did not or dared not think of you ever
becoming my loving wife but providence
smiled on me and you became mine

and since that time providence
has frowned seemingly but when I
consider all is for the best

During our marriage you know my life
all well up till last summer and
since your leaving the ranch I have
told you all by letter ^{that} ~~what~~ was left unsaid by word
so my letters will be quite short on that
point

Some say that distance does not
stop communication between those we love
that love goes forth and finds sweet communion
and returns ~~loaded~~ with reward

I believe it I feel to night that
your pure love reaches me and my feelings
exclaim within me that you are a
precious dear little wife and something
seems to hide me & say I have done
something to take the bloom from your
cheeks I feel that I owe you a greater
debt than I shall ^{not} be able to pay

I can reward you by saying that you
have been all to me that any man could

ask. no matter how selfish he might be
You have been loving kind and unselfish
and performed your duty toward me
well as far as I know

and I love you more and
cherish you fondly with my heart of heart
You have won and retained your throne
although the temple may be an
unworthy one If I were with you to
night I feel that I could tell you
my feelings much better than I
can write them Oh! how I do wish
for the time to come when I can see
you and our dear little boys!

The clock has just struck 11 & I
am chilly so will close adding the
most sincere love to you and ours

This is my last letter for this year.
bairnd The date 1888 and I hope it
will carry more joy to your yearning
heart and be of more important than
all others written during the past year
they are my true sentiments if you doubt-