

Sherwood Forest

Dec 20. 1850

My Dear Col:

I lost not a moment in taking steps to secure you the appointment of Collector at San Diego, but your letter reached me too late as the enclosed from Senator Gwin will inform you. How deeply I regret this I can scarcely express. If I had known your wishes in due season there would have been, as I verily believe, no difficulty. The fact is that I had not even seen that San Diego had been established as a port of entry. The Collectorship would have been of great value to you and I should have rejoiced in your appointment but the chance is gone, unless indeed the new appointee should fail in giving the necessary bonds or in repairing to his post. Should any other thing turn up, do not hesitate to write to me upon the subject, without bringing myself under obligations to the men in power, I may be able to assist you.

I have been quite unwell for some time past from the effects of a bad cold, but trust that "the merry bells" of Christmas, which however they do not ring to the same merry tune as in my youth, will come to restore me

To my unreal health. I wish you most truly
a happy Christmas in the true spirit of the
old dictum. Happy Christmas merry new year
Pockets full of money and tumes of good cheer.

Julia is quite well and is as healthy and blooming
and every way as young as in times gone by.
~~She~~ complains of some inflammation about
her throat which a little caustic used by a
skillfull hand, will readily remove. Your name
sake David G. grows apace and is the finest boy in
creation. Like his uncle he will have his way in
most things, but his heart is in the right place,
and all will be well with him. Little Alexander
is a fine boy, and our Julia is the loveliest child
in the world. They are in good health and the
two boys are anxiously awaiting the advent of
Christmas under expectation of the good things
that Santa Claus is to bring them. The newspapers
will give you an account of all that is passing
in the great world, and of the uneasy condition
of public affairs. We are certainly in great dan-
ger of serious collision, but "out of the thistle dan-
ger we may pluck the flower safety," and there
agitations may lead to a long sleep not perma-
nent repose.

Such is my prayer. and to yourself

Col. D. L. Gardner. health happiness and long life. John Tyler

Letter from Ex Priest
respecting Collectorship at
San Diego, Cal