My Dear Col.:

I lost not a moment in taking steps to secure your appointment of Collector at San Diego, but your letter reached me too late as the enclaves from Senator Green 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 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 revered in your appointment, but The chance is gone, perhaps indeed. The new appointment should look in giving the necessary bonds or in repaying to his friend. 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 well for some time past from the effects of a bad cold, but friends say that "the merry bellow of Cleverman" in which I used to sing is not the same, many times as in my youth will come to restore me
to my real health. I wish you most truly
a happy Christmas in the true spirit of the
old district. Happy Christmas merry needs read
Pocket's full of money and tokens of good cheer.

Julia is quite well and is as healthy and blooming
and every way as young as in times gone by.
Her complaints of some inflammation about
her throat which a little caustic wound by a
skilled hand will readily remove. Your name
comes hard by. A strong spirit and in the tenderest 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 newspaper
will give you an account of all that is happening
in the great world, and if the uneasy condition
of public affairs, we are certainly in great dan-
ger of serious collision, but out of the thrald dan-
ger we may think the future safety, and these
epidemics may lead to a long delay and perman-
ent peace.

Wilt in my prayers, and to every
Letter from E. Brent
respecting Collectorship at
San Diego, Cal.