My dear Mother,

I should have written immediately in my arrival but thought it best to have everything ready for the day. The weather has been cool and pleasant, though the ground is still frozen and the trees are bare. I hope you are well and comfortable. I have been at my business, but have had little time to write. The children are passing the winter at school, and I hope they are making steady progress.

With love,

[signature]

[Date and place]
...you speak of the country you always show me, to your daughters. Mother, we shall soon be almost alone. The whole feels as if we were altogether. This is always you work. More than you seem to do more. If you understand this, mon...