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(Jan. 20)
 Helen Davis wrote Harvey that the paymaster had told her Ben had been ordered to San Antonio. When he is, will you and the boys move there too? Helen also wrote that the paymaster said Miss Morley was going home, but you did not speak of it in your last letters. Tell Grace we received her note of sympathy since baby's death and thank her for it; that I have written no letters except to you; and that Harvey is very very busy, both at the store and almost always in the evening at home.

Dear Sister Alice,
 I received your letter of Jan. 20. last Sat. afternoon, and the little afghan Tuesday P.M. of this week. We all think the little "african" (Gertrude thought that was the name) very beautiful, and I don't know why you should have thought I might think it too gaudy. I think so much of it and the mats you sent me Christmas, for I cannot remember when you made things for me before. We have wondered what kind of needles you used in knitting the afghan, and think it must have been quite difficult to hold and manage such a long stretch of knitting.

We did get your letter about the Christmas box before Christmas and I presume the box was in the P.O. here, by or before Christmas, but the post-men had so many packages to deliver this year that some had to wait.

I have had a dress-maker the last three days making my dress that came from England last fall. I got velvet to trim it, it looks very nice and fits me beautifully. Harvey got me a cloak last week. It is very becoming the folks say. Harvey thinks he could get a bolt of dress cashmere at wholesale at Field's or Farwell's and Ruth says she would take two dress patterns from it, one for herself and one for Laura, and she has written to Emma Dewry asking her if she would like one; and I have wondered if it would be any advantage to you to get one in this way. If there is no one where you are to make

Love to all,
 Yours as Ever
 Ellen K. Fuller

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In the letter to the left and transcribed below, Ellen Fuller fills her sister Alice in on the news back east. And thanks her for Christmas gifts and well wishes. In the letter, she passes on news passed to her by Helen, who is Ellen's sister-in-law and Alice's niece. Helen had lived with Alice at Fort Concho and met her husband William Davis, a lieutenant under Grierson there. The Grace mentioned is related the same way and met her husband, Mason Maxon who served under Grierson, while staying with the aunt and uncle.

A letter to Alice from her sister Ellen
 Chicago, Feb, 1, 1884

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Baby Mary has been doing better the last two weeks. Some day she seems nervous and does not sleep, but if she should always be a very nervous child I should not wonder, if there is anything in pre-natal influence. The rest are quite well.

Love to all,
 Yours as Ever
 Ellen K. Fuller



To Left: Marshall Field & Co. Chicago with State Street and Washington Street taken from: The New Chicago Album. New York: Wittemann Bros. 1883. found on nucius.com

Below: Farwell Block 300-330 W. Monroe St. from NW corner of S. Wacker St. (originally Market St.) to NW corner of S. Franklin St. <http://digital-libraries.saic.edu/>

In 1883, Ellen was looking to buy her cashmere from one of two of Chicago's leading businesses, Fields' a department store headed by Marshall Field and Farwell & Co., a wholesaler headed by John Farwell. By the end of the 1880's both businesses ranked among the top three wholesalers in the country. Both men had been partners in Farwell, Field & Co. before Marshall Field departed to form his own company. Marshall Field would expand his company as a retail business, Marshall Field & Co., and thrive, lasting until 2006. Farwell however, did not and stuck to wholesaling and suffered as manufacturers began selling directly to retail stores. Farwell closed in 1925.

