



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Costs enclosed a letter from the mother
I would have you to forward it to him in
your first letter to me after receipt.

La Crosse, Wis. Oct^r 9th 1863.

Dear Mother.

(26)

I am happy to have the
privilege of a few spare moments to
write & mail a letter to you to
inform you that I am in good health
and I hope this will find you all
well also. I arrived safely in Fort
Snelling on Tuesday last at 7 P.M. having
rode down from Le Sueur.

I found the boys in their old place
and all well, and preparing to leave.
I saw next morning the boys of the 9th
who are all well. The 7th at an early
hour made preparations for departure
for Dixie. We were ready at 10 A.M. &
with our knapsacks on our backs took
up the line of march for St. Paul
We marched through St. Paul at noon and
embarked on board the Hudson at 2 P.M.

We left St Paul on the "Hudson"
at 4 P.M. cheered by hundreds of the
citizens, who gave us a fine reception.
We passed Hastings &c at night and
at an early hour yesterday, were transferred
to the "Northern Belle" near the head
of "Lake Pepin." I saw Maiden Rock
so renowned as the scene of the Heroine
"Winona", a young female Squaw.
We passed rapidly down the river
on this splendid boat, although delayed
for some time by getting aground 2 or 3 times.
& passed Winona at 4 P.M. It is a fine
thriving town, and there, I saw George
Rood, who is quite well. Here also we
parted with our Colonel Miller.
Here also the balance of our Regt. joined
us & accompanied us to La Crosse on
the "Frank Steele," where we arrived
at 11 o'clock P.M.

We were finely asleep on the hurricane deck, when we were awakened at the midnight hour by the martial music around us and we got up and with our gun & knapsack, our only care, were changed to the Cars.

Here amid the confusion we could not sleep, so Ed Lalor & I, after fixing up our traps, walked down to town a mile distant from the Station.

We were getting hungry so we found a store & got some Crackers & ate & returned, took a nap in the cars till daylight, awoke, washed and eat a hearty breakfast; and then went down to visit the town as we were not to leave till noon. La Crosse is a fine thriving town & does a good business.

There is a heavy trade going on now on the River. Plenty of boats passing up & down
per

Excuse my scribbling. I wrote not hand
writing. I had talked over with the
gentleman in the next cabin that I
would not write till he got to
St. Louis. Ed talked over with
another man in the next cabin that I
would not write till he got to
St. Louis.

We will leave in a few minutes for Milwaukee
from there to Chicago & from there to St. Louis
I believe. The 9th & 10th are following close
after us. I mailed a letter to Ireland in St. Paul
Cooley's wife is all right on her way to Indiana
I purpose writing again when I reach
St. Louis if we go there. Times are rather
exciting although not any thing in comparison
with what we will yet see.

The boys are all well. We left our bugles
behind. The Capt. is not with us yet.
I heard they were going to send for J. Davis &
the other boy. This is a fine day & we will
have a fine ride I trust through Wisconsin
Remember me to all, and for the present
Good Bye. Your Affectionate Son

J. Montgomery

P.S. Love to father & brothers. Keep up good
spirits & your health will be better. Be not
desponding. I was glad to have you hear of so well
till I left. Good bye.