



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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your first letter to me after reaching
would you be forward to the firm in
the / ~~company~~ / Mrs. Kellie will get it to be in
Coke, cables & letter from the north
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
heroic town and there, I saw George
Roth 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 & eat & 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 boats passing up & down the river.

