



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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St Louis January 11th 1864.

Dear Bro. Alexander,

I sat myself once more to write you a few lines, in answer to yours of the 29th ult. received on the 9th inst. I was glad to hear that you were all well, and enjoying yourselves. I was sorry to hear of the neighbors being so sick, especially of Mrs. Jones & Jane, so soon after Mr. Jones death. I hope they will soon get better. I was glad to hear of Mrs. Jones' whereabouts. Sickness is very prevalent here also. A great many of our Regiment have been confined by sickness, to quarters, and several have died. Some 8 or ten, mostly by small pox or varioloid. We have lost another of our company by small pox, since I last wrote, viz Charles Chapman from Bordown, a young fellow, who hardly ever was sick before coming here. We have now in the small pox hospital, on the island, Sergt. Lancaster, & Carter and Frank L. Perry & D. Banfield, all but the last went over day before yesterday. None of them are very serious cases, and I believe they will all come back. A number more were attacked slightly, but are mostly recovered. Among the latter class, was Ed. Calbot, who was sick a day or two, but is now well.

A great fire here destroyed a large wagon manufactory
& kept 7 Steam fire engines working a whole day!

I have been astonished, to hear of your unbelief in
my good health. I think it is time enough to be
uneasy, when you hear definitely that I am sick.
I have not been sick, one day yet since coming to
St. Louis, thanks be to my Heavenly Father. Neither do
I by any means, want to be sick, although I may be
the next, for I am exposed to sickness all the time.
Dr. Talbot denies having written that I was unwell,
there has been a great deal of suffering, on account of
the great storm, which prevailed all over the Country.
I suppose it must be awful cold in Minnesota.
It is now much milder, although still cold at night.
I received Returns from the War Department, from
A. Adj. Genl. Foster on last Thursday, granting me
permission to appear before the Board. I reported on Friday
and was examined by the Surgeon on Saturday, and
was approved, I have to report daily till examined.
To this end I got a leave of absence from Col. Marshall
which relieves me from guard duty, till examined.
I know not yet what position I will get, or whether
I will get any, but I am in hopes of getting a Lieutenant.
From one to three are examined here daily, a great many
of them belonging to our Regiment.