



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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St. Louis. — January 12th 1864. (39)
Dear Mother,

I received your kind letter, and was very glad to hear from you. that your health still continues good, &c, I know you can have better health there than is possible here, there is so much coal smoke in the air, and the weather damp & changeable. My health thank God has been as good here as it ever was in Minnesota. True I must be careful what I eat, & drink, especially now, where small pox is so prevalent. I was vaccinated a few weeks ago & it worked well. I don't remember now, that it was small pox I had in London. Please tell me if you know, how many of our Co. went over to the island yesterday with it. but they will recover, I think your anxiety for my health is altogether unnecessary. True I am exposed but: "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof". I trust if I do get sick, it will be for my good. I resign myself to God's care and feel contented. Knowing all will be well. I don't want you to diminish either in your writing or frequency, as I do not think you write to much or too often. I heard Dr Cox preach twice last Sunday & attended a splendid Clap Meeting. I also attended. Daily Prayer Meeting to day. The preaching is powerful & the Sunday school excellent. The Union M.E. Church is a splendid edifice, with an organ, stained windows, cushioned seats, carpeted floor &c. The weather is now quite mild. We have prayer meeting twice a week in the Reg. I will now close. Write often. I send love to all and remain your affectionate son, Thomas Montgomery

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I reported again this morning, but was not examined but will be in one or two days. Our Regiment were paid off to day for two months. I will not send any home at present, waiting coming events. The 8th inst was celebrated here by display of flags, &c. To day has also been a gala day, as you will see by the paper I send you. (Deny) The National Flag streams from all the public places and in the principle thoroughfares. I spent the day mostly through the city, on the river, which is all the time covered with thousands of citizens of both sexes, & of all sizes & colors, & over in the Illinois side, Gen. Tom Thumb & his pretty little wife and Commodore Nutt & Miss Minnie Warren, sister to Tom's wife, are now in the city. I attended their public Levee yesterday in the Mercantile Library Hall. Thousands throng to see them. The four only weigh 100 lbs. They have a little carriage & two span of small Shetland ponies which cost \$2000. They exhibit presents from European Sovereigns & others. They Genl. & Lady appeared in their wedding costume. They are all truly amusing & interesting. They can sing & talk & play, all very well. Give my respects to all the friends, and write often to me. I enclose the song you requested, and remain your Affectionate Brother, Thomas Montgomery