Fort Snelling Apr 28th 1863

Peter Carie

No, I did not know I was to leave so soon when I went away out to Alberta but feared by the tone of the letter I received from Cap Jones that such would be the case. Was somewhat disappointed when the order came, but our accommodating Postmaster E. Porter he having retained the order in the office for a day to enjoy the pleasure of handing it to me himself that he might know the contents thereof. Strange seeing that Porter! I might just as well stayed at home another week as not and had I known just how things were I would have been tempted to depart. When I arrived here there was only seventeen men and two of us to drill them and Capt. Whipple being the ranking officer the duty devolved upon him. He has a slight advantage of me he having been in the regular service for eleven years and most of that time in the artillery and so you see I will have some studying to do to keep pace with him but am bound to do it. One day he went to Saint-Paul and I had to take charge of the detachment. I came well enough despairsing the night he told me he was going and half fell as if I was sorry that I had a Commission but left up that night and spored over the tactics and after he went away took charge of the men and did a good thing at drilling them after that I took courage and I firmly believe that his going away that day
That day was the making of me for bad. I waited until the Captain returned knowing as I did he was a well drilled man & I should have been so embarrassed that I fear I should have failed but now as far as I know I do very well allowing me to tell it. The Battery is filling up very fast now, there being about a hundred men at the present time. We muster tomorrow the I shall be a soldier again for three years or during the war. It will hardly be possible for me to return home again before leaving here as the men are coming in so fast we must necessarily stay here, and give them the little instructions we can as the time is so short before the expedition will start out. Whipple and I put them (the men) through about seven hours a day and we are both so bored at night we can hardly speak from talking so much. When I left home I did not bring my discharge papers with me and it may be necessary for me to have them will you send them to me. You will find them in my trunk in the end nearest to the stairs in a bundle of other papers I think it is in the middle of the package. Henry will know what it is. By the way will you see that my trunk is locked all my papers secured before you go away, take the key with you or give it to Father. I wrote to Thomas the other day to get a Rubber Blanket and also sent word to Henry if he wished to sell his Revolver to send it along; if they have not send them to them if they conclude to do so perhaps they had best send by Express as it would be much safer. I would
like to go down to St. Paul but can hardly spare
the time Sargent Underwood whom you have heard
me speak of is here and I would like to see him very
much feel that I cannot leave long enough. A man
by the name of Butler from Wabashow called to see me
today. He belongs to the Sharpshooters and is nearly
blind when I saw him last. At Antietam he was
well. Today hardly knew him in fact did not until
he told me his name. He is trying to get his discharge
and is worthy of it. If I am any judge of his case,
write me soon and send the paper I require. I left
a few stamps and some paper in my or your Portfolio
use them as I have plenty here. If you want it take
it with you to keep your papers in but I would
like to keep it as it seems like an old familiar
friend having accompanied me through the Peninsula
campaign that would not bring it with me on this
trip for fear of losing it. I heard that Mr. Atman
goes in St. Paul. Remember me to Mrs. C.

Regards to all,

Truly your Brother

Merrill

PS If you do not have time to write immediately
send the descriptive list without caring.