

Head Quarters, Department of the Missouri,

OFFICE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL,

St. Louis, Dec^r 17th 1862.

Respected Friend
of Cousin.

Your
Communication bearing date Dec 10th came
duly to hand and I was pleased to hear
from you again and hear that you was
enjoying health. But I regret to learn that
the Small Pox is among you. I imagine
that Billy is having a hard time of it.
But I do not think that the Small Pox is so
catching as some imagine. For last Spring
nearly our Whole Company was exposed to
it and not one of us had it. I regret to learn
that Poor old Orville & John. Duck. have to
turn Soldiers. But then its men that we

want ^{of} men we must have at all Hazards.
You say that it seems hard to be set up for
a mark, just for the Nigger. I cannot look at it
in that light although I admit that it was the
Nigger that started the Muff. But suppose that
we. (Northerners) had made no resistance I
ask where we would have been now. The
South would have made every State in the Union
a Slave State. and now the Nigger is a good
deal of help to us. There has already been
Three Negro Regiments raised here in Missouri.
and another one nearly ready for the field.
Although I am no lover of the Nigger. I do not
want to see them Slaves, neither do I want
to see them spread all over the United States.
I would like to see them Colonized somewhere in
our Western or Southwestern Country.
The weather here is very cold at present.

We had a hard Snow storm on the night
of the 15th and made very nice Slighing Yesterday.
and last night it froze hard so today it is
nice Slighing yet. But the Snow cannot
stay long. I expect that we are going to have
a new Department. Commander here for the Papers
tell us, that Enly J. Chisfield has been relieved ^{and}
Ordered to Washington. We know nothing who will
fill his place here yet. I hope it may be "Bossy"
But as we are going to have ~~a~~ new Commander
I expect to go to the Company room. and then my
good times are all played out. But Prohibition
must be a wonderful lonely place now. But
about next Spring it will begin to grow again.
and then look out for Treasurers. Your Letter
found me enjoying myself and in good health.
as my Sheet is full I must close ^{and}
by asking you to answer when convenient.

and address as before. give my best
respects to all of the folks and remember
yourself

Yours as Ever from a
Friend & Cousin

Loren M. Johnson.

Edgar M. Dick
Brotherton.
Wisconsin