

Head Quarters, Department of the Missouri,

OFFICE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL,

St. Louis, Dec^r 4th 1863.

Well Exp.

Your Communication
of Nov 30th came duly to hand this
morning and now I proceed to answer
it as duty requires. I was pleased to
learn that you was in good health
and the rest of the people also. Your note
found me in good health and still in
the Prov. Marshal's Dept. and my duty
since I last wrote has been made
much lighter. and I see by your letter
that Uncle Sammel, has started.
some of those stay at home's at last.
But I am sorry for John Dick & Draville.
One thing certain that is I am out of

the way of the draft. but as long as The
Govt allows or gives them ~~them~~ privilege
of paying three, ~~thousand~~, Dollars, and
being released from the Draft. We are
not going to enlarge our Army much.
and I think it wants a considerable
Reinforcement yet before this order is
closed. But we must whip them
and will whip them (the Rebs)
But Ed I'd like to be there to have
some nice Slit bridges, especially New
Gear, but I cannot so there is no
use of talking. But Ed I've just got
or just received rather, an invitation
to a Grand Annual Ball to be given
by a Lodge known as the, "Lily of
the Valley Lodge" and I imagine
I shall attend, it's to be on the 30th Dec.

But then I could enjoy myself a good
deal better with my old friends in
Boston. Business here in the
City is lively now a days and so it is
in our Department, and we are like
to have it a good deal harder, and
we have had some dreadful cold
weather here, so much so that
everything froze solid here, and I had
a good time a skating with some of
my "office mates," and Ed I am
sorry to hear that anyone else read that
letter but you, but never mind it was
only talk but I will not talk so
any more, and by the way for what
I have said, and now as my sheet
is full I close remaining as ever
your sincere Friend
L M Johnson

Edgar M. Dick
Prothon
Notary Public
Wisconsin

Please address as before and
omit when convenient.

P.S. If you cannot make this
all out send it back and
I'll copy it over Lmj