

Fort Snelling

Jan. 10, '09

I can start in as usual by saying that I have been intending to write for some time but don't seem to have done it.

We appreciate your Christmas presents very much. The beads were dandy and will be so nice for babe.

I finally decided that I had better get my leave now when I was sure of it than to wait until next summer and very possibly have something turn up that would keep me from going. I expect to get away about Jan. 15 and go to Leavenworth first with Mary and make a visit with the McClaughrys and from there to go east taking in all the family. I am afraid that it won't be practical for us both to go east on account of the difficulty of dragging Babe around and the large expense incident to so much travelling. I am very glad to escape this long disagreeable winter which I think will be pretty severe this year. A few days ago the mercury was at 35 above and by the next night 28 below. Today it is above 5 below with a strong wind and is very disagreeable indeed.

The troops arrived here from Cuba on the day before yesterday.

I cant [sic] tell you how much I am looking forward to seeing you all. What are your plans for the winter. [sic] I would like to know so I can make my visit fit in. I had though [sic] of going to Annapolis the latter part when spring will be making things so pleasant thereabout.

Well Papa looking forward to a very pleasant visit with you and my love to Margaret from all of us, as well as yourself. I am

Affectionately,

Jim

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