

Burlington Jan'y 27th 1865

Geol. Marsh Esq
Dear Sir

Inasmuch as I have very little to do now a days perhaps I cannot spend my time any better than by writing a few lines to you. We have just finished our inventory and find our financial condition satisfactory and as to make money seems to be the chief end of man we may be said to be in a flourishing way. Father and Mother have been more or less troubled with rheumatism this winter but otherwise are in usual health. My wife is as well as any woman could be with a great strong healthy baby to take care of. I am always well. The probabilities are that you will now again see the town of Burlington again for we are now almost a city. The sovereigns of this place have voted to accept a city charter consequently we must now put away our country manners and black up our boots and look as spruce as possible. We are to have a Mayor and plenty of smaller officers for everybody.

About two weeks ago the boilers at the Pioneer Shop burst and made a perfect wreck of the engine house blowing the walls out in every direction and throwing the steam drum ten feet long and two feet in diameter weighing 2300 lbs clear over the shop and quite a distance beyond it. Seven persons were killed instantly and three more wounded. Four hundred people were thrown out of employment for at