

Merrimack, Wisconsin, Sauk Co., Nov 22, 1857

Dear Mother:

... I have been in this place for about three months past, and I expect to stop here this winter. My wife & baby have been with me since the first week in October. We are boarding at the hotel. I have boarded at the hotel ever since I came here. Merrimack is situated on the Wisconsin River 26 miles from Madison and 10 miles from Baraboo, where I first come to, or where I was when I wrote to George.

I have been very well in this country. My wife and baby have been very well most of the time since they have been out here. We have got one of the prettiest & handsome babies you could ask to see. She is a great hand to laugh & play...

Times are very hard here. Sometimes it makes me feel quite blue. Most business here in the West is suspended or there is but very little doing. I like Wisconsin well as far as I have seen. Milwaukee is a very large & powerful city and very handsomely laid out. So is Madison.

My goods I have not got yet. I expect them soon and then shall go to keeping house. Shall send for them tomorrow morning to Madison. Shall get to keeping house this week I expect....

Merrimack is a new town and but few inhabitants as yet, but if nothing happens we intend to have a Rail Road to this place within 18 months or less than one year we expect, and with what little business we can push along with other help shall expect to see a large town very soon if times are good. One word more; we can buy wheat for 35 to 45 cts. per bushel, corn 25 to 30, oats 20 cts, beef 4 to 6, pork 3 to 5, potatoes 20, butter 25, cheese 12 1/2, eggs 10 to 12 doz. All West India goods are very high. My wood will not cost me anything only the drawing & cutting up...

From your son

Maynard Partridge