

449
Petit Ouel Island St

November 21st 1865-

My dear Papa.

Our baggage from Texas has arrived, and we have found it all in good order, except some broken glass and Crockery, and some clothing in one of Sister Mary's trunks, that has been considerably damaged by water. Upon opening the boxes, I found one hundred pounds of excellent powder, and now write this for your information, as it had not been found when I wrote to Mama. The Engineer sent up by Dr Mallet, is now here quartered upon us, with two assistants, much to my annoyance and inconvenience; as it is extremely difficult to furnish them with food.

Mr Hodges contemplates remaining some ten days longer to finish his work. It seems singular to me, then, that this Company have as yet taken no steps to develop the Capacity of the mines. Brother and myself have almost arrived at the Conclusion, that they are speculators in Salt and have payed you a bonus of twenty-five thousand dollars to prevent others from bringing this salt into Market, until their stock on hand should be sold. This is merely a surmise of ours and of course may be wrong, but their delay in commencing work here certainly looks, as if there was some motive for it behind the scenes. Asquith has informed Frank Richardson, who has just returned from Texas via Nettles

Bluff, that Dr Mallet had purchased an interest in his Petroleum Spring, for the same Company that had leased the salt Mines. You can form your own Conclusion from this. Mr Kinney has been preparing the land for lease, and will commence planting today. The weather is clear and beautiful; just cold enough to be pleasant. The Carpenter will finish weather boarding the house today and will have it shingled and floored ^{with the salt parts} next week. Brother and myself called up the hands last night, with reference to securing their labor for the next year. I think we will be able to retain the best of them. Sam, Amy, Ben and in fact all the hands that left us are anxious to return, which certainly will

have great influence in regulating
the movements of the hands now
with us. The powder you sent to
John Hayes, has never been re-
ceived and he ^{has} requested me to ask
you, to inform him whether it
was sent by express or boat, in order
that he may oblige them to return
him the same amount. My
wife is still afflicted with Chills
and fever. I take her out to Aunt
Olivia today, who promises to
effect a cure. She will also be
near Dr Wapencer, should his
services be required. I will have
the Carpets brought out by the
Cart today. Brother and myself
purchased a 12 musel Carpet from
Dr Smith, for fifty dollars, before
we heard that you had bought
Mr Nelson's. My wife ~~and~~
with the rest of the family
send much love to Mamma, Sister
and yourself with sincere affect-
ion I am your Son

— Dadley —