

Fort Madison December 11, th 1869.

Dear Brother,

Being that I haint any thing to do at present but pen those few lines to you to let you know the times is getting pretty hard at present and aint much doing this winter all the Mills has shut ^{down} at night they most of them is running all night day and the have quit in the mill yard for two or three months I a may send up word to Mr Meigs that he couldent get money to pay the men and to a Meigs he had better aint working for a while so Mr Meigs' look'd us of work for a while until there would be some money in circulation and days grow longer for they are very short at present we go to work at seven O'clock and quit at 4 O'Clock so he thinks its worse than the eight hour system he is down on the eight hour system is very hostile against it.

But there is work in Egypt yet for
us from what there was a vessel got
driven a shore on Van Courland
and got badly fractured and she
is coming in here for to get repaired. The
steamer here is getting repaired now we had
her on the ways and were repairing her she will
start to morrow or next day for the vessel
and when ever she comes in here we will
get work on her until she is finished
its probly it will take from two to three
months to repair her and by that time
we will begin on the vessel again
Mr. Peigs wants her launched in
July if possible. So we will not
lose much time after all the times
are so poor. But I think the times will be
pretty good first summer. There is going to be
a good many vessels built on Puget Sound
first summer. But I tell you in my writing that
the times are pretty dull this winter all over
the Sound. There is hundreds of men going idle

and cannot get one days work. It costs
something for a man to go idle in this country
especially on West Sound every day we are idle
it costs \$1 per day for board and that is 365 dollars
a year for board but I think I can board one year
well for I have over 365 dollars now I have done
very well since I came here but
I am spending \$1 per day now
for board but I will soon be to work
again as soon as the get this blessed
produce in a week or two I will be into
it again my health is splendid
I ever since I have been in this
Country. Let me know if you can get the
money from Mr. T. Brown for Sandy
if not I will send it but if you can get it
in any other get-it-money on Interest here
count up pretty fast and if there is any good
Farm for sale round and under Value let me know
perhaps I could purchase. Write Emeaitaly

I still remain your corresponding Brother.

J. C. McDonald

Mr James McDonald.

West Hill, Tipton, Conn.

I hope you will not be get in answering this
Immediately. I am getting tired in writing I cannot take
time or any pains in writing it seems like a trouble
for one to sit down and write a letter now I cannot
think of any thing to put in it.

James