



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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We have entrenched here, and will have
to, every night hereafter, to protect the camp,
& guard against sudden surprise, &c.
We ^{were} ~~made~~ all glad to see the mail coming
and will have it regular hereafter, to be
carried by two half breeds for 10 cents a letter.
I want you to please, to write often,
& direct as before, & I will get them.
The boys are all pretty well, one old
man is going back. Edward Talbot is
detailed as orderly for the Brigade 2nd to
carry messages &c. It is an easy birth,
Jo Davis is well. I wrote a letter for him
to his sister. I did not send any clothes
home by Bud Keithly as you said.
I only sent an old hat, and a book on Phen-
-ography or short hand writing. You may
call Lily's calf (Marshall) if you choose, any
name will suit me. I am glad you are
enjoying yourselves so well. I hope
you will have a good camp meeting,

The weather the past week, has been very warm, but to day is cool and there is a North wind, which if it continues will make marching more pleasant. We are about 140 miles from Devil's Lake. Our course will be up the Sheyenne River. If we meet no Indians, we will probably go North and return by St. Joseph & Pembina or Red River, thence across to the Mississippi and down to Crow Wing, St. Cloud & to St. Paul, and then the probability is we will go South, at least these are camp rumors, and go for what they are worth. Rather fear if we take around so, we will run short of provision before we return, as there is quite a waste, which is unavoidable. Our fare in Camp is passable. We have all we want to eat, Hard Bread & Coffee. Beef, Pork, Beans, rice and mixed vegetables, dried which makes a palatable & nutritious soup, and is very healthy and opening to the bowels.

Our fare on the March is of course not so good, being confined ^{mostly} to hard bread & Coffee & meat sometimes. We manage to save some Coffee sometimes to put in our canteens which makes the warm water fit to drink. We have seen several buffaloes, and elk here and also wolves. I saw two eagles today which were caught, the first. I remember being We had a very nice camp here on the bank of the river, Had splendid Spring water to drink. I saw beaver dams here, and the trees they gnawed down. Our Co. were on guard last night and to day, and have just come off. Dress parade is just over. Orders were read relative to our march. We leave here 4 A.M. to morrow, 2 companies from each regt. on guard daily, which will make 3 Co's as vanguard & 3 as rear guard. The wagons are to go four abreast, where the ground will permit, and the men on each side, all keeping as close & compact as possible, to prevent surprise.

If you were here you would see quite a large camp of 600 or 700 tents, laid out in regular order and covering a large area, away out of the world I might say near 300 miles from home. We have had but little rain, and grass is scarce, and mules are dying fast. I do not know of much more to write. Give my respect to the neighbors &c. Tell Mr Jones, I am experiencing a great many things he used to tell me off, tell him I had no time to write to him but I would be glad to hear from him or any other person for a letter is very acceptable to a soldier. It gives him something to think of. I trust I shall have a chance this fall to visit you all again, if I am alive & well. But no doubt before that time we will see some hard times. Please accept my love, which is all I can send, and don't forget me, and remember me in your prayers daily, for I need them. I will now close. I shall write as often as I have opportunity. I do not forget home yet. Love to all -
From your affectionate friend B. J. Montgomery