



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Port Hudson, April 19th 1864. (472)
Received a letter this morning from
Sergt Major Worden, of the 62nd U.S. C.V.
formerly of Co K. Now the regiment
is stationed at Baton Rouge La.
He describes it as a beautiful place
and very healthy. In patrolling last
night I had considerable amusement,
and made 8 or 10 arrests. We had an
exciting chase after 4 or 5, - who ran
when they saw us coming. We followed
them for a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, fired on them, but
all to no purpose for they struck into
a camp & got out of sight. Patrol
every night till 11 or 12 O'clock.
I mean to do my duty every time, the
best I know how, and learn something
every day. This is a grand element
of success. Burke was right in thinking
that this army has helped me. I have learned
a great many things, a great deal of human
nature, but I don't thank him much for
it. He thought I was too easy, perhaps I
was then, but then I was young & diffident,

I find no harm in being mild, if I am at the same time firm. The men will like me much better for it. But they find me stern and unyielding when obedience and military discipline is required. I found this company in a rather dirty, slovenly and undisciplined condition. Now, they are clean, their camp and tents are kept clean, they are prompt, and do their guard duty three times as well. I had to enforce such discipline to maintain any credit in my position as Provost Guard. I am also happy to announce that Co. B. has been complimented, more than any other Co. in the Regt. for their cleanliness and good order. But the Missouri troops need great drilling, yet before they can be efficient in the field Gen. Banks has held the colored troops in reserve. Mr. Grider having said they would take no prisoners of any kind. if the blacks were found fighting. I was well enough to be cautious at first till he knew how he stood, but he ought to disregard any such threat, as the blacks will make their mark if they have a chance. I have attended no meetings for religious purposes since I came here, but after this our Chaplain will preach regular. I am under many obligations for the many letters you send me. They are looked for with interest & when received are appreciated. I want to hear from you all individually. Give my regards to all the friends. I wrote a letter home 10 days ago. Direct for the present as before via New York. Hoping this will find you all well in good spirits. & Hoping to hear from you all regular. I close by remaining as ever
your affectionate son
47 1/2 Thos. Montgomery