



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Morganza La, July 18th 1864.

My Dear Mother. -

I was very glad indeed to receive your letter yesterday, and to peruse the valuable advice, encouragement, and news which it contained. I was pleased that your health had improved so much. I was also glad to hear from Cousin Abella Johnson. I think I will write to her but I have no picture to send and no chance to get any at present. I think the address is Onemee T.C. Victoria Co. B.W. I suppose she has a fine large family now. I wrote to Mr. Henry last week. I was glad to hear that your stock was doing so well, but I fear you have too much work to do. The trouble with me is I have too little to do. I believe I would like to try chopping for a week or two, or cradling or mowing. It always agreed with me to work & I liked it when I was not too hard worked. I would not like however to work down here in the hot sun. But my work at present is more congenial to my feelings. Having a great deal of writing to do, & the business of a Co. I am well satisfied in my new Comp. Our mess is wholly a Methodist one. Yesterday I attended meeting twice. In the morning my 2^d Lt. Roberts preached on the evidences of Christianity an able discourse intended to hit some Skeptical officers, among others our Lt. Col. & wife who is with him, they being spiritualists. In the evening the chaplain preached, and one of the darkies made a closing prayer. Superior to nine tenths of any I ever heard white men make, the words were correct, the language was perfect, and the sense & effect complete.

Capt Whitford has had his leave extended 20 days more
& I have an idea that he never will come back as his
health is not improving any. I often feel thankful
that my lot has been cast in such a place as it was.
All the Louisiana Col^d Regts are being consolidated
now, & all the officers have to again appear before Examg
Boards, & those found unqualified will be mustered out.
This will make quite a change among some incompetent
officers, & be a good thing for those who are competent.
This will reduce about 30 skeleton Regts to 10 full Regts.
Of course this order don't apply to us being from Missouri.
I have not heard from E. Salbot or the jth Min for a long time.
You have surmised that I was getting fleshy. I think
the tendency is otherwise in this hot climate.
I weigh less by 20 pounds than I did in St Louis.
I weigh now about 145 lbs, and am still fleshy enough.
I have not heard from Gen. J. Missouri, and neither can I
imagine how to find him. I cannot write to Mr. Langan because
I don't know his proper address. I might as well write to the
man in the moon as write to him, with the address sent me.
We have heard of the good news the loss of the Alabama.
It is a pity her officers were not captured. We still hear
good news from Grant & Sherman & hope soon to hear
of the fall of Richmond, Atlanta, & Newburg.
I again thank you for writing to me so often and of
the good words of cheer and encouragement sent.
Our Agent of the Christian Commission here is a Meth
Minister and I get from him all the religious reading
I want. In fact I have given more attention to religious
subjects lately than I used to. I feel that I need
continually the divine blessing, that of myself I am utter
weakness, and that Christ alone is my strength & hope.
Pray for me that it may be well with me in dying hour.
I am glad you have got my money. I may soon send home
another pile, which I would like to be invested in real estate
or stock or both. As I said before, use it freely for your own use
and for religious & charitable purposes. I now have finished
my sheet & must close, my heart scrubbing, so with love
to you all, & respects to friends, I remain your offset, L. J. Montgomery