



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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The U. S. Christian Commission
sends this as the soldier's messenger to his home.
Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings.

"There is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

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Morgantia La. Sept. 9th 1864.

My Dear Bro. Alex^r.

Well do I remember fifteen years ago to day, the morning of your birth. I was away after our black cow, and on returning, discovered you in the cradle. Since then many changes have occurred in the world, and not a few in our own family. We are still all alive however, as we were then; and God only knows what changes another fifteen years will experience.

I am glad that all is as well as it is. My own health thank God is good, and I sincerely trust you enjoy your self to day; and that this will find you and J. C. father and Mother in the very best of health, and enjoying all temporal and spiritual blessings. For my own part I enjoy myself very well; at least as well as circumstances will permit.

I write to you on paper furnished by
the Christian Commission to the soldiers.
I have plenty besides, but their liberality
in providing for the soldiers wants, has
never been equalled. We are abundantly
supplied with the choicest religious
reading matter, in the shape of papers,
pamphlets and books. The Sanitary Branch
also supplies us with many delicacies
for the sick. They have my thanks for
favours received myself. Since I last wrote
our Regiment has been out on a small
expedition. At first all were to go, and
we all prepared, but before we started
we were cut down to 3 Capts, 6 Lieuts, and
200 men rank and file. The 62^d furnished
a like number, all in command of our
Lt. Col. Millington. There was also about 1000
white troops with them. They left here
at midnight, got aboard a boat, sailed
to Bayou Sara, half-way to Port Hudson
and landed with the intention of
surprising a camp of Rebels in the
vicinity

The landed at day-light, advanced a few miles into the interior but found no camp. The Rebs. had nearly all decamped 5 days previous. Our Skirmishers in advance had a little fight however with the Rebel pickets and captured a few. They then returned, the boys helping themselves to all the country such afforded, such as geese, turkeys, chickens, corn, squashes &c. They came back loaded, the ~~next~~^{same} day about noon. I was not with them, Lt-Kreps was. Lt-Kreps is temporarily assigned to duty in Co. "H," as Lt-Butler is detailed as A.D.C. at Brig. Hd. Qrs. and the Capt. is sick, he has moved from us to Co. "H," I suppose "Lizzie" is with you now, at least I hope she is. I hope she pleases you although she is colored. Tell her everything is the same as when she left. We still remain in our old Camp. Our duties are not very laborious. Day before yesterday I drilled the non-com. officers of the Regt. Yesterday I worked the Regt. on the fort. It is wonderful what an amount of work it takes to build even a simple fort. We work half of each day.

Troops from Mobile Bay, arrived here to day
Fort Morgan and the surrounding forts were
all taken, and all ingress is at an end.
We received St Louis papers to day of the first
telling all about the Chicago Convention
and how those traitors raved. Government
ought to arrest the whole of them.
The capture of Atlanta is confirmed.
A national salute was fired here in honor
of the event. Quite a contrast to the Chicago
Convention, is this success of the National Arms
I hear nothing of late from the Minn. Regts.
Col. Crook's of the 6th Minn. commands at Helena.
Nearly all the white troops have left this place.
There is yet however a very large force here.
I suppose you are now cutting corn. Well I
hope you will have a good crop. I hope you
have hay enough for to winter the stock, but
as you have good grain and straw it will be a
great help. What I long after most is the milk.
Give me that and I can live first rate. Canned milk
costs 80 cts per can, and that tastes too much of
greenbacks. So also do potatoes & onions at 15 cts per lb.
poor cheese at 50 & crackers at 35. This is the greatest
place for mice and ants I ever saw, especially the latter.
They exist by the millions, & penetrate everywhere.
The damp atmosphere at night, is also annoying
as it rusts and molds all steel & leather &c.
The weather now is pleasant, pretty warm, but
not intolerable. I saw some grapes to day as large
as plums, up there, the chaplain got them out in a cane
brake at the picket line. I hope you all enjoy yourself.
Give my respects to all my friends and well wishers.
Please write on receipt of this a good long letter. I was
looking at all your pictures to day. How natural they look.
I would like to get another from you when you choose to send it.
Give my kindest love to mother, father, Joe, Charles &
& receive for your self my love & best wishes for your prosperity
& believe me I remain your affectionate son, Thos. Montgomery