



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.

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

Morganzia La Septh 18th 1864

My Dear Mother:—

With no small degree of pleasure
I seat myself once more to write to you
thanking God that I have a mother to
write to, and to receive letters from.
I received your letter of 13th ult. in due
time and that of the 30th in 15 days.
I feared from what you said in a note
of the former that your health was
bad, but it rejoiced me that through
the last letter I learned of your recovery.
It was well it was not worse. I fear, and
know that you think too much, and are
too easily led by your own imaginations.
I think, often you think too much, about
me, and that I give you too much concern.
I am sorry for this. True it is but natural,
but we should not let our fancies, and
fears, lead us astray, or destroy our judgements.
You will destroy your health, unless you

cease to be so sorely exercised. You may
depend I will by God's help try to take
care of myself both temporally & spiritually
and at the same time, I by no means
ignore your prayers in my behalf. I
believe their influence is beneficial to
me, I feel their good effects as it were.
I know that at best, I fall far short of
my duty in many respects, and yet what
would I be without your prayers, and
excellent advice as received in every letter.
The Christian Commission, that blessed work
is another source of encouragement to
a Christian, they furnish us abundance
of religious reading matter of the best
& choicest kind, I delight to read it.
I believe I can honestly say, that I
feel more of the love of God now in
my soul than I did since leaving home.
God is my true friend, if all others should
prove false, I can rely on him, and trust
my heart implicitly to him. It is my
greatest desire to live to please him,

May I can never forget the goodness of
take God to me. I feel that I am highly
really favored above many a person. I have
is a great pleasure in reading the different
& Advocates, tracts, pamphlets, &c and especially
to the word of God, the lamp which guides
us through this dark world of sorrow.
of I would like sometimes to go home, but I
that don't want to be sick enough to go on a
& sick leave; neither can I afford to go on
etter, a furlough on half pay, so I will stay,
ork I was glad you received that box of clothes.
to You can convert them into useful purposes
dancer, I would let no one see you wear them
best in their present condition, because they
it. Can be taken from you. If, as I hope
I Lizzie has arrived ere this, she can make
in real coats of them &c. Tell her we
home, are still in our old place, and that
all is as when she left. Will, is well,
that I found a \$5 bill, and enclose it to you to
Purchase tea if it is worth any thing, as I
him, suppose it would be up there; but not here.

I hope to receive a letter from home as
regular as I have, for some weeks past
and I will answer them all. I am glad
that your crops and stocks done so well this
summer. Lt Butler is now A. D. C. at Brigade
Hd, 2d, Kresps is still in Co. H. The weather for
a few days has been quite cool & pleasant.
Scurvy is quite prevalent in our Brigade.
We live now pretty cheap, owing to a scarcity
of money. The Chaplain has been unwell for
some time & talks of resigning. He is getting
home sick. I would rather be contented & keep
my health. The Lt Col's wife is with us all the
time. She has a nice pet lamb. Lt Roberts
preaches to day. I wrote to Cousin Lockard & Lieut
Salhot last week. I am glad you appreciate
my letters, as you do. Surely, I think they are
poor excuses. I don't see how you manage to
write in so much, as you do and so frequently.
You may be like Jos. Chap. bound to fill the side
as he did. I thank him for his letter. I send
my best respects to Capt. McKee, & thank him
for his compliments. My respects also to Mrs. Roberts
& Mary Ann, & thanks for theirs. Remember me
also to all my other friends. I enclose a
section of a little pamphlet, containing significant
language, and a type of what we get to read.
I have no songs other than those you have yourselves
as I write. I hear the Cannons opening roar. We hear
it every day. They are probably target practicing.
There was a fight last night on the Achayfala about
12 miles from here. I don't know the exact results.
I heard that ^{several} ~~that~~ ^{of Cavalry} were captured. A gun is fired at sunrise & at sunset here now.
The river is rising slowly. We are getting up the balance
of the men's clothing left at Fort Hudson. Gen. Felt
is at New Orleans. Lt Cheever was down & heard him
preach an excellent sermon. Maj Gen Banks, Canby & Co were
present. I have now filled my sheet and will
close for the present, hoping soon to hear from you.
I will write more next time perhaps. Thos. Montgomery
your absent son as ever