



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."

Morganza La October 26th 64

My Dear Brother Jas Charles,

I am just in receipt of your likeness, the Stamp & the note it contained, which I will strictly adhere to, and your part of the letter I was glad to receive all, and am very thankful to you for them. Your picture resembles the one I had only it looks much better. It came all safe, I now would like to get Sandy. I was glad to hear that your health was good, & hope it will continue so, I hope Sandy is well by this time also. My health thank God, is very good. I am doing well, gaining in flesh. My duties in the Regt. are not so arduous as they formerly were. My office business however keeps me busy most of the time. I have however plenty leisure time to read, study &c

I am glad you keep ahead with your
work, glad you are so well pleased
with your horses. Hope you will
take good care of them, ~~treat~~ ^{take} them well.
If Lizzie don't stay with you, help me
all you can, & get her another girl
but if possible coax Lizzie to stay
as it will benefit both parties if she
would so decide. I would be sorry if
she would leave you now,
It would not be treating me fair.
I hope you will get your grain threshed
in good season, so that you can go
to school this winter. Lieut Bornath
^{adjutant} of this Regt. formerly of the 7th Minn.
has just returned from a 100 day
sick leave in Minn. &c. He lives near
Henderson. He describes Chops & a good
To day, a Steam ship passed here
also a double Turreted Monitor the
first I saw since I left St Louis.
it was nearly all under water
They were both curiosities.

we are doing pretty well in our
new camp. ^{It is the best situation in the post} I hope we will not soon
be removed. The men in the Regt.
die off nearly as fast as formerly,
Ten from this Regt in four days.

It now being near the end of the month
my hands are full of business again
we will be mustered for pay on the 31st
if It keeps. I think will soon be back in
the company, which will be some help.
The weather has been beautiful
for some time. Had some rain to
day, nights pretty cool.

If the Paymaster is not up shortly, I
intend after muster if all the well
days to make application to visit New Orleans
I can get my pay as Lieut there.
on my Muster Out Papers, I would also
like to see the city. Religious Meetings
among the men are not so frequent as
formerly but are still kept up. I
have often been much impressed with the
pious eloquence of the preacher, and the
wild excitement of his auditors

Wild Gestures, convulsion, Stentorian shouts
& which I have seen & more too. attest the
fergency of their zeal. Their "wrestlings" are
fearful to contemplate. The women are
perhaps more excited than the men.
Some ludicrous scenes occur in these meetings.
but I will not enlarge on them, for those
engaged are all sincere & devout, and ought
not to be ridiculed. Their ancestors dashed out
each others brains with clubs. so we see the
results of Christianity. & of their contact
with civilized whites. Surely they need
the consolations of religion. if any one does
as so many daily bid adieu to the sorrows
of life, and enter on an eternal existence.
It is now late & I am must make the
grand rounds as I am Officer of the Day,
so I will draw to a close.

I hope to hear from you & Sandy regularly
as I have in the past. I think you are
improving in your writing & spelling.
The letters I get now are indeed worth
reading. & I read them over & over before
I put them away. I often view your
pictures with satisfaction.
How pleasant it is to see & converse with
each other, although thousand miles apart.
Privately I would say, if Lizzie is determined
to leave, or has left you, it may be better soon
than later. One thing I observe, a large portion
of this race of negroes, don't appreciate efforts
for their future elevation & good. Tell Lizzie
Mr. is well and sends love, & hopes soon to receive
a letter from her. Give my respects to Papa's
folks, John, Mary, Ann Mrs Roberts & Smith. Rogers
Dall's Keithless and all my well wishers
With best love to Father Mother, Sam, my affect Brother