



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."

1864

Morganzia La. Oct. 27th

My Dear Mother:-

I received two letters last night one from you, father & Bro. Jas. C. and one from Cousin Thos. Cockhart, also Brother Jas. Charles' picture. I felt proud in receiving so much for my self, but before I got through reading your letter I felt rather grieved. Cousin Thomas & family are well. He works for Mr Chas. Hendrie in a planing or machine shop. He gets \$3 per day; but he says it takes it all to support him. He does not hear by letter from Cousin Andrew Cassidy in Pike's Peak, but he hears from them occasionally, from men who come from there. One of his old bosses at the Peak, estimates that he has \$4000 or \$5000 in his possession. He has not heard lately from other friends. He & family send kindest love,

I praise God to hear once more
that you are all well and doing
well. I am extremely sorry to hear that
Elizabeth manifests such an unsettled
disposition. Surely she don't know her
best interests if she wants to leave
you now. It was her earnest desire to
go up there at first, and when I had
completed the arrangements, she was
rather inclined to stay, but of course
I was not to be thwarted in my plan
after promising to send her. It is my
firm belief that she would suit you
if she would be contented to stay.
One thing is certain. If she leave you
now, it will be her ruin, as she has
no means to take care of herself any
more than she can with you, and it
will be punning great risks of life
and liberty. in fact it will be utterly
impossible for her to come here again.
Again her pass provided that she
was never to return to this place.

It is my desire, for her good that she
remains where she is, it is her husband's
desire also. Mr. is well satisfied that she
should stay there, till his time is up, and
then he will go there to her. Meanwhile
he will send her money &c,
Tell her that I say. She must stay where
she is till I come back. I will do the fair
thing with her, if God spares me to return.
I will shortly send up her shawl, Hood &c,
She must not be so homesick as it were
She must remember that she is no longer
a slave, but if she attempts to leave
Missouri, ten chances to one she will be
Kidnapped & returned to Slavery, or be
arrested by Govt. & put on some plantation
It is impossible for her to get back to
St. Louis, or even to leave the State,
We are not yet paid and consequently
Mr. can't send her money yet.
Again if she would get back the
women have left the Reg. and she
would just be as lonely as ever.

I think her discontent will soon wear off, unless she has some private reasons for leaving you. If she has I would let her go, but I would keep the valise and other articles in your own possession. It will no doubt be a a grievous disappointment to you, to lose her services, but take it not to heart, I feel perhaps as much, I care nothing for loss of time or money ~~as much as the disappointment to you~~. If she is with you when you receive this hide her my respects, tell her she will make me feel bad, if she leaves you now, after all my expense & trouble for her present & future good. Tell her, I say she is a hundred times better off there, than here, or elsewhere. Try to divert her mind let her ride on horse back or any thing else till this wears off. It is madness in her to think of leaving, and going among strangers. She promised me to stay with you till I returned at least I want her to be contented & fulfill her promises, to me, but if she is bound to leave, I would let her go, perhaps she is best judge of her own feelings. If she does leave however, I want you to forthwith, hire another girl to do your work, never mind expense, you can afford it now & if you can't I can. I will write soon again. Thanks for your kind letters, Accept the love of your son Tell,