



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Pres Co. "A" of the H. S. Co. &
Norganzio La. Nov. 21st
1864

Mother,

(80)

To day I have been
the receipt of four letters, two in the
was fixing up for Officer of the Day,
the evening after dress parade. while
the latter two were delayed somehow
being one each from home and
written Oct 14th. The two in the morning
yourself which was well filled
and one from my friend V. E. R. R. Talbot
was enjoying himself very well in
and congratulating himself, and
we got away from old C. K. when we
have seen hard times this past
we heard C. K. was reduced to 18 men.
being present were two Corporals
poor boys my old comrades have seen
well I have no reason to complain.
I have had as a general thing
and have not yet been exposed to any
serious hardships

[illegible]

When I entered the Service, it was solely to aid in
putting down the Rebellion, which was undertaken
and carried on by Slaveholders, whose character
as such I detested. I entertain the same opinion
still and mean to give my services and life if
necessary to aid the glorious Cause of Constitutional
Liberty, the Abolition of Slavery, and the consequent
future prosperity of this Republic. Sometime I
long for the happiness and joys of a private life
but I console myself with this reflection, that God
will do for me what seemeth Him best, and that
there is a good time coming in the future.
I believe there is no earthly enjoyment so much to
be desired as a peaceful quiet home, in a pretty place
on a farm, independent, free from restraint, and surrounded
with the blessings and comforts of life, the above is just
now my beau ideal of happiness. Of course I would
not mean to share it alone, But I find that a
~~Contented~~ mind will make any person happy, and
at present I believe I could not be contented outside
of my Country Service. But God's will not mine
be done. I have acquired a position more than I ever
expected, and as high as I want, at present.

Having acquired this position in my Country Service
As an honest man, Am in duty bound to make this
position subservient to my Country's good, In fact
I feel honored in having even so small a part of
this immense burden to bear, I ask God's Continued
Grace, to enable me to bear my part, and do my
duty faithfully, in this great Cause of Freedom, so that
future Ages may be benefitted, and the enemies of
Human Progress taught a lesson, never to be forgotten,
But I am digressing, I thank you once more
for your well fitted letter, Brothers also were kind
not to forget me in it, I thank them also.
I am always glad to hear from you all, I am
pleased to hear that Vizzie is still with you, and
I trust she will remain ~~to~~ at least
Tell her that I gave Will the lock of hair and he
was glad to hear from her, and send her his
love, tell her that he is now the best boy in Co. 13,
He is always glad to hear from her, and hope she
will take good care of herself, Sam Harts sends
his respects, Query! How can a person eat off a
mess-chest lower than his knees, keep his knees together
and eat, without letting grease drop fall on his fine pants

Now I will have to fill this side full. It is well enough to be
white but in camp, matters of etiquette are rarely attended to.
Some persons are either too talkative, or ^{that is sleeping and sleeping} must have been
very observant. At all events your suggestions are practical.
I am glad to hear that you are all prospering so finely.
You have too large a stock to winter I think.
Well the election is over, and no bloodshed. Old Abe, the people
and soldiers have decided is the best leader yet.
I was provoked and ashamed that the 4th Minn. should be so
selfish, as to go for McClellan. By Lincoln and the blessing
of Providence the country will be saved. In McClellan
it would be lost. I lay blame on any soldier that is
3 years in the service & yet a Copperhead. I notice they are few.
Nearly all the white troops left here, they went up White
River. Genl. Canby went with them. Genl. Allman is
in command of this post now. He reviewed the white
troops here to day. 2 white Regts. & 3 Battalions of Artillery.
The Rebs. attacked us on the 23rd at an outpost one mile
from our Regt at the River. It consisted of a Lieut and 21 men.
The Lieut & some men jumped in the fire & was shot & has
since died. They took several prisoners. We killed some of them.
If I would cryscipe, I would say that matters have been rather badly
managed for some time past. If I commanded I would not have
known rebels pass in and out of camp daily, and acquaint them
elves of every movement, & make purchases for their Rebel friends.
I don't like the idea of playing war, but I cannot boast of many battles
yet myself, but that is none of my fault. The weather the past week
has been nice. The River has risen 15 or more feet, within a week.
It would rise as much more. I would rather be at home, as
I would overflow, and to overflow here is to inundate the whole
country unless protected by levees. We are building log winter
quarters for the men something like our barn. 3 joint houses
14 x 18 to each co. We get our wood now out of the River, driftwood.
I have amused & exercised myself at this for a few days past.
We have a large boat with 8 oars. The River trade is brisk.
The health of the Regt is good. All my sick are in Hosp.
The men have hard duty to do, but still enjoy themselves.
My Co. is now the 4th in size. I said in my last letter that I sent
a box home by express. I hope you will get it.
I still enjoy myself most of the time. I try to employ my self
as something else the time for I know that Satan tries to make
for idly hands to do. I don't want to serve such a master. As he
says for me as I know you do, that I may not be led into temptation.