



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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No. 157. Baronne St.

New Orleans La Dec: 6th 1864.

My dear Parents & Brothers.

Although far South in the land of Cotton, my mind very often instinctively wanders homeward, far up to Minnesota, such is the case at the present writing.

I seat myself to write a few lines to inform you that I am in good health, and enjoying myself very much, and I trust this will find all of you in good health also.

In recent letters I informed you that I was about to visit New Orleans. This long cherished desire is at length consummated and I find myself now in the largest and finest of Southern cities. I made application Saturday last for a leave of absence, which was granted before bed time. I made ready to go down on the Grey Eagle in the morning, taking with me my muster out Rolls as 1st Lieut. and the pay rolls of Col. Edgerton for November, with the intention of drawing my pay, if possible, as I was then about out of funds. Before daylight I heard the boat whistle, and jumped up, made a light, dressed, and hurried off for the levee. We pass through the fort in the day time, but are not allowed at night.

I was halted at the gate of the fort and informed
that I could not pass, so I was obliged to go
around the fort through the mud on the
double quick. I was just in time, but
my clothes were all bespattered with mud.
I spent till day light near the fire drying
my clothes, and brushing off the mud.
I then went and washed got a shave (50 cts),
shoes polished 50 cts more. My fare was \$5.90, a
but being short of funds I paid only for my
meals 75 cts each, the fare was excellent.
I tried to exhaust the bill of fare at dinner
but I failed by one half. These Mississippi
River Boats are a splendid thing, the trip
during the day was delightful. We passed
Fort Hudson, Baton Rouge, Plaquemine,
Donaldsonville, and arrived at New Orleans
about midnight. In the morning I landed
and wandered over the city like a stranger in
a strange place. But I am not apt to lose
my way, even in a large city like this. I visited
the places of note during the day, and then
explained to a friend on business for Col Edgerton.
He went with me to the Pay-Master's, but no money
was there. I left disappointed. He then went with
me to the Provost-Marshal's Office, and I there
registered my name, and procured a permit to
remain in the city, as all officers are required to

While there I met my friend Mr. J. P. Gordon of
"Old C. K." He was up from Brazos Santiago to
be mustered in as 2^d Lieut. He had lodging
and invited me to remain with him which I
agreed on, at this place. We then visited Department
ing Hdt. Qrs, and then walked all around the city
making purchases &c. I visited the port which
is crowded with scores of steam boats, and literally
a forest of masts. There may be seen men of war
ships from different nations. The French ship I
counted 30 flags of different kinds.
The city is intersected by Canals, which also is
filled with smaller shipping. The Morning
Star just arrived from New York & I paid
her a visit and I was fully repaid
there; this is altogether one of the finest cities in
the Union. It excels St. Louis in size &
population, and more pleasant to live in, in
my estimation. I like this city very much. Every
thing is laid out in magnificent style. It is a
very level city but the streets are a marvel
of cleanliness and purity. The water is all
drained to the rear to Lake Ponchartrain, five
miles back. There are a great many fine
buildings and churches. Canal St is a regular broadway
On it may be seen the monument of Ives & Clay
Speaking as it were to the multitude, Jackson's Monument
on Jackson Square is another fine work of art.

Dec 6

To day I have been round considerably.
Nothing daunted I went again to the Pay-
master office, but had no success they
being entirely out of funds. On returning I
came across a man^{who} bought Officers accounts
at 13 per cent discount. I sold mine to him and
got my money, and I was glad to get it as
I was entirely out and to be without money
in a large city is to be friendless. I received in
all for my pay as 1st Lt. \$211.40 he keeping
over \$37. I repaired to the firm of Jacob Barker
and bought a check for \$154 dollars, on
New York, which I herewith send home
enclosed in this letter. I did not like to keep
it all with me lest I should lose it, or spend
it either of which can soon be done.
Let me know that you have received it. I have
a duplicate to send in case of loss by mail.
The markets of the city are well stocked
with every thing, news boys are very numerous
also bootblacks &c &c &c. All after the almighty
dollar. I visited the museum and saw many
fine things of great interest &c. I may write a
more detailed account again. I was lucky in
meeting with my friend Proctor, and after quite
at home. I think I would like to live here.
The weather is warm and beautiful, trees
are green, also grass, shrubs &c. Flowers may
be seen in the parks, squares & public places
in full bloom. What do you think of that?
I saw in Jackson square an orange tree loaded with
oranges. It never freezes here. I suppose it is quite
different of north. I will return to Morgantown this
week, if all be well. Hoping that will find you
all well and with love to all I close
Remaining as ever, I, Montgomery