



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. Dec 25th 1864.

My Dear Mother,

Another Christmas has arrived
and finds me still on the land of
the living, blessed with good health,
and enjoying even the comforts of
life, of which many of my fellow
Soldiers are deprived of this day.
For these and all other blessings
and mercies the Lord's name be praised.
I sincerely wish you all a happy
Christmas, and hope you are well
and ^{that} nothing will interrupt your
happiness. I was fearing that
Christmas with me this time
might be tame as far as eating
was concerned, compared with
Christmas with you, but you will
see by Sandy's letter that we were
pretty well supplied, at least we
had turkey & chickens enough to eat,

The most glorious news has
just arrived to night of the
Great battle between Hood & Thomas
near Vashville. with a loss to the
enemy of 15000 men & 80 Cannon
also that Sherman has surrounded
Savannah & will probably capture
the whole garrison &c. &c. &c.
Such news electrifies us here greatly.
The weather here is mild and beautiful.
What do you think of me picking
full blown flowers on Hamilton's
plantation and wearing them as
a hat. You would there in Summer? I have
seen a new crop of vegetables just
growing up. We use no fire in
our house except some cool nights.
& I sit in my shirt sleeves half the time.
Capt. Hartson his return found his young
wife anxiously awaiting for him.
I will have a very busy time now
for about two weeks. in making
out reports, returns &c.

We spoiled to day a turkey and three chickens, fully as much as I would eat in company at a party.

George was our cook, and although he done pretty well at stuffing and baking. Yet if Lizzie had been here we would have had it served much better.

As it was we were thankful, and enjoyed ourselves very much, as did also all the officers and men of the Regiment. I thought much of home to day, and of Christmas festival in past years, and I knew you all thought of me, though absent. May you & I and all of us live to see many a happy Christmas yet. On our return from our raid we found our pay-rolls here to be signed, and we now expect pay up to Aug. 31st in a few days.

This is a cause of much rejoicing to the officers and men, who have families dependant on them,

We are to be reviewed and inspected
tomorrow by Col. Quincy, Inspector
General Dept of Gulf.

My company generally come out well.
I have a very good orderly sergeant.
You will hear no swearing & see
no card playing in my company
as it is in some other companies.

Alas! it is the fault of the officers.
Sometimes I think I am bad enough
& careless enough myself in regard
to my spiritual interests, which should
be all important, but still I detest
vice & will not countenance vice
or immorality in others if I can help it.
May God bless me with his grace
and enlighten me by his Holy Spirit
to walk in wisdom's ways, to avoid
temptation to do what is right & just
and to set a good example to others.

I am constantly engaged these times in
reading studying writing &c. I do not
fail to read the word of life, the Bible.
Tell Lizzie Will is well & sends howdy.
Give my compliments to all my
friends and acquaintances.

I will now hasten to close my
lengthy letter, hoping it will reach
you safely & find you all well.
Love to all & Believe me dear Mother
Your affectionate son J. Montgomery