



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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La.
On board "Adams" below Morganzia.
May 1st 1865

(101)

My Dear Mother,

I seat myself once more to write you a few lines hoping they will find you all well. I am happy to announce that my own health is very good, and that I have no reason whatever to complain.

Lieuts Kreps and Roberts are with me, and well so that my labors need not be severe.

I am principally engaged at present in making out my muster-rolls &c.

Since I last wrote the Levee broke right at the bow of our Steamboat opposite the Fort. At first it was but a small crevasse about four feet wide, which was shut up before it done much serious damage, but the next night it broke again, and before morning Morganzia was all under water. The River had a fall of over 10 feet to make, the crevasse widened & deepened until it became a mighty rushing torrent, sweeping every thing within reach. The "Adams" moved across the River anchoring near the other side, where we remained next day, coaling up &c. We returned to the West side on Saturday, and after making all ready, dropped down here.

We are at McCallum's point about six miles below Morganza. The ground is some higher but not as high as the River.

It is a beautiful plantation, owned by a Mr. Morrison. We are camped by the River in one of his clover fields, and under the shady boughs of his beautiful trees. It looks pretty in comparison with the barren fields around Morganza and is quite a relief.

The Boats are still here, six in number, and will remain here as long as we will.

I do not know how long we may stay here. Some say till the River subsides.

It appears Genl. Banks has determined to maintain a post at Morganza, but it will be impossible to return there until the middle of July.

I should rather never return. The water rushed in with a fearful velocity, completely destroying the fort. The levee has broken in many places along the River. Causing much damage to property and fearful destitution among the poor inhabitants. With Lt. Krep and a few men of my Co. in the boats yawl, while anchored opposite Morganza. I visited several plantations all under water for weeks and found the people living in houses from one to four feet under water. The only means of locomotion were digouts or Canoes.

I procured a fresh hog, some chickens, ducks &c.
We are enjoying ourselves here so far. We have plenty
of blackberries &c. The "Adams" is a splendid Boat.
The "Webb" spoken of in my last, was taken a short
distance below New Orleans. She was blown up. She raised
the Rebel flag opposite the city. Some of her crew captured.
We have also heard that the Assassin Booth was
killed. What a dreadful Wretch he was.

St Robert's Application for a leave of absence was disapproved.
I guess he will try again.

The Paymaster is expected here in a few days.
I understand he is now paying off the troops in
Port Hudson. He will probably pay us ^{for} six months.
With sorrow we have heard of Sherman's policy
but were glad to hear that it was not endorsed by
the President or Gen. Grant. It is no time now
for any such trifling.

I hope this will find you all well.
You are all busily engaged no doubt with the
spring work. I hope Lizzie is well. Tell
her Bill is well & sends his love.

I send my compliments to all well wishers.
As I write in haste I will come to a close.
Remaining your loving Son

Thos. Montgomery
Love to Father & Brothers & yourself.
I receive few letters these times. None from Ireland or else
where. I get milk & butter now occasionally.