



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Quarters 67th U. S. Colored Infantry.

Bayou Sara, Morganza, La., May 16th 1865.

Dear Mother.

Yours of the 25th ult. has just come to hand, and although I was glad to hear that you were well, yet I was much surprised and pained at the sudden disappearance of Bro Alex. from your midst and at the necessary anxiety which it causes you. I am astonished that he has chosen such a course, which is in most instances reprehensible, but I suppose he has gone to seek, abroad, those advantages, privileges, &c. that he was denied of at home. Being young and penniless unless he has great force of character & determination to succeed, he will ^{find} out his mistake. I console myself with the reflection that he will soon return. If not you will surely hear from him. However as I know not the circumstances I am not prepared to judge. By my own experience, I am fully aware, that, farming in the woods of Minn. furnishes few inducements to a mind bent on the acquisition of knowledge, and requires an attractive home and superior inducements to influence the young man in its favor, who has been used to a city or public life. This is my opinion, and my choice to day would be to go to college, to further my education, as yet only commenced. I feel my disadvantages very much at times. It is a sad thing to grow up in ignorance, while so much remains to be known.

May 16

Such a person should live in the backwoods all their days.
I am sorry however that Bro. was so rash as to actually
leave home under present circumstances. May God console
you and watch over him, and hasten his speedy return.
The weather is quite pleasant, not very warm.
We are in a lovely place, birds warble their sweet notes
all the day, commencing before Reveille. The town is full
of life. Hundreds of Rebels come in to take the oath. We
see plenty of paroled Rebel Officers & Soldiers. We have
had no news of consequence lately. Consolidation is again
talked of. A Lieut. has been assigned to our Regt. who was
with Sherman in all his Campaigns till Johnson's Surrender.
Lieut. Roberts is on Prov. Guard duty. He soon expects to go home.
I am glad that your stock, as usual, does so well. Name
my horse colt Lincoln if not already named.

This is the greatest place for dogs I ever saw. They keep up a
Continual howl at night, depriving us of our sleep.
My duties, aside from comp. are very light these days.
Lieuts. have it harder. We are not yet paid but surely
will be soon. I trust the dawn of peace is close at hand.
Nothing heard from Davis yet. I am on duty to day as Officer
of the day. Health good. I am reading the Allegory of Adam
& David. I was singing some old songs or hymns last
night and felt the presence of God. I read considerably when
not on duty. Give my love to Father & Bros, and accept a token
portion yourself. Strange I don't receive a letter from Cousin Bella.
I now close. Please write often. I hope you are all well and
doing well. Best regards to Lizzie. I am glad she continues with you.
Her husband, Mr. Coplin is rather unwell. He sends love
With kindest love I remain your Off. Son J. Montgomery