



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Quarters 67th U. S. Colored Infantry.

Morganza, La., May 24th 1865.

Bayou Sara

My Dear Brother Jas. Charles

Yours of the 1st inst. was duly received on the 21st and was attentively read. I had hoped it would contain some intelligence of Bro. Alex. but in that was disappointed. I sincerely hope that before this reaches you, you or I will have heard from him. Surely he will write to us.

I am pained that it has happened so, on account of the anxiety it gives mother. as for himself I think under the circumstances the lesson will not be lost on him. He will be made better or worse and with good reason I think he will acquire a good lesson.

I hope he will have our prayers that he may be guided aright and I hope mother may have grace to bear the trial.

For the past week, I was troubled with the Diairhoea which is unusual with me. It is checked however and I am now doing well, thank God. The weather is getting very warm, but I am not subject to it so very much. Our Camp has also the benefit of an extensive shade from surrounding trees.

Many of the enlisted men, especially the new recruits, are sick. Several were buried the past week. The health of Co. "B" is good. I have none seriously sick, and have not lost a man by death for over seven months.

Between the North & South May 24/65

The difference in climate is striking, but I don't notice it so much. I suppose you have just finished or are finishing your spring work but here, corn is a man's height. We have had for some time green peas & other vegetables, new potatoes, berries in plenty, and even some fruit. Flowers are abundant and abound in all the gardens. New trade is now tolerated here, also free travel. Where it possibly can be all restrictions are removed from trade & agriculture. Slaveholders, are now very anxious to retain their servants and pay them wages. They are completely subdued, they acknowledge they are whipped and are now willing to submit to any laws. Some are very candid and free, while others are false and treacherous. There is not the slightest danger in going into the country. Some squads from our Regt have gone to Woodville Miss. 26 miles and found the people peaceable & friendly, although filled with Rebel Soldiers, paroled. I think the end has come. I was glad that Davis was taken as he was. It is said Kirby Smith has surrendered. Hope it's so. The army is to be greatly reduced. I hope you have success in getting in your crops, with your stock, horses & every thing else. It will need your constant attention & hard work. I would fain be home to help you. But duty places me here, and here I must stay till Providence directs otherwise. Give my friends my respects. Tell Elizabeth that Wm has been quite sick, but is now about well again. That is why he did not write. He sends his best love. Give my love to Father & Mother & Believe me Yours Affectionate Brother J. Montgomery