



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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N. S. Christian Commission,
INDIANA BRANCH.

Port Hudson June 20th 1865.

Dear Mother

I received your very welcome letter of the 28th ult. yesterday containing the few lines from Cousin Morrow. Also some from Bro. Jas. Chas. & a letter from Elizabeth & Wm. Estlin.

I say I was glad to get it, for it was the first mail the Regiment received for two weeks. On account no doubt of our moving about so much, we have lost some mail. I did not receive the letter containing Lizzie's picture, and am very sorry, but think it may yet reach us.

I was glad to hear that in spite of your care & anxiety for Bro. Alex, your health was so good, as that you could ride out, and that your spirits were not so despondent.

I suppose you were much pleased
to hear from your dear Sisters & in
Ireland. I was much pleased also,
I am glad that they are so well, and
that so much happiness exist among
them. It was a pleasure to hear of
Cousin Isabella's marriage, so happily.
I think she could not have waited
much longer, without being considered
an old maid. Judging from her
letters to me, she must be a dear
good girl, & I was much interested
in her, and hope soon to have the
pleasure of hearing from her.
Her Sister Eliza Ann, appears to be
a sensible girl, and writes very much
like Bella. It is a little strange they
don't hear, from Cousin Thos. Morrow.
But it is much the way of the world.
When young folks grow up, and
leave the home of their childhood,
they are so engrossed with so

many strange objects, and see so much that is new, that they, nine cases out of ten, forget all about home. If they have been well brought up, they will sometimes think seriously of their loved ones far away.

It is my experience, that were it not for writing so often home & hearing from you so frequently, I would seldom think of home. Being so much engaged with my own every day affairs. If I had a wife & children, of course it would be otherwise.

I feel sorry for Bro. Alex very often. I think it strange that he don't write to either of us. He will surely be brought to a sense of the pain it inflicts upon you & ought to relieve your anxiety by writing. May God take care of him. I think it is all for his good. He knows good from evil, and has surely sense enough to do right.

I don't know how soon I will be home.
I have asked ^{for} a leave, but am not sure
of getting it. I will shortly know.
My health for the past week has been
excellent. I am gaining very fast.
We are in a nice camp & have every
convenience. but fear we will soon
leave. Regiments are moving about now
from place to place all the time.

The weather is beautiful. We had a few
showers last week which were greatly
needed, as we had none for a month.
We are surrounded by extensive cotton
fields. I am glad your crops look so
fine. Tell Lizzie that Wm is much
improved & is about well. He was
greatly pleased to hear from her, but was
much disappointed in not getting her
likeness. He sends his best love as usual.
Wm is a good boy now and behaves well.
Hope Lizzie is a good girl, is learning
fast, and is doing well. Give her and
all the friends my respects.
Give my love to Father and Bro. Jas, Chas
and take a full share yourself.
May God spare me to soon see you again.
Good bye at present.
From your Affectionate though
Absent Son. S. Montgomery