



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Quarters Co. F. 65th Regt. 6. Inf.
Baton Rouge La Nov. 27/65.
Mother

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Your kind and welcome letter
has just been received and
that I was happy to hear
from you more. From home
I received no letters until the 8th & 9th inst.
but for those more till now. I have not
written since the 12th inst just after we
moved waiting day after day for a letter.
I am glad to hear that all are well, and
doing well and hope nothing may occur to
ruin your happiness. For my own part
I am contented and comparatively happy.
I have most every thing at my command
that I can wish, or money purchase
and it is more on earth can a person desire.
I am deprived of many social privileges
which would largely increase my happiness
but there is a good time coming I trust for
all that. My religious privileges are limited
and my duties sometimes interfere with those
we have. Unfortunately I have been on duty
most every Sunday since I came here
so that I have been deprived of going to Church
but I do respect the Sabbath and would
like to enjoy more of the means of grace.

I often do envious, I have no doubt, but I
confidently feel that my greatest pleasure is
in doing good, in doing my duty to God & man
and in the satisfaction of having a conscience
void of offence to God or man. I feel as much
as I ever did, that I am naturally prone to sin
and that I require continual help from above.
Every inducement is held out to transgress, &
do wickedly, that is in Camp surroundings, but
no one can say that I am one of the worst.
I make it a point to religiously refrain from the
common & daily sinful practices of Camp. Such
as swearing, gaming, drinking, & the like
on the contrary I try to practice the Christian
virtues; & hope I have in a measure succeeded.
Aside from early religious training, & the inspiration
of the Holy Spirit, there is no inducement here
to be good or religious. Hence it is remarkable
that so many maintain even a semblance of morality
in the midst of a wicked & perverse generation.
No one has spoken one word to me, seriously on a
religious subject since coming here, so that my
enjoyments are all to myself. I find much
difficulty at times, to settle my mind even to read
or confine myself to study, and very often my
military duties seem irksome. I seem to be
glad when a job is through, and then I
am provoked to have a hundred more present
themselves to me.

I have been on duty constantly since I came down here, being ~~love~~ with my Company. I have all the Company work to do; at this I do not grumble. In addition I have many other duties to perform. I was detailed by Gen. Sherman a member of a General Court Martial, that is now in session here. Half of my time each day is occupied there. I have been serving on it since the 14th inst. I expect to reap one advantage from that, and that is I can get my pay up to the end of this month on it.

Perhaps I will go to New Orleans next month, for the purpose of getting some money.

I have patrolled some lately. In this I am at home & generally have good success. There is now & then some shooting between us & the Rebel citizens.

They don't like us any too well. Dr. Moore of our Regt. on duty at Clinton Miss. with the 7th Ky Vets Co. was shot through the head by a Rebel.

The murderer & his accomplices are safely in a cell of the Penitentiary here in irons, awaiting trial.

The 5th U.S.C.I. came here to be mustered out. But the order to muster out was stayed. Their Col. Command the Post now. The 1st Ind. Heavy Art. are also here.

I am quite comfortably fixed again in camp. The weather is beautiful & mild, quite warm during the day & cool at night. I am now the 5th Capt. in rank in this Regt. The major bondy, Maj. Francis Moore, Quar. Mast. Violet, & Adjt. Whitcomb, & Capt. Bailie all are in the same mess with me.

Nov 27

Since I first entered the service, I have had the gratifying pleasure, of being well thought of by my superiors. I have had their entire confidence and endeavored to merit it. So this is owing my success so far. I want no higher evidence ~~that~~ my services are appreciated, than the confidence of my superiors. And remember every officer don't enjoy this satisfaction. Here it not so I would not have been kept in service, neither would I be content to stay. I think I can truly say, I have fewer enemies in this Regiment than in the 6th. And here let me remark that any such were all my inferiors. ^{who were jealous of my prosperity} Lt. Col. Losey of my old Regt visited me one day last week. He was as fine a man as I ever came across. His Regiment is to be shortly mustered out. There is no talk of ours being mustered out soon. I think it will not till spring at least. I have mustered out a number of one year's men lately. I now have only 80 men in my company. Some few in the Regiment have deserted. The Regt numbers about 900. There will be few changes among the troops of this Dept. until after the meeting of Congress. Great results are expected from the coming session. I am glad to hear that all the neighbors are doing well. I heard that Marshall was elected Gov. but no particulars. I am glad that Lizzie is well & satisfying you. William you may tell her is getting along pretty well but is still in the ^{bad} hospital. I hope you will all get along pleasantly together. You don't have me around now to disturb the harmony. I am glad Bro. Alex. has returned & hope you will not be satisfied. He ought to stay at home now for a while. I hope I will soon have the pleasure of seeing him at home. May God protect us all and guide us aright through this troublesome world to the home of the blessed is the prayer of your loving son Thomas Montgomerie