



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. 3rd 60th Regt. U.S. Inf.
Baton Rouge La. April 9th 66.

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My Dear Mother

I am just in receipt of yours of the 23^d ult. and am happy to know that your health is good. It gives me great Comfort to hear from you so frequently, and to hear that everything is prospering.

I find my present mode of living very different from my six years experience on the home farm, so quietly secluded from the public in the Big Woods of Minnesota. Not a day passes here, without communication with the rest of the world. Steamboats are ever passing to and fro, and the travel is great upon the great river, which rolls in majestic grandeur at our feet. This Country is destined to be great in every sense, in the future.

The substitution of free for Slave labor, effected by the late war, will increase and divide the wealth of the South, as yet undeveloped. I have just finished reading two works on Slavery, founded on facts, which occurred the first year of the war. I thank God that Slavery is dead.

I am glad that Elizabeth is still well. Tell her that Mr. Estelle is here and is doing well, and that I got a letter from her. I am well, and hope you are well. I am ever your affectionate son, John W. Estelle.

The President's Proclamation of peace has reached us. It will effect our pay, making it \$1.00 per day less. Lieut Roberts returned to the Regiment yesterday but is still under arrest. He expects his wife here in a few days, and will live with her somewhere in town. He feels chagrined at his misfortune. I have no doubt. My health thank God still continues very good. We have had very heavy rain and cool weather for a day or two. But we will soon be putting up shades over our tents. This city is beautifully shaded. The trees are now leafed out fully and shade all the streets with their dense foliage. "Moist, bright & green, the landscape laughs around." I am glad my money is yet secure & thank you for your care of it. I have \$800 here nearly all in bonds. It is all only a trifle, compared with the amount owned by the wealthy; but if it is put to good use it may be of some service to one small as it is. Many a one has less, even here. At any rate I will not despise the way of small & feeble things. I promised to write to Bro Alex. & will therefore close this here, by sending best love. To all especially to my Mother. May your days still be many, & may joy & happiness attend them.
From your aff. son Tho. Montgomery

Baton Rouge La, April 7th 1868

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Dear Bro. Alexander

In reply to yours of the 1st ult. I would say that I was glad to hear once more from you and that you were in such good spirits. I think on the whole you must have enjoyed yourself the past winter exceedingly well. You have had little to do & have attended School, Lodge &c. I don't think you found Cleveland so dull after all. I am glad your lodge has prospered so well. You asked me to write and send you an article on Temperance, but I cannot yet comply with your request. Why don't you write such an essay yourself & read it in your lodge. You are as conscious as I am of the innumerable evils entailed on the human race by intemperance. Certainly three fourths of all the crimes and misery witnessed by me since I entered the army have been caused directly or indirectly by the use of alcoholic drinks. I shall never regret the day I took the temperance pledge. It has shielded me often when tempted. My motto is Total Abstinence. How often have I been disgusted at the shocking effects of drinking. Even the fair sex are not free from its baneful influence, in this high toned land of chivalry.

I had some photographs taken last week and
send one enclosed in this as Officer of the day.
I sent one of another kind last week in my last.
I would like to go home this spring, but will probably
wait if health permits until mustered out. I
think if not out before May we will stay our time.
I intend to write to Ireland this week, if all be well.
I have nothing of interest to write about from
here. My health is good, the weather is fine, and
I am enjoying myself as well as my limited acquaintance
will permit. It may seem strange to you, but
outside of the Regiment I am scarcely acquainted.
There are some fine people here, some good looking
young ladies, but I have no desire to call on them.
It seems to me that as long as an officer or Soldier
is in the army, he should give his whole soul to his work,
and let women alone. I know this is not done by
one out of ten, consequently they neglect their duty.
I am afraid though, by such a course I will wrong myself
and unfit myself for the society of the fair when I do
get out, for I assume & I believe you will admit, that
an unceasing desire to please the fair sex, is the true
essence of politeness. Six years in the woods and four
in the army, added to my natural diffidency, will I
am afraid be injurious to me socially in future years.
I often wish I had the ability to please, the studied
politeness & address, that some have, but which is acquired
only however, by daily practice & by keeping the best company.
I hope you will not leave home until I return.
If you do beleave, and not go away as before without the
knowledge of your Parents, & above all keep up communication.
You will find it best for you to stay at home until of age at
least, unless some immediate advantage is gained.
Be assured that by waiting not one in a hundred succeed.
Please answer this speedily. I will always be glad to
hear from you & believe me your affectionate son,
Geo. Montgomery