



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head

Headquarters Co. "I" 65th U.S.C. Inf. (129)
Baton Rouge La. April 22nd 1864

My Dear Brother Alexander Prof April 22nd 1864

I had the pleasure yesterday to receive yours of the 3rd inst. and as I have not written home since the 9th I hasten to reply.

As I had not received a letter from home for two weeks I awaited the arrival of your last with interest. I was pleased to hear that all were in good health and that you were enjoying yourselves notwithstanding the severity of the past winter.

I also had the pleasure of yesterday receiving a letter from John Jones, which you will please acknowledge to him in my stead.

Socially you must have had a pleasant time the past winter. I am really glad that you have enjoyed yourselves so well. I hope you have laid up a good store of useful learning acquired at school. You will also learn something by being connected with the Lodge, which I am pleased to hear is prospering and increasing. I pray God that all connected with it may be actuated by correct principles and always keep their pledge.

I am sorry to hear you talking of leaving home for I think, unless you are fully determined to improve your mind, roving will be of very little benefit. Be sure and turn everything to account, by storing up in your mind, all that is good and useful, for future years, and take warning by the bad. Of one thing beware: of getting rich too fast. Very few succeed, and if they do their success is short-lived. I could not help remarking to myself, when I read your letter, that you were getting too wild. One of your age has great need of caution, when those impressions, either for good or bad, which effect one's whole future life are readily formed. Nothing but the power of Divine grace, can check those inordinate passions, which youth are subject to, "and Lord that power we greatly need". I know what it is however to feel as you do, and must Congratulate you, that you have got along so well. I would like to be present in your Lodge and hear the learned debates, and read the able articles, and passages of wit published in your interesting paper. Of your next subject for debate, I will take the negative. There may be great pleasure in pursuit, but give me the happiness of possession. One is imaginary the other is real.

You have written me a long letter and I must try and answer it. I wrote on the 12th inst to Cousins in Ireland, sending photographs. I have added to my list of correspondents one from MacCousin.

I am getting better acquainted here, and for many reason would like to live here. From this standpoint I am almost chilled to think of the long, cold and dreary winters of the North. Here we have balmy pleasant weather and flowers the whole winter. The gardens in this city at present are redolent with fragrance, which I scent the air, and makes an evening walk a luxury.

I am on duty as Officer of the day about twice a week, and have a horse to ride every time I am on a week. I am now fourth ranking Captain and very frequently have command of the Battalion on Dress Parades, &c. There is as yet no sign of an immediate muster out. If you ever chance to come around this way be sure and call. Bishop Andrews of the M. E. Church South, is going to preach this morning I am informed, so I will postpone further writing until I hear him.

Having heard him preach I will resume my writing. He preached a plain practical discourse. He is a venerable old man. His text was Amos VII.^c 1-6 vs.

Apr 22

Being Officer of the Day yesterday. I had quite a time last night. Most of the officers being slack, the men are far from being well disciplined and although we have 15 guards around the camp, the men will go out at night. Last night I had a roll call throughout the Regt. and 35 men were out without leave. Being in town we cannot fire on men and they know it. Several Brickbats were thrown at me, as I went alone through the Companies; for they know that I will report and have punished all offenders. By my instrumentality about \$1000. has been forfeited by these men to the U.S. from their pay. Capt. Scholes has resigned and gone home. Lt. Hutchins has been relieved from the Adjutants Office and assigned to Command Co. A. adjoining me. There will be several promotions soon among the junior Lieuts. Lieut. Roberts is still in arrest. His wife has not yet come. I hope this will find you still at home and in good health. I hope Bro James Charles is doing well. I hope Elizabeth is enjoying herself. You may inform her that William has returned from the Hospital and is now fully recovered and in good health, and doing duty. He will now probably remain with the Regiment until it is mustered out. He sends love &c. I hope this will find Father and Mother's health good and all the friends doing well. Give my best wishes to all my old friends. The time may not be long until I will have the pleasure of renewing my acquaintance. I forgot to mention that Lt. Burdick was sent out on the Clinton Road about 20 miles from here to look after the remains of the late Lieut. Moulton of the old 67th. Brutally murdered one Sunday in the month of April 1864. He was shot and his remains were not even buried. His skull lay around until recently. A Rebel pulled out all his teeth, all that could be found was one of his teeth and a small piece of his skull. I thank God that such was not my fate. We have his murderers in close arrest here. When he was on his knees begging to be spared for the sake of his wife and children, they told him they could not. that he was nothing but a d—n nigger officer any how. Love to yourself Father Mother & Bro J.C. Your affec. Bro C. Montgomerie