



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Baton Rouge La. July 11th 1866.

My Dear Father.

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I have this day received another letter from home dated June 26th 1866. I was again glad to hear that all were doing so well, but would have been rejoiced to have heard from Bro. Alex. I think it very strange that he don't write home.

I was glad you got the Bonds, although at the high premium. In regard to your proposition to purchase Mr Covey's farm I have thought on it considerably.

Being so far away I cannot judge of such matters as well as you, who are there. If I chose to settle on a farm I might like well enough to live there or on the place beyond the village, but as I know not yet, neither can tell until I leave the service what my future course may be, I am doubtful what course to pursue or recommend. You know I refused to give \$1000 for Root's land, which I think worth more than Covey's.

I think Mr Covey asks too much, for 80, acres, I can do, for better than that in Mo. or elsewhere, but would rather own property near home. I could spare that sum at present well enough, and yet for aught I know I may want it all in a few months.

I know that the land would be safe, but the question is whether it would pay me. The amount demanded would bring me about \$90, interest. Now would I be sure of that income at least, exclusive of all taxes and expenses. If not I should not buy it. Neither would I buy it, unless you are very certain it could be sold readily at an advance should I so elect. No doubt it may be much improved since I was there; but \$15 $\frac{1}{2}$ per acre, will purchase the best farms in a new country. I will offer \$12 per acre or \$1000, in all. Cash down. If Mr Covey wants money badly, he will sell for that. I should not like to give more, unless you absolutely think it could never be purchased for less. As I said before if you think it will benefit me to buy that land, all right. I will leave the matter to your better judgment, and therefore authorize you to bargain for the place, see that the title is clear, and have it deeded to me. I will be satisfied with your action, in the case, knowing you will do the very best you can. If I choose to change my life and live on a farm, it will be a good place, and if I do not, & choose to enter into other business I can sell it, as you say most any time, as its location is very good. So not give the bonds for less than their market value, you know what you have to pay for them. I believe Bonds are my best investments but I may have enough besides, after buying that land, but perhaps he may have sold it before now. If so I am not uneasy. I am glad to hear that your crops look well. Give your affectionate son
Thos. Montgomery.