



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Dear Bro. Alexander

Dear Bro. Alexander,

There are certain times, or days which to soldiers are times of rejoicing, and yesterday was made such to me, because I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from home, dated June 24th from you and Mother. It was only 23 days from Cleveland, so it gets to be of value when it reaches here conveying as it does latest news. I was indeed very glad to receive such good news from home that you were all enjoying such good health, and that the stock and crops were doing so well, I hope you will take good care of mine till I return. You said the weather was very warm. How would you like to have such weather continuous from May to September, as it is here, with very seldom a cool day. However I have not felt the heat any worse here yet than I did there, probably because I am not out so much in it. I try to keep in the shade these hot days & so far have succeeded admirably. To sit in a cool shade here this hot weather, with a cool breeze blowing is indeed delightful. My tent is fixed like a simple roof, & covered with brush with ends & side open, so we have free circulation & can keep pretty cool the hottest day. The health of the Reg. is pretty good. I think the health of the officers is improving now & then a man drops off sometimes very sudden. A Captain Hubbard in the 65th died yesterday in five minutes. He was a robust & apparently healthy man, & was on duty only two days ago.

thus we are daily admonished that death is in the land,
and is not very choice in his victims, taking all classes
and ranks. I feel more than ever the necessity of living
close to God, so that I may be ready at any moment
for the summons. I know I am as liable to be called as
any one, & yet I feel that God will spare ^{me} to return
home in safety. With pleasure could I remain in the army
and endure every privation & hardship, if my health is
spared & I knew I might return in safety. I do thank
God that my health has been so very good so far, and I hope
he will continue to bless me with such till I am discharged.
I have not been a day sick since I came South until I came
here, when I was troubled with costiveness for some time
but a few doses of Epsom salts, set me straight again in
their usual manner. I feel very well at present.
I was pleased that you & J. B. were enjoying yourselves
so well. I hope you will learn to sing, and profit by attendance
on the Sunday School &c. Nothing does me more good than to see
or know that others are happy. This disposition makes me
reluctant in punishing my men sometimes when they need it.
Nothing of interest is transpiring here now. We are still
busy at work on the fortifications. Our Col. is expected
back now every day, so is Capt. Whitford, ^{N.B. Whitford has left leave extended 20 days longer} McCar, the
Asst Surgeon &c. The marriage you referred to amused
me. I hope they will live happy. I must now draw
to a close, hoping soon to hear from you again. Give my
best respect to all my friends. I am your ever
Loving Brother Wm. Montgomery.