

Now is all the way from 10 to 18 dollars.
Stationery of all kinds is four times the price
it was in New York when I left - & we thought
it very high then. Clothing is double & treble
the N.Y. price. They charged me \$16 for coat
& pants (which I didn't get) the other day.
Boots & shoes are from \$5 per pair (the
most common kind - pegged!) to \$30. Paper
collars are scarcely to be had any where, &
sell at \$1 per bunch - 10 cents each. News
papers - very small size & nothing in them, are
5 cents, & N.Y. papers 15 cts. When things
are at such ruinous prices one needs a good
salary to live at all. Lieber Hill told me
it cost him \$75 per month to get along at
all. He is in the same fix as I am in regard
to clothes, for we each brought but two suits
with us, a thick & a thin. If we had gone
to some out of the way place where it didn't
matter how we looked, we should have done very
well, but it is different here. Every officer
is expected to be neatly dressed & to have his
hands & face clean etc., &c. I wrote you from
Baton Rouge that I should want some more
clothes, but that letter may not have reached
you so I will even ask again. I have to

Did you remember to take Jennie her ring when you went to Baton Rouge?
If not please send it to her, for I think most likely she will want it this winter.
App.
Ordinance Office.
Headquarters Department of the Gulf.
New Orleans, Jan 1st 1863.

Dear Mother
Most of this letter will be to yourself & fa-
ther so please read it to yourself first, & afterwards you can
read each portion aloud as you think best. It is about
eight in the evening, & I can imagine you at home all
gathered around the table waiting for callers, & in the mean
time enjoying yourselves. I presume Ed & Russ are
making their last calls, & will be in by & bye to join the
party. I have been thinking of you all to-day even more
than usual, for instead of making calls myself I have
been at work as usual. I have wished you all very many
Happy New Years, & having no one to wish the same aloud
to, I have done it in spirit. I wrote to father on
Christmas day, as you will know that I have returned
from Baton Rouge, & am now in New Orleans. I believe
I told him all up to the date of our arrival here, as
I have nothing left for this letter save an account
of our daily work, & some private matters. Every
thing is very different from what we expected, instead
of landing at Port Royal, or some out of the way
place in Texas (or South America) we are here in
the largest city of the South. I thought I should

be able to send home most, if not all, of my salary, & thus pay off at once such bills as I left behind me for clothes &c. I find on the contrary that I need almost all I get to live upon, so I shall have to pay the same bills in installments. I send you \$25 in this letter which is all that I can at present spare. Everything is awfully dear here. I have to pay \$10 per week for board. Shoes & razor for washing, & for other things in proportion. I have calculated that for this month my expenses will be \$40 for board, 5, or 6, dollars for washing, & 4 or 5 dollars for car fare, papers &c. I have also kept \$10 to have with me in case of accident, making in all \$50 which I have received. I cannot tell yet exactly what my expenses will be, but I shall try to make them as light as possible you may be sure. I did not come away in the least for money as you will know. I shall be satisfied if I can pay for my outfit, & pay my way along. Most of the young men here are deeply in debt, & have drawn ahead on their salaries for a month & more. That I wish to avoid altogether, & as I do not care about living in the manner that they do I think I can accomplish it without trouble. If I find I do not spend all I have kept this

month, I will send you more next. The first few days I was here I had to go to the Hotel until I could look round & get a boarding house. I did not care about paying \$3 per day, but I could not help myself. The living at the Hotel is frightful too. Nothing to be had but meat, a few vegetables, (potatoes, beets & rice) & bread & butter. All very well for a cheap restaurant, but when one pays \$3.00 per day he expects something better. I staid for some time before I could get board anywhere, for there are very few houses here where they will receive any one with the U.S. buttons. At one or two of the places where I inquired I was really incensed by the lady of the house - one of the afore said ladies telling me she "had as likes rat with a nigger as a Federal officer". I don't know why they took me in at my present place, for the landlady & her boarders are all decent at heart. They speak very seldom on politics but you can see how they feel, when they inadvertently speak of the Southern force as "our troops", "our soldiers" &c. You will not wonder at the high price of board when I tell you that I saw Turkeys selling in the market for \$10 each, Geese \$8 each, Mutton at 65 cents per pound, Beef 40 cents ditto.

I have a pass key, & so come in at any time night or day, which makes it very pleasant. We have breakfast at 8, - morning, some kind of meat fried or stewed, bread & butter & either corn or buckwheat cakes. Then I come down to the office & generally stay round here until half past three when I go back to dinner. We have soup, meat stew, rice, potatoes, beets, apple sauce. Sometimes pie for dessert & sometimes nothing. We have no tea, but I think I shall not starve while I am ^{my} present quarters. After dinner I generally return to the office & stay there until ten or eleven in the evening, & then go home & go to bed. Sometimes I go out for a walk on Canal St. in the afternoon. I think my landlady tries all she can to make things pleasant for me notwithstanding I am a "Northern traitor," - she is very obliging & very kind, & tries to make me feel at home. I have not been there in the evening yet, for by the time I get home all the rest are in bed, & I go to my own room immediately. I don't know what they do there therefore but as I have

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worn the uniform after all for my position is very different from what we thought, so if you will tell Monroe (he has my museum) to make me vest & pants of the light blue army cloth, (I think it will be cheaper and wear better than dark blue) & a coat of dark blue, - the vest to button right up to the neck (army style) & the coat to be an andress uniform sect, buttoning at the top & then falling open, (just as the last one he made me does) the whole to have the Ordnance button (crossed cannon & bombshells) or if that cannot be got, the Artillery (next to the Ordnance) I shall be ^{very} obliged, ^{to} ^{take} ^{it} ^{very} ^{kindly} ^{as} ^{my} ^{uniform} ^{present}. That is the longest sentence I ever made! Tell him they must fit just time or I'll send him the bill for altering them. I think that suits with what I have got will take me through the summer. When you send them please put in some more paper collars, (if they are less than 10 cts apiece) & a small bar of Castile soap. The latter can't be got here for love or money. I have enough collars to take me through February I think by wearing them carefully, & perhaps through March, but it costs something to send them, & if you send a box

they might just as well come now. Do not send
my black suit, for I have no use for it, &
it would be spoiled in a few days in this place.
You can direct ~~it~~ to me the same as my letters
Care, Lieut Rmkill, Chief of Ordnance, Dep^y
ment of the Gulf. New Orleans La.

I should ask to have my salary increased were
it not for the fact that I am getting more now
than any of the others, & that we are dismissing
a great many of the men who were formerly
employed here, & in fact cutting down the ex-
penses every way. By & by I may be able
to speak on the subject but I can't just now.

This is to be the great depot for supplies,
& all the sub depots have to come to us
for stores, & report all their doings to us.

We have stations at Forts Pickens, Jackson
& Philips, & Pike, at Carrollton, Lafourche,
& Baton Rouge, & there will be two established
in Texas as soon as anything is done there.

When Vicksburg is taken we shall probably
move up there, & at any rate go up for a
little while when the advance is made.

Gen Banks will lead the army in person
& not stay here in the city after he gets
ready to go ahead. I think very likely that

Lt. Hill may go with him, & if so I go with
Lt. Hill. I should like that life very much
better than being here in the city, for I want
to see work in the field. I couldn't keep quiet
this winter anywhere - I want excitement, &
I ^{do} ^{not} ^{know} of none better than an advance into the
Enemy's country. It will be a month or so
before we leave however, & a great deal may
happen in that time. It is my belief that
we shall be dreadfully whipped here before
we do anything. We have now but raw &
undisciplined troops, while the rebels
are in strong force, & have old soldiers who
have been under fire more than once, to meet
us with. If we succeed in opening the Miss-
issippi by the 1st of June I shall be well
satisfied.

I meant to tell you about my
life here & what I am doing &c, but got off
on another track. As I told you, I am board-
ing with a lady, at 155 Challoppe Street,
about 10 minutes walk from the office.

I have a little room in the gallery a
little bigger than my own at home. - Just
a nice size. I don't know the ladies name
but we all call her "Madame" - I presume
she has another, but I have not yet heard it.

over will.

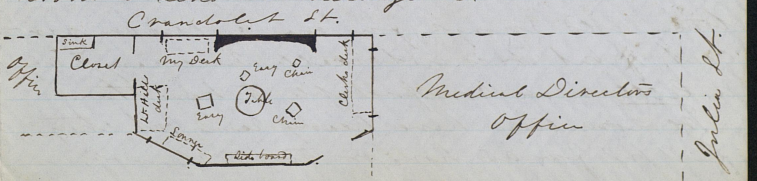
Jan. 2^d 1863.

It's evening again but quite late & I must close this & go off to bed. I got your letter to day, enclosing one from Myra Hough, & also a letter from Jennie which you forwarded.

I am very very glad to have heard, for although the date is the 14th inst. it is ten days later than when I left. It was written the very day we got here. I don't know how they came for there is no stamp on one of them, & the stamp on the other has not been touched & is as good as new, - here they are however & glad enough I am to have them. By this time you have returned from Boston & are settled for the winter - I hope you had a pleasant visit. I am very glad to hear of the Achilles good luck & I hope it will continue. Is she not going to be soon on the Potomac this winter? Give my love to Father & Grandmother & the boys. I want you to write me everything - what calls you make, when you see, & all about it. Do you attend the Society this winter; if so tell me what you are doing.

Ever your loving son
Appleton

been asked to come in & play Whist - with them. I suppose cards are part of the amusement. My office hours are very easy in themselves for Dr. Hill told me I might come & go as I choose only to be on hand when he wanted me. As I know no one here however & have no place to go to, I generally stay in the office in preference to being anywhere else. The other clerks are here from 9 till 4, & after the letter hour I have the place to myself. Let Hill generally comes in during the evening & we talk for an hour or so, & then he goes off & I go on with my writing. I take the evenings for letter writing & have quite enough to do. We have a jolly office - corner of Julia & Crandall St. fitted up with lounges, easy chairs, looking glasses, beautiful desks &c. &c. There is a dandy always near by to keep us supplied with ice water, & to bring any thing we may happen to want, & I have one of the Ordnance men always in the room to send on messages &c.



There is a sort of plan of our office - Russ will say it is a green shep'd house, & so it is.

Splendid yard behind, with Banana trees & growing in it. I have been very well myself until within a day or two, & then I suppose I took cold, & it has affected my bowels. The water may be the cause, or it may be merely the change of climate. It is nothing unusual & I shall be well enough in a day or two. I could find nothing about *Sisyrinchium* in my medicine book, so went it blind & took *Mercurium*. (Was it right?) If that don't stop it I shall try *Opium*, & if that fails also, I shall try Whiskey - in which I have much more faith for anything of the kind. In other respects I am very well, & I think I am gaining strength slowly. I have never been strong you know since I my fever. The weather is perfect.

It is more like June than anything else, & is warm & beautiful almost all the time. The mornings & evenings are sometimes cold enough for one to need an overcoat, & but it is not really necessary, & only a little more comfortable to have them.

We sometimes have heavy rains but they last but for an hour or two, & clear off as

if it were never going to be cloudy again. I suppose at the North you have had skating before this, & lots of cold stormy weather - how I pity you. Tell Ed to have my skates taken care of, for I do not want them injured as they are too good & expensive a pair to be knocking around. I may need them another year. I should like much to look in upon you for a few minutes to night, - make a call in fact & get a cup of coffee, & a piece of cake. but I must take it out in wishing. It seems very funny to see the small boys in the street firing crackers & popping on, as we do on the 4th of July. There is more dissipation gone on here among the officers &c, than could be believed. Every body gets drunk as a matter of course three or four times per week, & it is thought nothing of. While I was at the Hotel I had a room with one of the clerks who was here before we arrived, & I don't think there was a single night he came home sober while I was there. For my own part I don't see the fun of going to the Theatre every night to see the same thing acted. I am tired of it.

As for other species - they don't suit my train of mind just at present, & I don't think they