

the Commanding Officer of Ship
Island requesting a lot of
Implements &c for some heavy
guns mounted there. The Lt.
gave it to me to see to, so after
paying off, I went down to the
Ord. office Navy Dept. & had
a talk with him about it.

He told me I must get it ap-
proved by Admiral Farquhar
& he would then issue with plea-
sure. I went up to Canal St.
& took a boat & went on board
the Hartford (flag ship) but
found the Admiral just going
to dinner so I had to wait.

I passed the time looking about
& talking to the officers of the
ship &c until I was called down.
Found the Admiral sitting
in the cabin with the Fleet

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Feb 3^d 1863.

Dear Russ

I have been at work here all
the evening with the Lib. and now
I find it is half past ten, & I know
by this time the cars have stopped
running, so I must walk home at
any rate. As it makes not the
least difference to me whether the
walk is taken now or two hours
hence, I think I shall write you
first. Bury is no word to express
what I have been lately. I tell you
it is no joke to keep things straight
here for Officers are coming in all
the time with Requisitions, Invoic-
& Receipts - wanting information
about this & that, - Orders are

rushing in & out with papers to be signed, or filed, or endorsed, or approved. Men come in to be paid or to get employment, or to get their guns, or for some other humbug. - No body can wait, & while you are trying to get paid of one party, another you want very much to see will slip off.

This morning it was perfectly infernal. Before Lt. Hill came I had got all the morning's mail into some little shape, & was enrolling Touches & checking the Pay Roll. He came in at ten, & immediately after Gen Banks & Col. Irwin appeared. Then came Capt Duncun, Col. Marsh, Capt Arnold (Chief of Artillery) and four others, & in a few minutes

all of my Ordnance men with the morning's report. For two hours I was busy directing & talking, & never had a moment's time to finish my own work or even to sit down.

When I did get to my desk every thing was upside down & scattered & I have not found or answered half of the letters yet. The only way to get along at all is to keep cool & not to care a damn what goes on outside your own especial duties.

The rest is hard for me, who have all the duties of the office to see to.

At one o'clock to day Lt. Hill & I drove down to the Ordnance Store house & paid off the men there, & then down to the other depot & did ditto. This morning among other things we rec^d a letter from

5

Captain. I told him what I wanted
& got his signature & then took a
glass of wine with them, & came
off. He keeps the best Claret
I've tasted for months. Tomorrow
I shall see Col. Holebird Sr. In. &
have a steamer detailed for me,
& send the stores off by Thursday,
& then report to Lieut Hill. I
have been talking with the latter
this evening & he has promised to
speak to Gen. Banks & get me
appointed Asst. Chief of
Ordinance! Rather a big thing
if it will but work. I am that
now but I've no objection to the
pay, & title, in addition to the
work. I have been offered
so many different commissions
 lately in various Regiments that

the Lt. is very much afraid I will leave him, so intends holding out inducements for me to remain. The head clerk under me has been in the Ordnance all his life, & is now expecting a commission in the 4th Mass Bat. - if that fails he will go North, so at any rate cannot be relied on. I am the only one besides him who knows the ropes at all, & if I should leave the Lt. would be in the worst kind of a fix. I believe he intends paying me more next month, - I mean this month, but he wanted to run his expenses as low as he could the first Quarter, for he was afraid his money would not hold out. Our expenses for this month

7
alone will be over \$2000. This
letter is for you alone, although I
mean Father & Mother to see it - I mean
I do not wish it to go out of the house

I had a present the other day
of a very handsome whip (riding)
It belonged to a Col. in the CSA
Army, is mounted with silver &
is heavily loaded. One blow from
it would kill a man easily. I have
got a pair of Larch Spurs which
I bought from the P.D. Dept. & I mean
to fit myself out with Rebel Stores.

I had another funny time in the
cars on Sunday. I took a seat beside
a lady who was just paying her
fare. She looked at me in a sort
of indescribable way & then taking
out a \$5 Treasury note, leaned over
to a gentleman sitting opposite

"Can you tell me whether that
is good?" The gentleman said
he could not, whether ~~reaper~~
she turned to me - "Can you
tell me sir?" "Yes Madam,"
said I, "the bill is counterfeit, but
it is still so much better than
anything you have in Louisiana
that I think you had better keep
it." She clasped up, & put her
purse away. I hope the fit
will be pardoned, for the bill
was really as good as ever was
printed, but I did want to take her
down. Do write me for I
am anxious to hear from
home. There is a steamer in
the river now with the mails
so I suppose we shall have
them tomorrow.
your ever Affs.