

quiet here I'm happy to say
so no one knows anything, but
I think it will be at least
two weeks yet before we move.

It may be months. We so
warily are descended down
in the Gulf dreadfully. I would
like to see a flat sail into
Mobile and Galveston, and lay
both places so flat that the
stones would be sunk out of
sight. Things in the city are
more quiet than they have been
for some time. There is always
more or less seash talk in the
cars & streets, but people are getting
to look a little shy when they
see an officer coming. We had
some fun arranging a lot of
embroidered rebels the other night.

I was with Capt. Meek &
Lieut. Davis on the porch in

ORDNANCE OFFICE.

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans La. Feb. 6th 1863.

Dear Father

I received your letter of the 22nd Jan
on Tuesday last, and on Wednesday we written
on the 18th inst. The letter came by the
McClellan, so you see our military trans-
portation is not so speedy as the regular
mail steamers. I got a very fine mail
by each vessel - eleven letters in all, of
which two were from Mother and one from
Russ. I have written home twice within
the last seven days so I am rather short
for news of all, or any, kind. I got
the papers Russ sent me, - dates of
the 10th & 17th but as they were so long
on the way the news was rather old.

They have been well read however
and I doubt if they ever slip going

the rounds until they are used up. I read them and handed them to Lt. Hill. Then the clerks read them, - then I took them down to the house and lent them to Capt. Mack and the Lieutenants, and today I mailed them to Col. Chickering of the 41st Mass. Very useful copies of the Weekly Times were they! I suppose Col. C. will hand them over to some of the other officers, as their wanderings are not yet brought to a close.

I very often send papers to him, & to the Adjutant of the Regiment, for I know they cannot often get them, & I also know what a relief they often are. I got a letter from the Adjutant (Lt. H. S. Adams) yesterday, & he tells me the Regt. is encamped about two miles from where I left them, on the road I took the night I got lost there, & that

they are still in the Adram. He expects to be attacked by the rebels from Port Hudson before long, and in that case I presume the troops will have to fall back upon the main body. I should like very much to be there when they are attacked, for we watched together long enough for a fight, when we first landed. Col. Chickering sent me word the other day that he hoped I would be on hand when the move forward commenced, & I sincerely echo the wish. If Gen. Butler will but come back, it can't be very long before I have my way.

His staff of course returns with him, and thus Banks will retain his own - Ordnance Dept. included. Things are kept very

front of the house when a party of boys from ten to eighteen years old, passed by singing the rebel version of Red White & Blue.

We surrounded them & captured eight (had hard work to hold so many too!) & then took them over into the Square, and put them in the Guard tent. If we had had any iron & small enough we should have used them on the oldest of the lot, but as it was we scared them dreadfully, so it was as well. We kept them there until nearly midnight, four hours, and if they had not been so young they would have stayed all night. We are bound to adopt the same plan with all now who show their sentiments

too plainly in the neighborhood
of Annunciation Square.

We have been gratified of the
loss of the Sparkling Sea &
all our stores. She was ashore
on Florida Reef, as I before told
you, and shortly after the ship
that was sent to her got there,
she went to pieces. Most of
the horses were lost, but the
men all saved. Thank Annie
& Will for their letters, which
were very welcome. I will
endeavour to answer them
shortly, but unless I get
more time than I have had
lately, I fear they will have
but short notes. Mr Dean
the Head Clerk here under
Gen Butler, has just received
notice that he is appointed
2^d Lieut. in the 4th Mass. Bat.

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& he expects his Commission
by the next mail from C. Y.

That will bring even more
upon my shoulders than I have
now, and I shall have to get
two or three more men detailed
for clerks, from some of the
Regiments - near here. Then
I shall have to show them every-
thing, & watch them like a cat
does a mouse, to see that they
don't get everything into a snarl.

I have been having more trouble
with my Mr. Mum - & I am beginning
to be sceptical in regard to the
honesty of any man. They all
lie & steal whenever they get a
chance and the only question is
as to who will do the least
of it. The Lieut. had our heads

man sent to Ft. Pike to-
day, until we can get charges
drawn against him, and
bring him to a Court Martial.

It is a great bore now
that we are so busy about
more important things, but
"it never rains but it pours,"
& I suppose we must be con-
tent. We are having a really
cold spell at last, & if you are
not having skating in the
North I am mistaken. My
hands are cold & stiff writing
here at my desk although
I am close to the fire.

My love to Mother & Grandma
please - Remember me to Sam
Martin & Ned -

Most affectionately
Appalachee