

for the bill to Washington
for action of the Dept, with
the notice that I considered
the charge exorbitant, and
had therefore refused to pay
it. He attempted to talk,
and I then told him I had
no time to dispute, he might
do as he pleased about it, &
might come tomorrow at
11 Am. to let me know his
decision. They all know
well enough that they can
never get their money unless
Hill approves the bill, & so
they generally come to terms.

Yesterday we had a regular levee
here of all the Ordnance officers
in the Dept. It was accident their
coming together, for one came from
Baton Rouge, one from Berwick Bay,

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Feb 3rd 1863.

Dear Madam

My last letter to you was
dated the 20th Feb. But I wrote to fa-
ther on the 25th so you must be well
posted to that date. I have received
three letters from you this week so
I consider myself well off and more
fortunate than usual. They were dated
Feb. 8th, 15th, and 18th. The former
was the one sent by the Ella Warley
which we both supposed lost. It
has come to hand at last however &
although wet through, torn & soiled,
is very welcome. The ink has been
somewhat, but I managed to read it
by careful handling. We have had
considerable fun over our "salted
letters," first & last. I do not know
how they came up from the bottom

of the sea, but I have had one
or two which I would not have
lost for a great deal. It was
quite a valuable mail to me.
Lieut. Hill got several in even
worse condition than mine
so I count myself lucky as usual.

I believe there was nothing to
answer in that letter which I
have not already replied to.

Since I wrote last I have been
having a pretty easy time here.

We have at last got things a
little straight, and our night work
therefore is about over, save
when special, or extra work has
to be done. The first of the month
as you know always brings a busy
week, so just now I have my desk
covered with papers relating to
the Monthly Accounts &c, and I am
trying to get things into shape to pay
off all the men tomorrow morn-

ing. When the pay rolls mount
up to some twelve hundred dollars,
and the Touchers &c from the
Sub Depots & Quarters, all over,
come to as much more, one has
to keep his head clear to get
the accounts right. Some bills
have to be cut down, & if the
parties object, as they generally
do, there is always a slight row.

Lt. Hill leaves all this to me,
& refers any one who comes to him
about it, to "Mr Sturji". I have
struck out a new road this
month & find it works like
a charm. For instance; a
man brought me a bill to say
off \$13 for casting 14 lbs of brass
buttons when I found the brass.

I told him I would pay him
\$6.50 & not a cent more; if
he would agree to the deduction
well & good, if not, I would re-

we, without knowing in the least how they come. They are left at the house by different people at different times, and no message is ever given. Something like the Fairy gifts we read about.

Mac's battery being ordered away has of course put off the trial of the Billingshurst & Regue gun, so that it is now in the hands of a board of survey, & there is no telling when it may be reported upon. The 18th Battery was not the only one which left on Saturday for two others were sent up at same time. An attack was expected at Baton Rouge and more Artillery was needed which was the reason of the hurry.

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two from Carrollton, and one from Donaldsonville. Of course they all wanted everything, especially stationery which is the article most in demand at present. We have but a small supply ourselves, and unless we get more from Washington we shall be in a fix. It can be bought here, but it would ruin the Government to pay such prices as are asked in this town.

You need not grumble at paying \$2 or \$3 in N.Y. when such paper as I am using now costs \$8.00 per ream here. I have a melancholy story to relate this time, and the sum & substance is simply this. I am once more revolving in the chaos of N. Orleans boarding houses! My housekeeping arrangements have received a sudden check and been effectually broken up & put an end to by

an order of Maj. Gen. Banks.
I went to the Theater on Friday
evening with Capt. Mack, to see
"Luzonier." On our return a
little after midnight, we found
an order for the 10th Regt. Battery
to leave for Baton Rouge
the next day. Of course we had
to pack immediately and such a
scum of confusion as those rooms
presented until about two
in the morning is not often wit-
nessed. I got through my own pack-
ing in twenty minutes, & then went
to bed & watched the others "fuss"
until I got sleepy. I was just go-
ing off to the land of Dreams when
two of the Lieuts. came & turned
me out of my hammock, because
I was too comfortable. The
next morning I spent in looking
for a boarding house & after two
hours search I finally found a

place to rest my head in Julia
Street, within one block of
Head quarters. It is pretty much
a seclusion house I guess, but I am
there so little that I do not mind
it much. I have my own room,
and am seldom in the house
save at night, or at meal time.

The landlady has one son in the
rebel army, in the Crescent Regt.,
now on the Tache. Almost
all of the traders have sons or
brothers, or so forth, in the C.
S. A. and are therefore rather
cool towards me. I am used
to such behavior however &
don't mind it much now. Like
the rest I'm used to it! It is
curious to see the workings of the
underground railroad. Some
of the ladies in the house get
letters every now & then from
Virginia, Charleston, Vicksburg

in Yellow Fever season, but if I were I should not fear it in the least. I think from what I hear that it is a bigger try than reality.

One of my men is quite sick with chills & fever at present, and I have had him moved to the hospital where he can get better attendance than at his own quarters. I went up to see him today with Lieut. Hill, & found he wanted nothing but lemons, which I accordingly brought & sent him by one of my clerks.

I shall take him some books tomorrow and oranges &c. He was one of my best Extra duty men, & I am very sorry to have him laid up. Two others of the Ordnance Corps got drunk

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I should not be surprised at any time to hear of a fight there, & what is more I half expect a defeat if an attack is made. I do not think we can hold Baton Rouge against the force the rebels can bring against it. They have captured the Queen of the West, & the Indianola, two of our best gunboats, & this afternoon's paper reports the capture of a third.

They have already four or five iron clads on the Atchafalaya river, and could at any time drive our fleet from Port Hudson, & give them quite enough to do in the fighting line, while the land forces attacked B. R.

I was told by a Lieut. from the latter place, to day, that several gunboats bearing the Confederate flag among them the Queen of the W.

came down to the point just above Baton Rouge the other evening, & on their approach that all our mortar boats got out of the way as quickly as possible, & followed by the enemy steamed & drifted down the river nearly two miles.

The general opinion is that we shall get the worst of it when the naval fight comes off, unless we have some one or two of the Monitors down in these waters. I think you may look out for some rough fighting in this Dept. before long, either at Baton Rouge, Port Hudson, Rosedale, Baton La Rose, Bernicks Bay, or on the Tach. All of these places are now threatened by one side or the other. Circumstances may put off all action for

a month or six weeks yet, but if we do not succeed in forcing a fight & winning it, before the time of the 9 mos. men is up, we shall be able to do nothing. There are 16 Regts. of these 9 month men at B.R. today, & when they are gone how are we to supply their place? Many here believe that it cannot be done, & that the war must end in 3 mos. time by our giving in for want of soldiers. The influence of the Peace Party at the North is very much dreaded.

I am very well myself in every way. I don't think I ever passed a winter when I suffered less from "small ailments." I am getting fat & am altogether in very good health. I shall not be here

stopper had got out of the
bath tub up above, or that
the same tub was overflowing.
How it did come down

Wednesday eve. March 4th

I got my box to day, & I can't tell
you how much obliged I am
for it. It contained woodcraft
wonder, and took me fully two
hours to unpack & examine. I
can now imagine the feelings
of a school boy when he receives
a box from home! Thank you
ever so much for it. I had
no idea of getting one half the
things you sent me, so that every
box & paper inside was a new
surprise. I puzzled a long
time over the straps for carry-
ing my blanket, but I got at
the mystery at last & they

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the other night, & I had to put
them under arrest. It is one
of my hardest duties to keep
the men straight. I can man-
age the hired men easily enough
for if they attempt any non-
sense I dismiss them on the spot,
but the soldiers are much more
difficult to handle. I had one
man sent to Fort Pike for stat-
ing, more than three weeks ago,
& I have had two or three letters
from him begging to be taken
back. I don't think that will
come to pass for some weeks
yet however. I wonder how
I should feel in a white shirt?
I refused to have any commu-
nication with a man today
because he wore one, and
I consider it effeminate.
Kid gloves - a name without
meaning! Seriously I am be-

giving to think I shall never
again become civilized. I am
curious to know how it would
seem to speak to a lady with-
out being snubbed at for a
"Yankee." I have got one
pae above roasted oranges,
which you remember aston-
ished the girls so last autumn,
and I have actually eaten
fried bananas! Don't shud-
der now for they are really
very nice. It is a very funny
idea to me, but live & learn.

I want to astonish you with
the information that on Sat-
urday last I was offered
the position of LIEUTENANT
ENANT COLONEL!
or at least told that if I
would accept it, the Com-
mission should be made
out the next day. It was of

course in one of the Regiments
of State Guards now forming,
& equally of course I declined,
the silver leaf itself, not
being the least temptation.

I do not consider the position
fit for me, & neither do I
consider the regul fit for
the position. I told the officer
who held out the bait that I
thought he must be hard
up for office, when he made
such a proposition to one
as ignorant as myself. Our
weather now is just as lovely
as it can be. It is neither too
warm or too cold, & if one make
the mixture to suit him-
self he could not do better.

Thursday Friday & Saturday I
did think that there was a
branch of Hydraulics wrong
somewhere, & that either the

so long, so I shall have them boxed up & take them up the river. They will be very acceptable in & near Baton Rouge. I shall not open the tins at all until then, for I know they will keep if nothing else does. The gingerbread is still nice & fresh, & reminds me strongly of home, as indeed the whole box does!

The soap is an improvement upon the yellow so. I have been using, & in future I shall be careful to keep a piece always in my trunk. The camp arrangement of knife, fork & spoon is very nice, & just what I shall need in the field. In fact the whole box contains exactly what I most want, & you could not

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are exactly what I wanted. The rubber blanket is very jolly. I rolled my blankets up in it and fastened them with the strap, and tried it all on. I can carry so much more on my shoulders than in my hands, that I shall have no trouble in taking all the baggage I need right with me. The gloves & spurs are splendid. They fit just as if I had had them made. I am going to fasten the latter on to my boots tonight & come out very gay in the morning. I think by and by I shall send you my photograph in full uniform, with accoutrements complete. The box of collars comes just in time. I was looking at the few I had left only yesterday & wondering what under the sun I was going to do. I did ask the

price of some linen in order
to have some made, but when
I was told \$1.30 per yard, I gave
that idea up in utter disgust.
The Shell & Flame is lovely &
I shall appear in style when
I get it in position. The paper
envelopes could never have come
at a more needful time. As
I told you before we are paying
enormous prices for all such
articles here, and do not get good
quality at that. I have only a
few sheets of this left, & was
going to get a new supply to-
morrow. I have seen a pack
of cards of much poorer quality
than those you sent me, sell
here for \$1.00, so you may judge
whether they are useless. The
books & papers I have not had
time to look at yet, but I am
very much obliged for them, &

they will serve to pass a good many
lazy hours away. I shall take
some of them over to my men in
the hospital tomorrow. I know
they will appreciate them, &
be glad enough to have some-
thing to pass away the time,
they have to lay & look at the
ceiling. I saw in Vanity Fair
a new Rifled Gun for shooting
round a corner, & called Lt.
Hills attention to it as an im-
provement in Ordnance we
were not posted in. I am a
little sorry the box did not come
a day or two ago, while I was
in bachelors hall in Orange
Street, on account of the pro-
visions. I can never eat them
all alone! They all have
kept so very well however that
I think there will be no trouble
as to their keeping a week or

written for boats & was expecting them. I will see him again in a day or two when I get a good chance, & will speak to him again. Most, if not all, of the Chartering is done north as I don't much expect to succeed, but I will do my best.

This is the longest letter I have written for a long time, but now that I have such a jolly supply of paper I feel rich, & can afford it. Give my best love to Father, Grandmother & the boys, & write me everything as to your movements & things. Are you going to move from 164 in the Spring, & shall I find you up near Central Park?

Your ever loving son
Appleton.

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have picked out a more well come present if you had tried for a month. I think it has come just in time, for for now what I hear to day it cannot be long before we move up to attack Port Hudson. This may be the last letter I shall send you from N. O. but still there is no telling. Hill had a Lieut. detailed for duty here to day, to whom he will turn over all business as soon as we go up, and that will leave us entirely free to go where we please & do as we like. Here is the tree as it were

Chief of ord.

Adj. Off. Baton Rouge	Adj. Off. Carrollton.
" " Augus Division	" " Groves Div.
" " Sherman's "	" " Emerys "
" " Weitzels Brigade	" " Sigsbee's "

at present the Chief

is at New Orleans as you know,
& the others all report here.

By turning over our property
& going off, we get clear of all
the office work save in way
of writing Reports & Letters, &
have but little of that to do. I
think I shall have a very good
chance of being in all the fun
for I can always get leave to
volunteer, or go as I choose, &
when there is no work I shall
have no hesitation in asking
that leave. I will be care-

ful about getting sleep & rest,
for as you say it does wear on
one in the long run. I shall
have but little occasion hence-
forth to be up much at night,
unless of course something new
should turn up. I am going
up to the Fresh Market in the
morning to try & get some sugar

cane, & oranges, to & by the Mission.
I am very much afraid that the
season is over, & it is too late,
for I have not seen the former
at all, & but few of the latter
in the markets lately. I will
try my best however. I have
already seen the Quarter Master
about the Thames, & he asked
several questions about her,
such as: "how many troops
will she carry?" "How much
water does she draw?" &c. I
answered all as nearly as I
could - telling him 750 for the
first, & 10 feet for second. I
could not be exact but of course
did not let him know that.
He seemed to think that he
would have a good many sent
out to him from New York, &
I should think (although he
did not say so) that he had