

him - met him on board the Atlantic) & as yet I have seen very little of him. He seems a very good fellow however & I think will be a good man to work under. I have rec^d your letters of 9th & 15th & thank also one from Father of Arthur Dale, which please tell him I will answer in a day or two as soon as I can make some inquiries he wishes me to. Callie Keen I presume is with you now & so give her my love. Annie must be just well & gone back to ~~her~~ before this. I meant to have written her but have been too busy. Post Hudson is to be left alone for the present (as I thought) & most of our army has been drawn away from Baton Rouge & is now on Bayou Boeuf with Weitzel, or at Algiers, just across the river from here. Banks has taken the field again & I presume we may expect to hear of another "reconnoissance in force" in a few days. Also that Baton Rouge has been attacked by the rebels & in process there cut to pieces. It is true - I am disgusted with the way things are managed here. We lost another gunboat (quite new - partly iron clad - & mounting 4 or 6 guns) on the Lake yesterday. I see Barnick is in Lincoln what in thunder is he doing there? I wish they would send Banks to Miami & send us a man

I'll write soon again
Your most loving son
Appie

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans April 16th 1863.

My Dear Mother

We can never find out here when the steamer sails, waited about six hours after she has gone, so our only way to catch the mail is to write & send the letters to the office as soon as we can. I don't want to miss this mail when ever it goes for I know you will want to hear how I am getting along. I was only able to write a few lines last Friday, just enough to say I had been sick, so now I mean to tell you the story. You can see without my telling you that I am very nearly well now, for no sick man would commence a letter on this huge paper. I came over to the office yesterday for the first time, but did not do anything save loaf round for an hour or two, but today I commenced work once more & have been writing & talking all the morning. I have finished for to day however although it is but one o'clock, for I mean to take it easy at first until I entirely recover strength. To entirely relieve your mind of any anxiety I think I must tell you what my breakfast consisted of.

if you don't say I shall do, I'll give it up. Two eggs,
two pan fried, three slices bread & butter, & a cup
of tea. My head is much clearer & stronger
today than it has been for a long time, & all I
need now is a little exercise, fresh air, & care, to be
able to go about freely. I shall guard myself against
the hot sun & night air for some weeks, & in fact
take every precaution against a relapse. Best
to return to first principles. I fancy I must
have taken my fever in Baton Rouge, for I have been
unwell ever since I came down. At first I thought
it a heavy cold merely, & so tried to fight it off
for some days. On the 24th inst. however I had
to give it up, for I had severe chills & in afternoon
a great deal of fever. I saw the Dr. the next
morning & he told me to keep in bed, get a nurse,
and keep quiet. All of which I did. Now I am
going to astonish & horrify you so look out.

For once I despised Homoeopathy and here had an
Allopathic doctor! What will you all say? especially
Dr. Beard! My reasons were various & I'm sure
you will find them all good. In the first place
there are but three Homoeopathic physicians here to
any note whatever (and I would not dare to trust my-
self to a second class one at any rate) The first

Dr. Vail, is thought very little of & it is said attend to
anything but his business & patients. No 2. Dr. Baldwin
has a very large practice & a very wealthy one & will
not attend to cheap patients unless sent for each time
especially. Even then he gives them very little attention.

The 3^d Dr. Bailey, is very careful & very skillful &
thought the best in the city, but he is one of the strongest
rebels - a registered enemy, and would not attend a
Federal at any rate, - under any terms. On the

other hand I know Dr. Steinhart quite well, & know that
he believed in giving as little medicine as possible. He
is Asst. Surgeon U.S.A. & Asst. Chief Medical Director
in this Dept. He is a young man but very skillful &
has been in the Army a long time. Again I know Hill
wanted me out as quickly as possible, & while I was under
Steinhart, who is a personal friend of his, he could say
nothing, but if I employed anyone else he might think
I was keeping in the house longer than necessary.

Least, but not least, I thus saved all expense of a Doctor
and as my necessary expenses for Tea, wine, fruit, birds,
nursing, & one thing & another, are necessarily very heavy,
it is by no means an unimportant item cut off. It

does seem as if I could not care money for no sooner do I
get a few dollars ahead but some thing eats them right up.
(Red help page next - the 11th above isn't 179 & I'm in haste)

As I told you, I went to bed on the 24th I took a Blue Pill and the next day some Quinine Pills, first I think I got steadily worse until Monday March 30th & then began to get better again. During this time I took from 3 to 5 Quinine Pills each day (the Dr. told me to take 6 - but I could not see it quite, tho. I never told him so!) and two or three doses of some clear liquid, to reduce the fever, & one dose of Phosphat.

Sunday night (29th inst) was my worst time, but I got through safely. I improved very much after the crisis had passed & I don't think I ever before was out so quickly after a severe illness.

The Dr. told me to keep on with the Quinine Pills until Friday 3 April, but I found they were affecting my head so I just dropped them quietly on Tuesday & for several days took nothing at all. On Friday he gave me a box of Iron Pills, to take 3 pr. day, & as I knew they could not hurt me & would probably do me good I have been taking them ever since. I really think they do give me strength.

On Saturday I was able to walk up stairs & change my room to a quieter place, but it tired me very much & I was glad to go to bed again. Sunday I succeeded in dressing & sitting up all day. I had a plate full of very nice Strawberries for break-

fact - what do you think of that? Monday I went down stairs, & Tuesday (yesterday) I came over to the office for the first time. I find lots of work to do here for everything is at least 10 days behind hand & it will take me a long time to get things into the shape I left them. I don't mean to hurry myself however.

Lieut. Hill is quite sick to day with Fever & Chills. I rather think the same Acclimating Fever I have just had. There is one thing I must tell you, & that is - all the old residents - here tell me that having had this fever will probably save me from yellow fever or any disease whatever this summer, and that I need fear nothing if I am commonly careful. So you see even if I do stay I shall be safe enough. I shall not think of entering the Army unless I receive the appointment of Ordnance Officer to some of the Divisions, or Sub Depots.

In this case I don't know whether I could refuse the appointment, for it would be a very high position & one I should like exceedingly. The rank would be nothing, - merely that of a ~~Lieut~~ but the position would be a very responsible one & one for which I am pretty well fitted. It has not been decidedly offered me yet however so we shall see what will turn up. Lieut. Hill has been relieved from Command here and is now Asst Chief of Ad. I presume he will be ordered home about the 1st June. Lieut. Shunk has relieved him (Russ knows