

would have ~~to~~ escaped with little or no loss. The change I spoke of in the office is this.

Capt. Shunk has returned from Bushier City, & Lieut. Hill has gone down to take his place. It is an important change for me for this reason.

Capt. S. does not come to the office quite as much as Hill did, & it leaves me as almost sole manager of everything.

I have today applied for two new clerks, and I mean to show them what there is to do, and then merely oversee the work & attend to letters which may come in &c. If I am to see that things go right I have no idea of doing anything else, but shall play Grand Mogul in my armchair, and read the papers. We are at

136 Julia St. N. Orleans  
Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> 1863.

My Dearest Mother

It's not very long since I wrote but I feel like a talk this afternoon, so I have put on my slippers, & taken off my coat, vest, and collar and am in fact in Louisiana undress. There have been one or two changes since I wrote to you, in my own arrangements, and in the office. I am gaining strength and health every day, and am feeling better & clearer than I have for a long time past. My fever has done me great good I am sure, and do you know I really believe I should have been sick at any rate, even had I been at home. Or if not down sick I should have been weak and good for nothing all this past.



winter and present Spring.

I think it was nearly as much the "finishing up" of the fever I caught in Virginia last summer, as it was a new attack. If I am right I shall be all the better for it. It prevented my going to the advance with Banks on his present expedition to the Red River Country, and that is what I am most sorry for. If I had been well I should have been sent on with the Ordnance trains, but perhaps my turn will come by & by. You doubtless hear all about his movements much sooner than I could tell them so I can't attempt to do anything of the kind. I do not think his expeditions will amount to so very much in the end for he cannot possibly hold all the country he has taken

and must bring his troops back to this point, or lead them across to Baton Rouge. Still he has cut off the rebel supplies for a time & has wakened people up, so in those two things he has done great good. The blowing up of the Queen of the West was the luckiest thing that has happened for a long time. She had just taken a position where she could take over the whole right wing, resting on the river, when the gunboat Calhoun fired upon her from her place three miles off. The third shell entered the magazine and up went the Queen. Of course it was just mere luck, but it saved Banks that time, for if the Q. had once opened fire our troops would have had to fall back, & the rebels



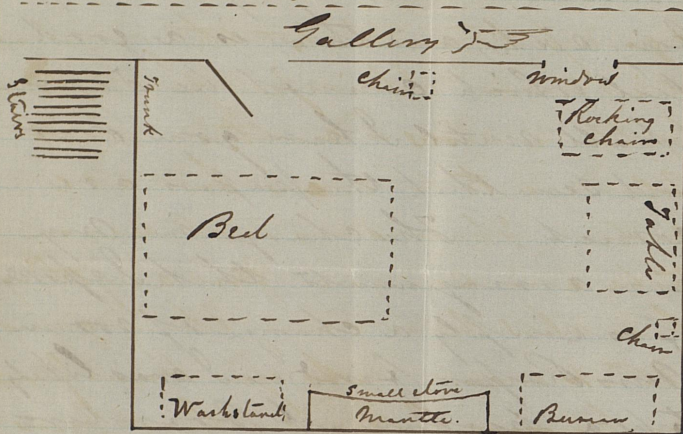
of Cheekes, & a quiet talk,  
which took the rest of the after-  
noon. It is now nine P.M. &  
I am on my way to bed, but  
thought I would finish this  
page before going. I have  
cleared the table of roaches  
I believe, & they have all gone  
off to the other end of the  
room, where they seem to be  
playing tag from the noise  
they make. They are a very  
different animal from what  
we have at home I assure  
you! I think I shall finish  
this tomorrow morning, & then  
answer all the questions you  
ask in your last letters.

For tonight I must say  
Good Night for I am both  
tired & sleepy. Pleasant dreams  
to you all at home  
A. P. P.

5.  
least a month behind hand  
in our work, owing to my  
being sick, and there is a good  
deal which cannot be done  
at all until I have gone over  
and seen that the papers are  
correct. The change in my  
own arrangements that I spoke  
of is simply a change of room.  
Mrs Roper finding I was likely  
to be a permanent boarder  
at least for the present, has  
given me a room on the  
second gallery close to the  
head of the stairs. It is the  
only room on the gallery which  
has a window, is very well fitted  
up with furniture & really  
looks as cozy as possible.  
It is just the right size, about  
18 feet by 15, & I am going to  
send you a plan on the next  
page so that you can see how



very nicely I am living.



At this present minute - I am sitting at the table having moved one of the chairs up, & I am using the rocking chair for my foot stool with "Southern ease & elegance." I have got a tumbler of iced claret beside me, or rather claret & water, & what more could I have? By & bye when it gets cool enough I mean to

venture out for a walk, or else I shall take the cars & go up town into the garden district. It is perfectly lovely there now - nothing but flowers to be seen on all sides. There does not seem to be any season for anything here now but everything grows all at once. As you know from my previous letters we have been having blackberries, & great peas, for some time past, & it won't be long before we have corn. Strawberries are very small and hardly worth buying. There are good ones to be had - at five cents each, but one can't quite get enough of them unless he is a Major General. Sent Mumford some in which I was finishing the last sentence & we had a pair of Chas & his



will soon have to send me  
another supply of the paper  
for although these are not  
all gone & I have enough  
to last for a month yet,  
still they cannot be got down  
here, & it would hardly do to  
get out. I have not seen Chas  
Emerson since I told you to come  
in to the office. He is with  
Banks I believe up at Wash-  
ington Sq. Your Kears are never  
went much together & are  
not likely to now. As for "old  
faces &c" - I had much rather meet  
a new one I like than an old  
one I don't. There goes the  
breakfast bell as good  
Bye for the present.

Yours ever loving son  
Appleton.

Apr 29<sup>th</sup> 1863.

I wish you to understand  
that it is really morning being  
but just six Am. It is the very  
pleasantest part of the day to  
work for it is nice & cool, with  
a little breeze, and very few mus-  
quitoes. The last was an unimpor-  
tant item! I have got your  
letters of Feb 25<sup>th</sup> & Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>  
to answer. The former has  
been some time getting to me  
for it came by the Mexicans,  
& according to one of the N. O.  
papers must have been having  
a good time on some one of the  
Florida Keys. The first account  
we got of the affair read as  
follows; "the mails & the pas-  
sengers are living in tents." Not  
such a bad joke for a Louisiana  
reporter! Some how I think  
I generally get all the letters



you send me although it is  
often a week or two after the  
time. I have lost a few I  
know, but must come pretty  
straight. You must remember  
me to Miss Gardner please when  
you next see her - it is just  
about a year since we were  
working together on the Pa-  
munkiey on board the "Elm City".  
You ask if I want any thing  
of clothes. Not quite yet, but  
I shall before long I think.

I do not wish to get anything  
I can help in that line, for it  
is not only expensive to buy,  
but troublesome to carry with  
me. I wish if possible to  
make my light flannel suit  
do for all summer, but if I  
find that impossible, I shall  
have to send for pants & vest  
of some light grey, & a coat

of alpaca or something like  
it, - grass cloth wears well.  
I think however that I can  
get along as I am for some time  
yet. As regards under clothes I  
think some few pair thin socks  
will be all I shall ~~need~~<sup>need</sup>, or at  
least that I can get along very  
comfortable with what I have  
got, & those. There is one thing  
I wish you could get me, & that  
is a steel collar. It is a  
new invention, - English make  
& they say that when once  
soiled it can be cleaned by  
merely a wet towel being  
passed over it. It would be  
a great saving if it is what  
it is said to be. This weather  
is terrible on paper collars  
& they melt away like ice.  
I am afraid if you don't find  
the steel collar in N. Y. you