

To do in fact all I can for
the Union & the country. I
know it will put me back in
business some time, but that
is the only reason against my
staying, & I cannot think it right
to let that influence me in
this matter. It seems to me
that money considerations
ought not to interfere with
what is so evidently my duty.

Now as to the locality where
I am to be, it would be hard,
& most likely impossible, for
me to obtain a position in either
Hooker's army, or in one of the
Western Armies. I am liked
in my position where I am at
present, & know I am doing
good. I have a chance to rise, &

Pointe.
ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Apr 29th 1863.

I finished my long letter to you
before breakfast this morning
dear Ann and it is now noon.

I have several things I want to
say to you alone however, or to
you and father, so I am going to
write a second letter. The first
and most important is about my
coming home. Both you and
father have at different times
said, "come home before the hot
weather sets in," and in your
last letter you repeat it again,
supposing me to be still weak &
sick from the effects of the fever.
Now as I have already told you I
am getting quite strong again &

am better than I have been
for a long time. The hot weather
does not seem to affect me at
all as yet, & I do not feel it even
as much as those who have been
here for years. Now what I
wish to say is this - I do not think
it right to come home to stay
while this war is going on, & while
men are so much needed by the
country. I only wish I had
entered the army at first, as
I perhaps should have done.

If I should return home now
it would be only to go down to
the Potomac, for I could not
rest quiet at home while so
much is doing in which I ought
to take my part. I do not
know whether you will under-

stand me but it seems to me
that out of our family of
three boys one at least can
be spared for this war. You
know how much men & officers
are needed now, & every one counts
as something. Russell is busy
& it is quite time he was fixed
in business, as he is best off at
home. Ed is too young for the
Army, and cannot of course go.

I am the only one who is really
ready, & there is no good reason
why I should not be away. Do
not think I am acting from
impulse. I have thought it all
over many times, & cannot come
to any other conclusion but
that it is my duty either to stay
here, or enter the Army elsewhere.

head. However that cannot be helped, & as long as one can support themselves in these times, they should not complain. I learn from one of Jennie's letters that she & Mally are thinking of going to Long Island again in June sometime to see Mr Porter's place in summer.

Of course you will get them to stay with you for a little while if convenient. I tell you in case you may not have heard. I am anxious to hear from you what you think in regard to Jim's part of this.

Please look at it as I do & feel no anxiety as to the result. I have looked at it from every point & am certain I am right. Yours ever loving
Appleton.

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am comfortably situated.

Of course every one must run some risk in war time, but the chances of Yellow Fever down here, (even supposing it comes, which it very likely may not do) are less than those of a battle, & as for other fevers &c they are in every camp. I am certainly much better off here, than I should be as private on the Potomac, which is what I should have to do were I to return now. I have not said half what I wished to, but it is very hard to write feeling as deeply as I do on the subject. I regret more & more each day that I did not go off with the first 3 mos. men & fight my way up. Living as I have done lately in the middle of secessionists I see more & more plainly

the need for every one to
act & not talk. It is too late
to be sorry for that now, but it
is not too late to do what I
can to repair my fault.

I do want to see you all again,
& you especially dearer Mother,
but we must wait a little
while longer. A few months
perhaps will finish this
thing up & then it won't be
long before I come home I can
tell you. I shall tell you
one secret which came to
me by private hands this
morning, & I believe it is true.

The rebels are evacuating
Port Hudson! They are moving
their guns back to some other
point, & between five & ten
thousand men left there
last week. Banks is down
here today & I think will go back

tomorrow morning & move
his army across to Baton Rouge
in order to follow them up
& if possible capture some
of their guns. We shall see
in a few days whether I am
right. There is one other
thing you ask ~~about~~ whether
I had money, as my sickness
may have caused bills I could
not meet. I am much obliged
but I think I can get along,
and I would rather do so if I can.

It did cause some heavy bills,
but I have paid, or made arrange-
ments for paying, them all, and
although it will leave me some-
what short for a few months,
I shall still have enough to pay
my way without getting into debt.

I am only sorry that it rather
knocked my plans, for leaving
a little from my salary, in the