

strove for an hour meekly listening
to a string of, "She was a Miss Smith
who married a Mr Brown of Little End,
& he was connected to the Simsons by his
aunt's marrying young Edward Simson
who was the son of &c &c - - -"

She very kindly asked me to come up &
see her, & as I hear her house is a very
pleasant place to visit I shall cer-
tainly go. I have not had the least return
of your since I wrote, but am still taking
the best of care of myself, & shall all
the time I am here. No news of the
Thames yet & I presume she is in Florida
but I hope not on any of the Keys

She will doubtless be here before many
days now. Give best love to Grandma
& Father, & all at home. I shall write
soon again & hope to hear from you before
the next steamer leaves, so that I may
know what is doing in N.Y.

Ever your loving son
Appleton

ORDNANCE OFFICE.

Headquarters Department of the Gulf,

New Orleans May 5th 1848.

My Dear Mother

I think these blessed mail
steamers are the most blessed humbugs
that ever existed. We got one mail
on 25th April; then none until May 3rd,

when of course two steamers came in at
once. We shall not hear again for a
fortnight very likely, which rather dis-
turbs my equanimity; for I should like to
hear something later from 164 E. 10th.

I expected letters by the Crescent, (I got them
but not from you) & was a good deal dis-
appointed in not hearing, but I suppose
they are coming and I'll wait with patience.

The number of steamers on the line now
is rather small for the Bis Bis & Mission be-
ing off for good, & the Roanoke having been
with drawn, cuts our facilities for getting
news down. I wrote you on the 28th April.

& told you about everything so don't go far to
look for much news in this. You won't
get a long letter either for the steamer goes

on Thursday & I have a lot of "official letters" to get off by here. I'm Chief cook just now & have been for some time. On the 30th Apr. Capt. Shunk was taken very sick & he is down in his turn. Hill has gone to the front & I have charge of Office, stores & all. I'm given up to training, & they can't keep me from either lunch or dinner now no matter what boat or train is waiting. I've got into good training & I mean to keep so. By & bye there may be some grand movement & I want to be well & strong.

We are bound to see some good times here before long. Grant is going to send us about 20000 men. Hunter will send 5000 & several Iron Clads. Look out Mobile & Galveston! I think the river will be opened first though before either of those places is touched. Grissom Cavalry Raid is not the last you will hear of by any means. I would have given anything to have been in that, it must have been glorious, & the papers don't tell you half. I have been talking to some of the officers & the stories they tell are very funny. In fact Banks' stock is looking up.

I presume the girls are with you now but have had no positive information of the same. I hope their next visit will be more appreciated by me personally than this one can be. I must answer Maggie's last letter as soon as may be, & when this little ruck gets off my hands I shall have time to attend to my correspondents again.

Lieut. Mumford has resigned & gone home to my great sorrow, for he was about the only friend I had here. Curtis is down sick in the Hospital & Davis is trying to resign, which will leave the 1st N. Y. Battery without an officer save the Capt. & 4th Lieut. I was offered the 1st Lieutenancy, & for several days thought seriously of taking it, but finally gave it up & concluded to stick to the Ordnance.

I had a visit from a Mrs Richards today. She is a Boston lady & a great friend of Miss Betty Sturges, & seeing my name came up to find out whether I was any relation to that lady or not. She took my breath away in the first five minutes she talked so fast, & I sat still wondering

Office. He is in St. James Hospital just now & down with half a dozen different diseases. I called to see him yesterday & was not allowed to speak more than a few words he was so low. He is one of those I was watching, to see how he would stand the coming on of summer &c. He was very strong when he first came down, but six months of steady dissipation have worn him out, & now he is once fairly down sick I think it more than doubtful whether he ever gets up again. If Capt. Hill goes north this summer I think the Department will be left without any Chief of Ordnance before autumn, for I do not think Capt. Shunk can stand a summers work. He is another of my curiosities. We shall see as time passes. I am a little curious also to know what they will do in the office if I should leave. There is not a single person who understands the papers besides myself, & there is any quantity of odds & ends to do each day which can only be done by one having some previous knowledge of the business. I got into it by degrees in St. G. & coming down on the ship, but it is almost impossible for one to take a cut in the office & go on with the work, without knowing most if not all the details thereof. Love to all -

App.

P.S. Let St. get Harpers Weekly April 11th & send it to me - there is not a copy left in this whole city.

May 15th 1863.

Mr. Williams did not go to the front yesterday as I thought, for he came into the office just as I finished the last page. He did not feel well enough to leave the city. He promised to come up and play Chess with me in the evening but it came on to rain in the afternoon, & as it is no joke to be out in a New Orleans shower I of course did not see him. I have been playing Chess a good deal lately for not being able to go out much at night I have mostly stayed down in the parlor in the evenings. There is a gentleman stopping here (Scotch of course - in fact he has been in the C. S. Army,) whom I was told played very well, and when he asked me to play I expected nothing but a very bad beating. The first game I got a stale mate, the second I beat, the third he beat. The next evening he asked me to play again & I won four games in succession, & since then he won't play. The Courier has arrived with date of the 7th and accounts of the Battle of Fredericksburg. We have had rumors through Scotch sources that Hooker was badly beaten, for some days, & the Herald seems to confirm all the worst accounts.

The Scotch here are all rejoicing in the most public manner & it is just at these times that we need Butler back more than ever. I hope this second defeat will just

put the draft through for if we can't beat the rebels
any other way surely we can by force of numbers. This is
Lincoln going to put in as the next General? I presume
that we shall have a change as usual! I'm getting
very savage on the subject I know but I can't say I'm
much discouraged or even disappointed. I said a long
time ago I did not touch Hooker. When they get Mac
Clellan in again I'm coming back to fight in the army
of the Potomac for I think then we may get ahead a
little bit. If they can't get Richmond in any other way
we'll take it from this end by a flank movement!
I want very much to know how this defeat is going
to affect the North. Will people generally get dis-
couraged & want to give it up as a bad job, or will it rouse
them up to action. I hope the letters, & indeed I don't
well see how they can take it in any ^{other} way. I have
sent for the N. Y. papers of the 4th, 5th & 6th. so as to
find out what the real news is by reading all the accounts,
rather a hopeless task. I shall devote my afternoons to
what you expect my orderly to bring them to me when
he comes from dinner. You have found out by this
time I guess that I've nothing much to say, for the
North is there has really nothing at all happened since
my last. The 'United States' brought me letters from
Kathleen & Kobby in addition to the letter from Williams

had for me. I hope the Crutch will have more for ~~me~~
the more I get the more I want. Remember me
on the 2nd June please for that will be my twenty
first birthday! For once I want a birthday present
in the shape of a long letter. It is just a year to
day I believe that I was at White Horse Va. Perhaps
this time next year may see me at Port Royal S. C.
I should like to go the rounds & see the country, & I
like change. I send a note to Father with a mem-
orandum enclosed about two boats here &c. You
speak of my not thinking enough of the Yellow
Fever & judging of it by my Staten Island expe-
rience. That is not the reason why I am so little
afraid of it, but I see how little the people here who
have lived through half a dozen epidemics think
of it. All tell me that fear kills more than the
fever, & all say that if a person takes the first severe
onset & goes right home to be nursed, that in nineteen
cases out of twenty they get well. If it does break
out in an epidemic this summer it will be fearful,
for the troops will suffer dreadfully. I hope though
we shall escape. For myself I really had rather
have it than the Typhoid. The latter is looked on as
much the most dangerous down here. You have
heard me speak of Lieut. Deane who is in the Ordnance