

Flour is all the way from 10 to 18 dollars.
Stationery of all kinds is four times the price
it was in New York when I left - & we thought
it very high then. Clothing is double & treble
the N.Y. price. They charged me \$16 for vest
& pants (which I did not get) the other my
Boots & shoes are from \$5 per pair (the
most common kind - pegged) to \$30. Paper
collars are scarcely to be had anywhere, &
sell at \$1 per bunch. - 10 cents each. News
papers - very small size & nothing in them, are
5 cents. & N.Y. papers 15 cts. When things
are at such ruinous prices one needs a good
salary to live at all. Lieut. Hill told me
it cost him \$75 per month to get along at
all. He is in the same fix as I am in regard
to clothes, for we each brought but two suits
with us, a thick & a thin. If we had gone
to some out of the way place where it didn't
matter how we looked, we should have done very
well, but it is different here. Every officer
is expected to be neatly dressed & to have his
hands & face clean etc., &c. I wrote you from
Baton Rouge that I should want some more
clothes, but that letter may not have reached
you so I will even ask again. I have to

P.S. Did you remember to take Jennie her ring when you went to Baton?
If not please send it to her, for I think most likely she will want it this winter.
App.
Ordinance Office.

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.
New Orleans, Jan 1st 1863.

My Dear Mother
Most of this letter will be to yourself & fa-
ther so please read it to yourself first, & afterwards you can
read such portions aloud as you think best. It is about
eight in the evening, & I can imagine you at home all
gathered around the table waiting for callers, & in the mean
time enjoying yourselves. I presume Ed & Russ are
making their last calls, & will be in by & bye to join the
party. I have been thinking of you all to-day even more
than usual, for instead of making calls myself I have
been at work as usual. I have wished you all very many
Happy New Years, & having no one to wish the same aloud
to, I have done it in spirit. I wrote to Father on
Christmas day, so you will know that I have returned
from Baton Rouge, & am now in New Orleans. I believe
I told him all up to the date of our arrival here, so
I have nothing left for this letter save an account
of our daily work, & some private matters. Every
thing is very different from what we expected, instead
of landing at Port Royal, or some out of the way
place in Texas (or South America) we are here in
the largest city of the South. I thought I should