

to Col. Colburn, & waited their answer with as much patience as could be mustered for the occasion, seeing that it was break fast time.

We were quite busy all day, & expected to be the next night, so I remained in the office, and did not attempt to go down to my room. I was not bothered till about nine o'clock A.M. when a Lt. of the 16.th New Hampshire came in for some Ball Cartridge.

His Regiment was ordered to march at ten minute notice with blankets slung, but without tents or knapsacks.

He had a team ready, so we both got in, & I made the driver take us down to one of the stables, where I gave him all the cartridge he could carry & sent him off. The only object of Gen. Witzel's advance was to feel the enemy &

Ordinance Office
New Orleans Jan. 19th 1863

Dear General

Since I wrote to you I have been awfully busy & have had hardly a moment I could call my own. For three nights I never went to bed, but got what sleep I did get, on the lounge in the office, & in my arm chair. As you have seen by the papers Gen. Witzel advanced on the 13th inst. from Berwick Bay, & Gen. Emier's Division was also ordered to move at the same time. The two, kept us at work night & day, until the affair was over. On Wednesday night I came up to the office at half past six as usual, to see if the evening mail had brought us anything. I found a note from Gen. Banks on the desk, requesting Lieut. Hill to send him by two P.M. the next day a Report as to the condition in which

he found the Ordnance Dept. I worked
on that with Lt. Hill, making notes
&c. until about 8 o'clock when he went
off & left me to write the Report.

It was about midnight when I got ~~through~~
and not feeling sleepy, I sat down to com-
mence a letter. A half past one in came
an Orderly with a Telegram from Gen.
Witzel for Ammunition to be sent him
instantly. It was his official statement
to Gen Banks, covered three pages of
paper & was a very interesting account
of his doings. I had a horse brought
round & in three minutes was galloping
up the street to Lt. Hill's quarters. I woke
him, and having him to go down to Head
Quarters & telegraph back to Gen
Witzel, send for Special Train, and
get teams to transport the stores,
I went down to Storehouse, woke
my men & got them at work. Find-
ing I had not enough I sent word
to the Lt. of the Guard of the 26th Mass

Vol. for more men, & he sent me
seven ten. In about an hour Lt.
Hill came along with a detachment
of the 9th Conn. Vol. whom he had
roused up as he passed the camp.

We had then nearly forty men at
work, & by half past five I had loaded
some eighty wagons, & started them
for the depot where the special
train was waiting them. I don't
believe we shall ever know what
we really issued, for in the hurry
darkness & confusion no one
could keep count. I know very
well what I told them to send, but
I don't doubt but that half as
much again went. After leaving
there I went down to the Magazine
& sent off some powder, & then
as it began to rain heavily, I took
a carriage & drove up to the depot,
& from there to the Office. I tele-
graphed down to Gen Witzel and

we have lost one of our batteries
and some of our stores on the
ship "Sparkling Sea". She went
ashore on Florida reefs, & it is
not thought possible that she
can be got off. Vessels have been
sent down to her, but I think it
doubtful if they save much of
the cargo. I shall not be sorry to
lose some stores in that way, for
it will come on return so nicely.

There is a rumor here today that
the Alabama has captured the
Roanoke which has our mails
on board. If it is true, I don't know
what we shall do, but as there
have been similar reports once
or twice before, which have
all proved false, I hope this
may be nothing but a cannon.
I believe the loss of our

to destroy the gunboat Cotton.
with which the rebels have been
bolting us for some time.
After trying both of these things he
fell back to Beaufort Bay where
he now is. I saw him up here in
the city yesterday, but he was going back
by the evening train. Gen Banks
went up to Baton Rouge yesterday
to see how things are going there.
He will probably be down on Satur-
day. How soon the advance will
be made no one knows. I hope it
won't be long first for I'd want to
get into the field. We have rumors
here that Gen. Butler is to be reappointed
here & that Gen Banks will take
the field. I hope it is so, for
in the first place that would be cer-
tain to move us, and in the second
I think that New Orleans needs
Butler's strong hand. Search here
have altogether too much to say as things

are at present, & as I have before told you, are daily becoming more & more insulting. Gen. Banks is altogether too lenient, & they think that they can do what they please. For instance, we have occasion to buy quantities of articles which we really need for Government use, and for which we cannot wait until they be sent from Washington.

Gen. Butter would take these things from the rebels here, and perhaps pay them a fair price for them, but Banks will do nothing of the sort. He will allow nothing whatever to be seized no matter what the need may be, & the consequence is that we either have to pay down prices for everything, or else go without.

Thus, we want Lead Oil very much to clean guns &c, but

those that have it to sell charge us \$3. per gallon for it, and we cannot get leave to take what little we want, & then cut down the bill. Lamp Wick they charge \$1. per pound for, Curry combs from \$1 to \$2.50 a pair, and Brushes &c in like ratio.

Gen. Banks may do well enough in the field, but he is too easy for this region. There is a very great difference in the feeling of the troops here, & on the Potomac last winter. Here they don't seem to care who the general is, think the war is about played out, & are only waiting for their time to be out to go home. No difference from Mc Clellan's men, who believed in, & loved, their general, more than one would believe possible.

Oh! if they would but put Mac in command again. I presume

There are six or eight servants, all of them Contrabands of course, who cook & wash for us, make fire, & do whatever else may be needful round the house. In the morning before I get up, my doctor comes in, makes the fire, brushes my clothes, blacks my boots, and if I give him directions, fixes the bath. We have breakfast from eight to half-past, and then I ~~leave~~ go up to the office and generally stay here until one. Then I go down to dinner and return about three.

There is very seldom anything going after two, so I have the afternoon to myself to walk, ride, loaf, or write. I generally go down to tea at six, and come

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mails would be more severely felt than a second Fredericksburg, with us. For indeed letters are more precious than anything else in the world. Last Saturday was a day of rejoicing for the steamer arrived with 450 bushels mail matter. I got eleven letters for my share & among them one from you, one from Tom & one from Ed. Ed. wrote me also, telling me of Paul's death, & I must answer that letter to night. I have heard from the girls & from Mrs. Balutin, so you see my friends are not entirely forgetting me. I don't favor all of them with quite such long letters as I do you, neither do I write quite so often, but I have enough writing to do to keep me busy enough at my spare hours. I think the medicine book I have will be all sufficient, for I

have hardly any use for it, & never for more than two or three of the bottles. I am very well, although I sometimes have slight colds - but nothing of the least consequence. If we go up the river I shall have to condense my baggage still more, and shall probably leave a good portion of it here subject to my order. I think we shall be stationed in Vicksburg when that place is taken, & I hope we are among the first who get there - We shall see.

I see by extracts from the N.Y. papers that another expedition is fitting out from New York and that the steamboats are coming in again. I hope Father has got some of the charting, and that the Achilles is already down on the Potomac. I presume the James river idea will be once more tried, & I think if it is that we

Clellan ought to have command. Let me know what is going on down town, for it is rather unsatisfactory getting but one paper every two weeks. When I write I was thinking of going to another boarding house. I have changed my quarters it is true, but have gone to house-keeping, & given up boarding.

I have joined the office of the 15th New York Battery, Capt. Mack. We have taken a house on Annunciation Square in Orange St. and have every thing very gay. It is furnished very nicely, rare in the way of beds of which we are one short. We have two pianos, sofas, easy chair, lounges, pictures, statues, marble tables, and every thing else, just about as gay as they make them

to the office again in the evening for an hour or two to see if anything is doing.

After I go off for good we generally play Chess & cards at home until eleven or twelve & then turn in. It is very much pleasanter of course than boarding and I will think it will cost me much more.

There are five of us and we divide the expense. I can not tell yet what the exact amount will be, for we have hardly tried the thing fairly, but I do not think it will be over fifty dollars per month. I found that boarding came to even more than that, for although nominally \$10 per week, still with washing, car fare & extras which could not

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be forseen, it mounted up
to nearly seventeen dollars.

The great objection to this way
of living is, the distance. Our
house is from the Office.

It is at least a mile & a
half, & I have to ride each
way ~~two~~ ^{three} times per day.

It is getting late & I shall
say, Good Bye for the time
being. Do please write often
& let me know what my
friends are about. Give
love to Grandmother and
Father. Russ & Ed I have
already written to, and I
will write Tom soon. Love
also to Annie if she is still
with you.

Your own loving son
Appleton