

my blue flannel suit, & on  
my overcoat. You tell me  
to send for what ever I want, &  
I shall accordingly do so. Some  
things I must have right away  
& so I shall have to get them  
here, but others you can send me  
better & cheaper from New York.

I have already asked for some  
paper collars, & I should like  
Reno to get me the "shell & flame"  
(Ordname) for the cap, if he  
can find it. I want the one  
made of gold cord of course  
& not the brass. I also  
want a pair of the long Cas-  
along gaiters to come up  
over the slune. I think you  
can get a pair very cheap  
from Charly Keeler, by telling  
him they are for me and what  
I want them for. He is with

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 1863.

My Dearest Man.

I don't know how it is but  
I'm writing all the time & yet I  
never seem to have told you any-  
thing. There is so much to say that  
I don't suppose I remember half  
of the small events which are  
constantly occurring. I'll do the  
best I can but more than that I  
can't promise for. Each steamer  
brings me letters from some new  
correspondent and although I have  
but five or six regular ones, still  
there are some twenty odd which  
I have to answer from time to  
time & of course I am always in  
debt. Just now I am seventeen be-  
hind hand. They don't trouble me much  
for it is a very great pleasure to  
get letters, & no trouble to answer



them when I have time for it.

By the steamer which came in yesterday I got five letters, but none of them from home. One was from a son of Mrs Balestier whom I have met in New York, but know very slightly. He wants me to write to him, for he says his mother has read him parts of several of my letters to her, & he thinks them so interesting that he wants more. I consider it a very great compliment indeed, for I was a little uncertain whether I was not boring some of you with such epistolical letters. I shall certainly write to him some of my "wonderful adventures" - almost equal to those of Jack the Giant Killer. What have I told you in my former letters, - or rather what has not I told you?

I may repeat sometimes, but I can't always remember every thing, <sup>I write</sup> although I do keep a diary.

I got the box you sent me all safe on Friday last, & I am ever so much obliged for it.

The clothes fit very nicely on the whole, although the pants were half an inch too long & I had to have them shortened by a tailor here. The coat is a little bit tight under the arms but I think will wear easy in a day or two after I put it on. They are just what I wanted & I think will see service before I have done with them. The buttons also were very welcome. I had them put on the coat & real I am now wearing & they are very gay indeed & very much better than the Antilley ones I have had. I have got the latter on



should think that was never  
saddled before. He plunged  
& kicked & reared & backed &  
went every way but straight  
ahead. I noticed the people  
got out of the way on all  
sides, & I had to use my  
spurs in good earnest before  
he would consent to use  
both fore & hind feet to-  
gether, in proper manner.

Have I ever told you the names  
of the officer I am living with?  
Capt. Muck. - rather a  
rough customer to handle,  
good natured, obliging, sober  
& "death on Euchre."

Lieut. Mumford. Graduate  
of Harvard, Class of '61 - ~~knows~~  
Duncan Lamb &c. A good  
Chess player & a good fellow.

"Bulmer & Valentini" in Warren  
St. near B'way. Ed. knows  
him very well & he can find out.

I want a knife, fork and  
spoon which can be carried in  
the pocket easily, for I will want  
to be caught in Baton Rouge style  
again - have to stir my tea with  
a stick, & eat with Bowler knife  
& fingers. I know they come for  
camp use packed so as to shut  
into each other but I don't know  
exactly how. There is one place  
here where they have them, but  
they charge \$8 (iron knife, tin  
spoon) & I know that it is just  
about six times the N. Y. price.

I have not the least idea what  
any of these things will cost,  
for some of them I never bought  
& others I have forgotten about.

If they are expensive I do not  
want them for I cannot pay



for any of them this month, or even pay off any of my bills now standing in N. Y. I hoped to have been able to send you forty or fifty dollars, but I dare not lest some new expense should turn up of which I now know nothing. I shall have to get a sword & sword belt when we go up the river, and I want spurs, some stationery, a tin cup, plate &c now. I have some bills for washing, mending, mess bills &c to pay off in the first, & I don't want to come out short & have to borrow, for it is a bore to have to pay the same back again.

I have been a little unfortunate this week, for while driving out to the Lake one afternoon in St. Hills buggy, which he lent me, we broke down, & I of

course had to pay for the mending thereof which came to \$10. Another day I was riding out on the Carrollton road with Capt. Meek, when I lost one of my spurs in some unexplained manner, & as they were a borrowed pair I had to replace them.

We have some very pleasant horsetack rides, & generally manage to get out at least once a day. Sometimes I go before breakfast, sometimes in the afternoon & sometimes in the evening. All of the officers at the house have horses, & they are always ready to lend me one when they are not going out themselves.

If all are going I take one of the horses belonging to the Battery & some of the latter are very good saddle horses. This evening I tried a new one & one I



armament of the posts, &  
I hope he went off satisfied.

I know he has given me "pin-  
tle" on the brain, with his  
"cross traverses planks", "lock  
chains", "muzzle bolters" &c

I would not have the  
name that man has among  
the soldiers for considerable

He is called "Red Sherman", &  
"Bloody Sherman", altogether  
& is one of the sternest hardest  
men to get along with that there  
is.

He is known as the most  
profane man in the Army  
& I think deserves his repu-  
tation. I would not be under  
him, or on his staff, for one  
thousand dollars per month.

He is appointed to take  
charge of the defenses of  
New Orleans, & is constantly

Lieut. Curtiss. Quen, great  
talker, great rider & a first  
rate judge of a horse.

Lieut. Davis. - whom I like  
rather the best of the lot.

good looking, cool & quiet,  
splendid bright eye, can tell  
the biggest lie with the straight

at face, cheat at Euchre till  
you don't know whether Hearts  
or Clubs are trumps, & altogether

take care of himself wherever  
he may be. Of course his game  
cheating &c is all in fun &

he is just the one you would pick  
out to back you in any serious  
scrape. I forgot to say that

he is a very fine musician &  
sings very well, & we have the  
"Bonnie Blue Flag" with va-

riations nearly every evening  
Here is a verse as we  
sing it, & not according to the



original version.

"We are a band of brothers & return to  
the land,

Fighting for the property we  
stole from Uncle Sam,

And when our rights were threaten-  
ed, the cry rose near & far

~~The Cry rose near & far~~  
Hurrah! for the Pirate flag that  
bears the single star.

Chorus.

Hurrah! Hurrah! for slavery  
Hurrah!

Hurrah for the Pirate flag that  
bears the stars & Bars. "

That is mainly my composi-  
tion, & who can say I'm not  
a poet after this?

It is the most sober affair  
I ever saw. Some-  
times when we are playing cards  
in the evening we send out for

a bottle of Claret or Sherry,  
but we never drink more than  
one, or at the most two, bottles  
between us, & never touch Whis-  
ky or liquor of any kind. It  
is a very remarkable measure  
on the whole, for in most of  
the messes hard drinking is  
the order of the day. I was for-  
tunate to get in with them, &  
I only hope the 11<sup>th</sup> N. Y. Battery  
will not be ordered away before  
I am.

Gen Sherman (con found him)  
came in here & interrupted me  
but thank Heaven he has gone.  
He wanted to see Lt. Hill & as  
he was not in, began to ask me  
about the different forts & the  
guns mounted there &c. - of  
which I know almost nothing.  
I crushed him under a pile  
of papers concerning the



want any more old Postage  
Stamps? for if so I can send  
him lots. I hope as this  
steamer failed, the next will  
bring me news from home,  
for I want much to hear  
from you. Do please write  
me often for although the  
others are very nice they  
are not like yours. I would  
like even so much to send  
you a bunch of the roses  
now on my desk - grown in  
the open air, but I guess  
the leaves would be all that  
would reach you.

Good Night & Good Bye for  
the present  
Your loving  
Application.

13  
writing no letters, which  
give us sometimes hours of  
work - as if we had cut enough  
already. Just now his es-  
pecial hobby is Fort Pike &  
if that is ever captured by the  
rebels it certainly won't be his  
fall. He comes in to the  
office here & commences -  
"Now Mr Hill I should still like  
very much to see that Fort  
taken & I want you to send out  
stores sufficient to put it in com-  
plete order." Mr. Hill replies that  
he has already sent all the stores  
he could which were on the Re-  
quisition, & had ordered the Com-  
manding Officer at the post to  
let him (Hill) know what else  
he wanted so that it could be sent  
him immediately. Then Sherman  
goes in - "I - C - D - n  
that office to H - l, (May



7. - I - in me if I don't think he is the d - to find " &c. &c." That is more than enough & I only wanted to tell you the usual style of his conversation. I have had one or two very fine Compliments from Lt. Hill & one indirectly from Gen. Ripley. The latter approved very much of certain letters & Reports he had & received from Lt. Hill, about matters & things in his Dept. & upon looking at our letter book I find I wrote them nearly all, & Lt. Hill merely signed them.

We are sometimes very hard pushed for Ordnance Officers, or for officers to act as such, at the different post depots, & I suggested to the Lt. that he had better appoint me as one

at Carrollton. He said he would have sent it before this if he could have spared me, but there was too much work for me to do here just now for me to go off anywhere.

I think I shall manage it before long however in some way or another. A few days I got hold of the papers & was quicker than anyone he had ever seen, so there is a little drop of money for you.

I want to have bought some postage stamps to pay but I totally forgot it, & shall have to frank this through.

I send you an envelope with Confederate Stamp on it for Jennie Tuckerman if she is still collecting them. Please give her & Cousin Emily my best love. I am Father



Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>

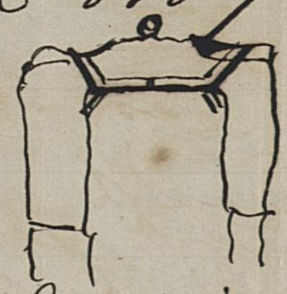
There is something else I want. - two things in fact One, a Rubber Blanket to spread on the ground when I am in camp. The other a pair of leather straps.

The last I want made to strap my blankets, overcoat, or any thing else, & then fasten them on my back, just as the soldiers carry their knapsacks.

I presume they are made to buckle under the arms & around the body in this style



side view



front view

but I don't know they are

exactly how arranged.

The shawl straps are very good to carry in the hand but I want some thing to enable me to carry my blankets



when we are upon the  
march. Perhaps Russ  
will know what I mean.

I am in a great hurry  
this morning for we  
are quite busy & I  
have a great deal to  
do.

Yours lovingly  
A. J.