

Sec^t he would steal \$10,000,000
in three months, and end the
war in four. It would be
a good speculation to take
him on those terms, but the
U.S. never will do things in the
cheapest way. We had reports
of a Rebel victory at Charle-
ston S.C. the other day, in which
the C.S.A. Rams drove off the
whole blockading fleet, as one
would a flock of ducks. The
next day came news that a
fleet of Iron Clads from
Port Royal, had entered the
harbor and laid the City
in ashes. As both reports
come through Southern sources
I think the latter most worthy
of belief - at any rate if it

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Feb 12th 1863.

My Dearest Mamma

I have not written to you
since the 31st Jan. so I owe you a
long letter now. I have written
to both Father and Russ since that
time however, so you must be
pretty well posted as to my doings.

We have not had a steamer in since
the 5th I think, and we are all
hoping for the arrival of the Dis.
Bis, who is over due one or two
days. The last news from the
North was disheartening enough
and the Regular Officers miser-
ably, and the best of the Volunteers,
are all feeling a good deal dis-
couraged. I have heard many say

that now Burnside has resigned, Porter been dismissed and Sumner^{and} Franklin removed from command, that there is no longer any disgrace in being dismissed from the Army, and that it is almost useless to try & do one's duty when the only reward given is censure. Others say they never expect to win while a set of contractors run the Government works, and that McClellan is the only man in whom the army as a general thing have the least confidence. It is not one man who says & thinks thus but hundreds, and Navy Officers as well as Army. It too make one very blue to hear that the oldest & best of our Generals

have been superseded by men who are scarcely known. To Hooker, who has been trying for his present position for a year past, most every one here looks for a grand and signal failure, - a second Fredericksburg. No one denies he is a brave, and a fighting man, but no one trusts his discretion. After him I believe Rosecrans will command, and I guess he is the best of the lot excepting McClellan. If they would only make the latter Commander once more, with absolute power, and put Ben Butler in as Sec. of War, what a team they would be. I heard one officer say that if Butler was only

them I am going in with the
First Regiment I find on
the march. I know some
one or two officers in most
all the Regiments, & shall
have but little trouble in
that line. It will take
one or two days hard fighting
to get up to the works of Fort
Hudson itself, for every farm
house, on the road of approach
from Baton Rouge, every little
wood & hill, is fortified & will
be defended. I have more hopes
than expectations, of the suc-
cess of the first attack; but
we shall see in due time.

We may not move quite as
soon as I said, & it may be
that the attack will be de-

isn't true now, it ought to
be, and will be - hereafter.

We have been busy pretty much
all the time since I last wrote
and part of the time night & day.

Gen Emery is bound off on an
expedition with his Division
and you will doubtless hear from
him through Southern sources
before you get this letter. He
is bound up the river to Big
Cajon mine to clean the rebels
out in that quarter, so that they
will not bother us when the
grand move is made. Gen
Weibel is also on the move -
or will be shortly, with his
forces. He will proceed from
Berwick Bay, Lafourche, and
Boasheim City, where his troops
now are, up the Tache, and
will very probably strike across

country to Donaldsonville
after he has driven the rebels
from the field works, they
have thrown up on the banks
of the Teche. We have lost
one of our horsehops in the person
son of Lieut. Mumford. His
section was detached on Tuesday
and ordered up to Carrollton
to report to Emery, in order
to act on the boats going up
the Bayou. He went off before
breakfast but we were all out
to see him off, & the way we
cheered that section was a
caution to the Secess around.

I tried very hard to get leave to
go with him, and offered to go
as private, in command of one
of the Launches, as Aid, or in
any capacity - whatever - as
as I got off. It was useless

St. Hill said he could not
spare me at present, and I must
wait a little while. He said
he did not believe they would
have any real battle, and as we
were so busy he could not let
me off from duty here. I have
been talking with him about
our movements by and by, and
he thinks we shall leave here
about the first of the month.

We shall turn over the office
to some poor unfortunate, &
go up in the Ordnance Store-
ship. There will be but very
little work to do & I shall have
every chance to join the land
forces in the attack. If pos-
sible I shall go with the 41st
Mass for I know them all
& have been asked to join them
in the fight. If I cannot find

break up until nearly day-
light. I was tired, & went off
about twelve, & the last I
remember was the Chorus of
Gloria Halleluiah ringing through
the halls. The Books I brought
with me have been read & reread
by all, until most of them
have disappeared under the
pressure. I am very glad I
brought them along. I am
quite well, & have been so,
with exception of a heavy
cold which has almost gone
now. I haven't found any
use for my medicine book
yet. Please give my love to
the boys, Father, Grandmother &
Aunt.

Most affectionately
Appleton.

9
layed until we receive some
Heavy Artillery from the
North. We are forming a
Sige Train now to be armed
with 8, 30 pdr. Parrotts, some
42. pdr. Guns, Sea Coast How-
itzers &c. The 21st Ind. Vol.
will be assigned to it, and
if any regiment can make
the thing work they can, for
it is one of the best drilled
regiments here. It is giving
us a great deal of trouble now
to get it properly Equiped,
but once off I know it will
do good service. One thing be-
fore I forget it. I should not
like any information which is
not generally known, to come from
one situated as I am, where I
generally hear & see everything.
It would not be right & might

to great harm, so please be careful what is read aloud in the house, & especially what goes out. As a general thing of course I do not care, but as I write you pretty much everything you must judge what it is best to keep quiet.

I am rather surprised at what you all say about my Galveston letter. I seem to hear of it from every side, & I should like much to see it again, to see what it was. Not only do you & Father speak of it, but Fannie, Oscar & several others.

Your letters of the 23rd & 18th Jan. were received on the 3rd & 4th of this month respectively.

I answered most of your questions in my letter to Father which I suppose has come to hand ere this.

You ask about a person named Mc Kinstry but it is impossible

for me to find out anything about him unless I know more, & very doubtful if I should succeed then.

Was he an officer or sailor? Who is he? I rather think he got off all safe however, for not more than a dozen were lost ~~by~~ ^{on} the Westfield.

He had a supper party at the house the other evening and a very pleasant time. There were some half a dozen Sea Captains, of different vessels here, & several Lieut's of other Battering, present.

It was a stagg party of course but went off quite as well as if we had asked all the ladies in New Orleans. He had supper at 10 o'clock.

Oysters in several styles, Salads, Cold Ducks, Pies, Frosted Cakes, Preserves, Fruit, wines of half a dozen kinds, Punch &c. and the party did not