

too sharp, & I could get no proof
of his guilt; - that is not enough
to have him arrested. I cannot
imagine when or how he could
have taken it for I never touched
him across the room, & always
slept with my feet & money under
my pillow. I sent him off, and
told him if he ever crossed my
path again to look out. There were
several charges of like kind against
him, for both Capt. Meek, & Davis
have lost money at various times
in some mysterious way. He was
a splendid servant & I shall
look a long time before I find
another as good. It is just as well
he has gone though for he was a dead-
weight sleep in more ways than
one. He was too smart by all odds
& it took two men to look after him.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Feb 20th 1813.

My Dearst Man

It is eight days since I
wrote to you, which is a longer time
than I mean to let go again. There
been too busy to write to any one lately
but now I think we shall have a week
or two of leisure, and I can make up
for lost time. This is the first evening
I have had even a moment to myself,
for a long long time and I may be inter-
rupted in a few moments now. I have
received your letter of the 2^d inst. also
one from Ed. of the St. Jans. and from
news papers, all of which were very
welcome. There is another mail due
Sunday by which I hope to get some of
the missing papers, and a number of

letters which are still due here.

As the steamer leaves this Sunday morning however I can not wait, for I want this to go by first opportunity. I think you will have to take to numbering your letters, as several of my friends do, so that I can tell what ones & how many, I lose. It is a great bore that the mails do not work more regularly for it is a great disappointment to lose any of our letters as they are all that bring us news of home.

I am glad to see that Vandambert has started in business again but I don't think he will have the same corps of assistance as he had when he failed. If I liked the dry goods trade I should like to be with him but I've had enough of that business for one life time. I hope he will succeed this time, & I think he may for he is a first rate business man & a hard worker.

We have made several changes in our mode of living since I wrote you and one great improvement we have turned every day out of the place and engaged two new ones. It will be much less expensive and much pleasanter & we shall have less trouble. They kept us in hot water all the time one way & another, & we got tired of it. One of our party is cured of the "abolition complaint" for life, and none of us have any higher opinion of the race from what we saw during the time they were there. They are the greatest set of humbugs the world ever produced. I am especially down on them, for I have lost a \$20 bill, & I rather suspect Mac knows where it is. I had him & his room searched but he was

was hardly hurt. We shall have
to pay the Dr's bills I suppose,
but they will be very light
for us, though perhaps heavy
for the parents of the child,
who are quite poor. I shall
get the Father a place in
the Adhene Stevedores, &
in the end I guess they will
not be sorry for the mishap.

We shall get out of it very well
if nothing new turns up. Of
course it was careless & wrong
for us to ride as we were doing,
but I for one have learned
a lesson which I shall not
forget soon. I had a fall
the day before, or rather the
night I was mounting, sud-
denly reared, & slipped on the
curb, & fell over on top of me

5.

I am glad you are going to Wash-
ington, & from the date of your letter
I presume you are there now.
If I were certain you would
be there any time I would send
this to Aunt Kate Case, but it
is so uncertain that I guess New
York will be the safer place.
It will be dreadfully muddy
there as I know from sad expe-
rience but perhaps the winter being
so late they keep the ground frozen
during your visit. If the Achilles
is there you ought to go down the
Potomac for a trip, to see
the kind of life I followed for
the time I was with her. This
letter may be the last you will get
from me for some little time
& you must not be alarmed if
you do not hear for two or three
weeks or even a month. I hope
to be sent up to Bis Plaquemine &

beyond a few days hence, & if so
I shall have no chance to write
home for some time - not till
my return. It may be that I
shall not go however, & in that
case I shall keep you posted
as heretofore. Emery's expe-
dition has returned, but I think
will try it again before long.

I will take good care of my-
self if I go, & you ^{must} not be the least
bit anxious but that I shall do
well enough.

Thank you ever
so much for the Photograph you
sent me. It doesn't do you half
justice my darling Mother, but
I think it is the best I have seen
of you, & must needs be satisfied.

Has Jennie Thackerman had her
cards taken or you know? If she
has any spare ones I speak for
one of them, & should like very much
to get it. Please give Cousin Ean

& her my best love & tell you
see them. I am happy to hear
the Maps I asked for are on
their way, for it is impossible
to get them here & I often need
them to refer to. I have to make
charts from the large office
maps which are never very
correct, & constantly get lost.

I had a little adventure the
other day which has ended rather
better than I hoped for at the time.

I was riding with Lt's Davis &
Curtis through one of the streets,
when a child ran across the
road, & was run over by Curtis,
& as I thought at the time badly
hurt. We were riding very fast
for we were in a hurry to get
home, but of course had to pull
up & see the thing out. I was
never more relieved to find that
beyond a few bruises the child

had anything to do with the
Militia they finally broke
up when night came. We
had five Companies of Infantry
on the ground but they could
do nothing without orders
& the way they cursed Banks
was not slow. It was the
most shameful disgraceful
thing which has happened
yet. One officer who was
among the first who landed
with Butler, told me that
it was quite as bad as when
we first occupied the
city, and then for the first
few days it was perfect
hell. It could not have
been more open than it
was yesterday & I hope Banks
will open his eyes & believe

before I could clear myself.
My heavy boot & spur saved
my leg from injury, & I only
sprained my wrist, & that
not badly. I took a long ride
on him afterwards & so you can
see I was not hurt. It is very
good fun to telegraph down here,
for there is no charge of course
as the lines are only used for
government business, & one
can send a message without
counting his words. I wrote
quite a long letter to Gen Witzel
the other day, & sent it over the
wire to Bernick Bay & got a
long answer within an hour.

I wish I could correspond
with you at home as quickly.

I am as mad as the old — at
the way things are going on here.
They are getting worse & worse
& it is now almost a question

whether Jeff Davis or Banks
rule this city. I never had need
of more self command than yester-
day for it was all I could do
to keep quiet. There is many an
officer here who was out there,
who drew his revolver & put
it in his breast ready for in-
stant war & took no pains to
hide it either. It was the
exchanges of prisoners & all
the Secesh were down to see
them off. I never saw the
line so crowded. Between seven
& eight thousand were gathered
to bid the Confederate officer
good bye. The houses were
filled with people & the roofs
all covered. The women were
waving their handkerchiefs ^{all were}
cheering for Jeff Davis waving
Secession flags on the open
street & damning the Yankees

without the least reserve. I
did hope at one time they would
try & force the guard off the
grounds & so open the hall.
We have got to have a fight
here in this city, unless things
change very much, & the sooner
it comes the better. Yesterday
Capt Macke Battery was drilling
right there & so keeping the
streets a little open. As things
got worse towards the afternoon
Capt Arnold's 5th US Artillery was
sent for, & they came on the
ground by accident. By some
mistake (I suppose) the Lieut
commanding had ordered the
pieces loaded with grape,
& he only waited the word to
clear the streets right & left.
I am ashamed to say the word
was not given & after insulting
every body & everything who

As to the General I believe. He
is looking well & jolly and
will probably be here in
the city for some little time
if not longer. They tried to
blow us up again ^{the other night} but this time
the Navy was the attacked
party; & the Steamship Sports-
man the depot. Fortunately
they failed & we are again
saved. I must bring this to
a close and say Good Bye.

I will try & send you word
of my health & friends while
I am up the river, if I go,
but think it doubtful whether
I shall be allowed to. Am quite
well now & hope to keep so.
Love to father, grandma & the
boys. You ever loving son
A. P. P.

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that this is not the lovely
Union City he thinks it.
Talk about Union feeling!
It's damned humbug from
beginning to end! There is not
a particle & I will engage
that 500 Union men can
not be found in the place
tho' Mr. Butler & his hand.
I have no faith in Banks,
I don't trust him, & I can't feel
confidence in him. He has no
decision of character that
shows itself to us here, &
his staff are known as the
most dissipated set of officers
who have been here since
the war commenced. That is
saying a great deal in New
Orleans I assure you. It is
not with such men as these
that we can hope to win
any where. With exception

of Lieut Hill, the Chief of
Artillery, & Medical Director,
Dr. Mearns & Commissary they
know very little about their
business & I'm afraid care-
less. The Aids as a general thing
are almost fools as far as
I can see, although there may
be exceptions. I am about
discouraged I confess as what
I see & hear on all sides.

Banks has done one good thing,
& a thing which will make
him more popular with the
army than anything else he
could have thought of. He
has taken the Commission
from every one of the Negro
officers, & is going to appoint
white ones in their places.

There is not the least trouble
in getting a Commission in the
Native Guards now & I could

get a Captain Commission
tomorrow if I choose to ap-
ply. I see them all in the
Great Sea Joint things. The
very private here have re-
fused to salute the Negro
officers, & several have been
arrested in consequence. No
man is going to acknowledge
a Negro his superior in
any way, & it was fast creating
very hard feeling & trouble.

With white officers a good
deal of this is removed and
the thing will work better, if
it will work at all. We have
got some of their arms I'm glad
to say & they are grumbling at
the ones we have given in exchange.

What could they ask? I am
sure some of them will go
off. I saw Charly Emerson this
morning. He is detailed & acting