

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 trusted
him across the room, & always
slept with my vest & 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 scamp 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 1868.

My Dearest Mother

It is eight days since I
wrote to you, which is a longer time
than I mean to let go again. I have
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 morning
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. Jan. 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