

For the bill to Washington  
for action of the Dept, with  
the notice that I considered  
the charges exorbitant, and  
had therefore refused to pay  
it. He attempted to talk,  
and I then told him I had  
no time to dispute, he might  
do as he pleased about it, &  
might come tomorrow at  
11 Am. to let me know his  
decision. They all know  
well enough that they can  
never get their money unless  
Hill approves the bill, & so  
they generally come to terms.

Yesterday we had a regular levee  
here of all the Ordnance officers  
in the Dept. It was accident their  
coming together, for one came from  
Baton Rouge, one from Berwick Bay,

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Feb 3, 1863.

Dearst Mum

My last letter to you was  
dated the 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. but I wrote to fa-  
ther on the 25<sup>th</sup> so you must be well  
posted to that date. I have received  
three letters from you this week so  
I consider myself well off and more  
fortunate than usual. They were dated  
Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. The former  
was the one sent by the Ella Warley  
which we both supposed lost. It  
has come to hand at last however &  
although wet through, torn & soiled,  
is very welcome. The ink has run  
somewhat, but I managed to read it  
by careful handling. We have had  
considerable fun over our "salted  
letters," first & last. I do not know  
how they came up from the bottom