

to talk. Banks says the
"object of the expedition is
entirely accomplished," and
I believe he would have said
the same if it had ended in
a grand review & retreat to
New Orleans. I went up there
on Tuesday fully expecting to
be sent right into the fight,
& hoping to be able to stand in-
side of Fort Hudson within a
week. I took nothing with
me save my Overcoat, Haversack,
Blankets & Sword for
I wanted nothing but what I
could carry with me personally.

In my Haversack I put some
handkerchiefs, writing paper
& soap, and in the other side
a lot of the sugarbread & crackers

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Mich 19th Feb 1863.

Dear Friend

I came down from
Baton Rouge yesterday so you see
I have lost no chance of writing

I sent Ed a letter from up
river, & screwed a note to you
in pencil, both of which I
hope have been safely received

I sent them by different parties
and cannot be sure therefore
that they were safely mailed,
but it wont make much difference
at any rate, for as far as I re-
member there was nothing in
either of them. I found quite

a mail waiting me when I got
here & have been getting two or
three letters per day for all the
time I was away. Among them
are your letters Feb. 25th and