

him - met him on board the Atlantic) & as yet  
I have seen very little of him. He seems a very  
good fellow however & I think will be a good man  
to work under. I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letters 9<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>  
March also one from Father of letter date, which  
please tell him I will answer in a day or two  
as soon as I can make some inquiries he wishes  
me to. Callie Keeson I presume is with you now, if  
so give her my love. Annie must have got well &  
gone back to Boston before this. I meant to have  
written her but have been too busy. Post Hudson  
is to be left alone for the present (as I thought) &  
most of our army has been drawn away from  
Baton Rouge & is now on Bayou Boeuf with  
Weitzel, or at Algiers, just across the river  
from here. Banks has taken the field again  
& I presume we may expect to hear of another  
"reconnoissance in force" in a few days. Also that  
Baton Rouge has been attacked by the rebels & our forces  
there cut to pieces. It is true - I am disgusted with  
the way things are managed here. We lost another gunboat  
(quite new - partly iron clad - & mounting 4 or 6 guns)  
on the Lake yesterday. I see Burnside is in Cincinnati  
what in thunder is he doing there? I wish they would  
send Banks to Maine & send us a man

I'll write soon again

Your most loving son  
Appin

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans April 10<sup>th</sup> 1863.

My Dear Mum

We can never find out here when  
the steamer sails until about six hours after  
she has gone, so our only way to catch the mail  
is to write & send the letters to the office as soon  
as we can. I don't want to miss this mail when

ever it goes for I know you will want to hear  
how I am getting along. I was only able to write  
a few lines last Friday, just enough to say I had  
been sick, so now I mean to tell you the story.

You can see without my telling you that I am  
very nearly well now, for no sick man would  
commence a letter on this huge paper. I came  
over to the office yesterday for the first time, but  
did not do anything save loaf round for an hour  
or two, but today I commenced work once more  
& have been writing & talking all the morning.

I have finished for today however although it is  
but one o'clock, for I mean to take it easy at first  
until I entirely recover strength. To entirely re-  
lieve your mind of any anxiety I think I must  
tell you what my breakfast consisted of.