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Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters

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1-7-1862

## Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1862 January 7

Thomas W. Cahill

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Ship Island Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Wife

You see that although you have hardly done the fair thing by me in the way of Correspondence that I am in the way of spoiling a good many sheets of paper on my part Dr Gallagher is even worse off than myself as he has not received a letter since he left; so that the single one I received left me one better than him: I was very glad you sent me the Postage Stamps as we have none here and I wish you would put some in every letter and send letters enough to keep me supplied. We expect the Steamer Constitution here within a week and if I don't have plenty of



of letters by her somebody will  
probably hear from me about  
it so look out and keep your pen  
in use. There is a complete  
dearth of news here and  
literally nothing to write a  
bout. Father Mullen returned  
from the funeral beforementioned  
without being very wet he had  
gotten through the services and  
was giving them a pretty sermon  
and sermon from Isaacs when  
he had to shorten it a bit. He  
was mounted and had a sermon  
and ride home; He is a gay little  
man and attends well to his duties  
and only in that except when he  
diverges a little to have a shot  
at the Brigadier, but he considers  
that as strictly within his sphere



of duty as a soldier of the Church  
Millitant and I do not believe  
it will be best for the Brigadier  
to tackle him; Certainly he had  
better keep his tongue and pen  
off him: I like him exceedingly  
and though we waited long  
we certainly lost nothing by  
waiting and certainly if I had  
the privilege do not know how  
I could make a better selection  
his health which has hitherto  
been very poor has since he  
has come among us been most  
Excellent notwithstanding rough  
fare and poor accommodation  
he is laboring with marked effect  
among us and he does work up  
and down among the tents chee-  
ring the men and talking with



them at all times he was greatly  
scandalized by some of the worst  
cases when he first came here  
but he has cured all that and  
thinks they are a fine set  
of fellows now. I hardly  
think there was another Clerg  
yman in the State that had  
a harder Congregation than  
himself when he took hold  
but he is a mighty plucky  
little man and won't back  
down for trifles and he does  
talk to them in a right scholan  
ly and really Eloquent manner  
in plain terse terms and clear  
language he is certainly a mod  
el Chaplain and I begin to  
think he will make it a model  
regt and I tell you I begin  
to feel quite proud of the dispr  
t. Ninth I we had another  
hundred men I would like it  
much; the men are improving  
rapidly I am sorry to say that I cannot  
say as much for the Officers  
I am obliged to pitch into them pretty  
sharply every day and have only just  
commenced good for my done to all  
kiss the Babies for me  
good night  
J. W. Chiles