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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1862 February 3

Thomas W. Cahill

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Ship Island Mississippi
February 3^d 1862

My Dear wife almost in despair of Ever hearing from you and our little ones I again take up my pen with the reflection that if I am desperate for not hearing from you it may not be a good reason why you should not hear from me not a letter yet though vessel after vessel arrives with scattering letters for the Athens and for private but not a syllable for me neither from friends nor officials have I heard a syllable My health continues Excellent the weather is magnificent and while I write a severe thunderstorm is raging summer is coming and last week I rode up the Island and

heard the Mocking Birds singing most
deliciously; three of our officers have
left here within a few days one of them
in a rather disgraceful manner his
name is ^{J.C.} Lawler he is a barbarian a most
miserable fellow - I don't know how long
half way sick for some time
and was never calculated for the place
the other was a Cousin of the Surgeon
who got mad at his Captain's orders and
thought the old man was not going to
get out of his way as fast as he wished
he was sorry before he left but I tell you
I do not give these gentlemen a great deal
of time to fuss around; I have written
to Patrick Maher about these vacancies
so that if he wished he take advantage
of it I have also written to the Governor
and Adjutant General mentioning
also Michael Fane's name
but have not written to him as I tell him

if he cares anything about it I think there
will be lots of vacancies at least it will not
be the General's fault if there is not, the
truth is they are not fitted for the place
by their previous lives. Supt O'Brien gets
along nicely he has been a little under the
weather for a day or two but as out to day
he had a slight cold. Tell Richard Con
non that Watt Maloney is behaving
splendidly he is without exception one
of the quietest men in the Regt. Tell
you this place is the salvation of these
men; I do not think we will have
any fighting out here we certainly
will not unless we have a large number
of troops I think the Government intending
this move as a ruse to draw them
down but they do not appear to
hike so I think they will be calling us
home or else leave us to Garrison this
island for this we are too many for an attack.

too few so that between the two I do
not know what we can do except to
eat our rations which is all we do
we are suffering for clothes but the
weather is getting warm and if
they do not send us some we can
go naked as there is no ladies
on the Island without doing any
great harm and they cannot ask
us to fight without clothes so long
as we are well fed we need not care
and we have three large ovens going
on now as a good Baker who sent
us 2,000 Rations of Fresh Bread
Every other day so we fare pretty
well on that score I have a piece
of that cake you brought to Lowell
and nibble a piece now and then
to keep you in mind and I show it
to the In just to make his mouth water
but Johnny guards it with a jealous
eye it is just as fresh as the day you brought
it if I do not have a bag of it
from here when they do come not
a word do you hear from me again
you must watch the papers and see
the vessels leaving for Key West and the
Gulf as well as Boston till Patrick Ma-
her and Mr. Inkey that I expect to hear from
them tell every body I know they must
write very often and not escape any let-
ters from me good night good-bye
you all kiss the Ladies for me
your very husband
Thos W Cahill