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Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters

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12-7-1861

## Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1861 December 7

Thomas W. Cahill

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Ship Island Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1861

My Dear Wife I have just this moment  
learned 2, 0, Clock P.M. that the Constitution  
leaves at 4 o Clock P.M. So I write to say  
we are all well to date. It is exceedingly  
warm here the men are in their shirt sleeves  
and bare footed I have just distributed  
the Muskets and Equipments to the men.  
I am afraid that General Phelps proclama-  
tion will make trouble here I have not seen  
it but understand that the Naval Officers  
denounce it bitterly have heard some of  
them myself. Father Mullen is also  
very bitter against it and says he will  
denounce it as containing sentiments  
anti Catholic it is also said that the  
Massachusetts Regt are very much oppo-  
sed to it some of them are threatening to  
resign as for myself ~~as~~ I shall be  
cautious in my movements but certainly  
shall not endorse either Abolition or  
Infidelity or Secedarianism I is a little  
singular to say the least of it. That he should  
have issued such a Proclamation with-  
out consulting either C<sup>l</sup>. Jones or my-  
self. Mrs. Day goes home with <sup>the</sup> and  
promises to call and see you the steam  
er returns in 2 weeks I hope you are all  
well I think all at home when I have time



to think at all. If Mrs Gallagher  
should want anything in the way of money  
Please let her have it the Dr. says she would  
not ask for it and does not know as she wants  
any; I have allotted you 120 dollars of my  
pay and I believe he has done the same  
to her that he is well; while I write there  
is a naval engagement going <sup>on</sup> within sight  
of the Island the little Propeller New London  
from New London Ct. seems to have taken  
a frigate from the Rebels and seems to be ~~again~~  
fighting 3 more of them at the same time  
this little craft has taken all the prizes  
here and she is only a small craft the  
De Soto is laying off in the safe  
water to cover her and she runs in  
gallantly to the shore and if she is not  
whipped she will bring them off  
I think of nothing now to say to you  
Do your best & I will do try with Gods  
blessing to do the same

Give the Babies from me

Yours truly

Wm M. Mahan