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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1861 December 28

Thomas W. Cahill

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Ship Island, Mississippi Sound
Dec 28th 1869.

My Dear wife. Three days more have elapsed since I finished my last letter and I write not because I have anything in particular to write about but from the fact that I cannot tell the hour that some vessel may drop in here on her way north and call for a mail and I suppose you will be anxious to hear from me to the last moment. "I take this for granted you see" how notwithstanding you may consider it as a stereotyped excuse it is nevertheless a positive fact that I do not have much time to write not but that I have some moments but I am so liable to be interrupted that I cannot sit down for a moment that there is not a dozen or less in upon me, and it thracks me all into heap I wish you would tell Frank

Mullen when you see him that I find the
Sovrell horse all that he said he was
and since the bay horse was so badly
crippled on board ship that I am afraid
he will never be any use to me I had
to buckle on to the Sovrell and I have
most Effectually mastered him and
he is certainly a fine Parade horse. he will
stand on his hind legs with the slightest touch
on the Curb I had him out yesterday
while the Regiment were going through
their firing in line and he never winced
nor started during the firing of 42 dozen
charges for man; During the horrible scene
on board ship during which 59 horses were
mangled and torn to pieces he was the Chom-
pion horse tearing and fighting his way
among them kicking and thrashing
them out of his way right and left
Barney says he was the wonder of the crew and

When terror of him was great, he came ^{out} with
a slight loss of hair and a slight lameness
but is all right now he is a regular brick
and is gentle withal, but poor Jack looks
hard and I am doubtful of him

Johnny says you forgot to send out a
darning needle and he cannot mend the
stockings. I wish you would buy him two
sets of fiddle strings as he has only one set and
they are nearly gone. I wish you would send
me a Maracaibo or Panama Straw Hat
as the weather will soon be intensely hot
and I want a new fatigue cap the one
I got at New Haven has turned red get a
Bugle and Regt. Number with it

Direct every thing you send every
plainly marked with black paint
to Col. Cahill 9th Regt. C.V. Ship Island
Care of Quartermaster P. R. George New Engl
and Division Boston. Mass., and send
to Boston by Adams Express

I am afraid that Herritt the sutler will
give me some little annoyance he is contin-
ually growling about something or another and
seem to have no friends among men or officers
his stuff did not come out in the Ring
fisher and he thinks he will never see
it and blames Harrold for it the
truth is the man has no policy about
him and charges like the mischief for
every thing he sells I would call a ~~Post~~
Regt Council of Administration and fix
a tariff of Prices for him. but I
have applied for a ~~Post~~ Council of Adm-
inistration on the Brigade sutler as
he is called and the General assumed
me that he would call one he has
not yet done so and I cannot set
his prices untill he does.

James Mullen is getting along nicely
his health has not been so good for many
years and is getting quite fleshy
he is doing a deal of good he works at
the Boys well and with very Evident Effect
your Loving husband
Thos W Cahill