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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 June 13

Thomas W. Cahill

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New-Orleans, 3 June 13th 1863.

My Dear Wife

Your letter of May 17th came to hand on the 17th. you complain that you have received no letters from me since the one written at Key West yet as you see by the number at the head of this I have written seven to you, neither do you say anything about receiving the thousand dollars I sent you, however there is no fear of that, it is true I have been very full of business as I have been obliged to work hard to make up for lost time I wish it distinctly understood however between ourselves that I am tolerably well satisfied on your account of course to be where I am. The siege of Port Hudson drags it slow length along, the Rebels are making a terrible defence, I am in hopes of hearing something before I close this letter, as we have been expecting another assault for several days, Banks must either take it or leave it before this reaches you I think, your letter took a great weight off my mind about poor little Tommy as from what I had heard from Athens I had serious misgivings for him, but am more hope full now do not give yourself too much anxiety as I cannot do any good to worry too much. God is good and his will must be done, and those that die innocent die

happy, and escape many sore trials,
I notice what you say about the Consolidation
General Banks is too busy just now to give the
matter much attention but he may soon
a great many of the most influential Planters
in the adjoining Parishes are endeavoring to
have me appointed Provost Marshal instead of
General Bowen whom no one likes it seems though
I do not know why, as I do not know of his doing
anything, perhaps that is the reason, The Planters
say they have an agent a very influential man
whose name I have forgotten a heavy land owner
and Planter here and who also owns a vast
amount of Property in President Lincoln's
Neighborhood and with whom he is said to
be very intimate, There is another influential
man who owns a very large Plantation down the
Coast and who resides in New York who it is said
is working for the same End, but it is to be
kept very secret, This man's name is Bradish
Johnson, for myself I have but very little
hopes of their succeeding but it is pleasant to
have the good will of the People, The position is
a very responsible one, and I suppose makes
too much money to be given to me,
I wrote you that I have a new Commanden here
since Gen^l Sherman went to Port Hudson and has
come back badly wounded for which I am very

sorry for although a sharp severe Officer I claim
him to be an honest man, The new Commander
is General Emory he has kept me humming
ever since he has been here, it seems to me he
ever stops fretting and expects the Enemy are
going to attack us every night, I have no time I
can call my own except when I am asleep but
I stand it bravely I have been in this Command so
long that I have the advantage in some respects over
the new General who is not so well posted, The Arch
Bishop and Father Chalon have left their Carols but
I have not been able to return their Call as yet
I have had me a dress Coat made of light Flannel
Cloth very nicely got up which has cost me 25,00
my other Coat being too heavy So Brad made me a
present of 4 pair of white linen Pants, and John
Carroll bought me a Dress hat with felt Band and
feather which cost him 9,00 but as it required 3 feathers
and a bugle I had to put them on which cost me 5,00
but then he made me a present of a white bed so I am
square with him, I pretty well provided now O'Brien
made a present of 4 linen Handkerchiefs, He is up at his
Parish and is growing like a young Elephant, I am glad
to hear that Carney is all right, Capt Healey and Sheridan
are all right, as are all the the Officers & Men. we have
had no deaths in the Hospital, in over two months. which
is remarkable. You ask what you are to do with Illous pa
pers Give them to Old M^r Moloney, I am glad you have

got James Conroy in the house, I ^{have} not received the the
letter you speak of from Father & Ant, I wrote
you three letters before his
I promised to write a letter for Johnny Bailey
to night but it is near twelve o'clock and I have
to take a bath tell her that Johnny often speaks
about her and when he gets some money he will
send her his picture.

John Carroll tells me that he has seen a letter
from Conroy saying he was at Annapolis wait-
ing his Exchange I have not heard anything
from the Dr since he went up to Port Hudson.
I think he is in a General Hospital, but he neverth-
less of writing a letter I heard nothing from Major
Mahan since I came except that he is well no
wounded men have been sent here from
the 24th and I cannot learn that there are
any I cannot write any longer Good night
God bless you all Kiss the babies as usual
and keep up your courage Give my respects
to all Enquiring friends tell Father I am wait-
ing for his letter. I am waiting for a chance to
send you and Ellen some queer little trinkets,

Your Loving husband
Thos. W. Cahill

Contains two
Baton Rouge
letters.

M. C. C.