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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 June 28

Thomas W. Cahill

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" La Houche "

Head Quarters 2^d Brigade
Defences of New Orleans
June 28th 1863

My Dear Wife

Your welcome letter
of June 7th came to hand last
Monday just as we were marching off
against the Rebels on the Lafo
unche district so I did not feel
it safe about it after reading &
destroyed it, I recollect however
that you spoke of the safe arrival
of the Binds, and of your anxie
ty about the goods I sent you home
of course I wish you to invest it
with Father & Aunt. I will send
you all I can spare if I can get
my pay to 30th of June promptly
but wish you could manage even
by borrowing temporarily until
I can send it to you you must use you
r own judgement about these things

as I am too far away to direct
all operations, I am glad the
Bands got home safe as they
are a very fine bird, I will
try to get a pair for Father
Hart the are difficult to
find however as I he might
be to send W^m Slankoff got
them for me.

We came very near getting
killed on the La Fourche
Country. The history of the affair
is this, during the week before
last Genl Emory got some
what alarmed about our
Communications by Rail
with Brashear City as he well
might, but he had no troops to
send out there save the Gar-
rison of the City, so he ordered
us out along the line of the Road
from the Mississippi River to La Four-
che, well the enemy came down

upon 800 of our troops who were in
Camp at La fourche Crossing under
Command of Lt Col Stickney
of the 4th Mass though there was not
a man of his Regt with him he had
a few of the 176th & 250th of the 2^d Conn
1 Co of the 4th Mass & guns of 25th & Bat
tery and about 400 men of the 2^d Conn
all men of my Brigade except the
first I named, on the night of
the 21st of June the enemy attacked
them with a terrible uproar
but they were repulsed with great
loss leaving 83 killed on the
ground. I arrived on the ground
the next morning with part of the 9th
Conn and 26th Mass and 2 more guns
of the 25th & York Battery both in relief
The Enemy did not renew ^{attack on} ~~the~~ that on the
succeeding day and on the night follow
ing they fired 2 shot at about
10 P M suspecting that it might be
a signal for retreating, I pushed

a reconnaissance forward to a
place called Theloclaure. which
they entered and found the En-
emy had evacuated leaving their
sick and wounded and the same
time I sent the 9th Co. up the Rail
Road in another direction and the
came a few of the Rebs and took
four prisoners, I did not pursue
but made preparations to re-

^{crossed} turn to the where I now am
the 9th Co. lost one man woun-
nd severely I think he will
die and four - slightly won-
of our acquaintance.

The Dr. Returned from Port
Hudson in time to go up
with me he is well he had
a great deal of Professional
at duty up there and gain-
ed great laurels
all the officers are well
I expect 3rd Br. in to
Morrow - Remember me
to Father I can't I will answer
you of June 11 as soon as possible
I received it while on the march
kiss the babies as usual for me
my love to Ellen
your loving husband
W. H. Chell