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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 July 11

Thomas W. Cahill

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July 11th The Mail leaves at noon today
It is said so while the horse is being made to
drive across I will pen a few more lines
The Mail is said to have come down this m-
orning and it is rumoured that there is
good news from Richmond God Grant it
may be so, we shall probably learn what it is
when the messenger returns but we are tired
to death of rumours truth travels slow particu-
larly if it is agreeable I am glad you
mentioned about the Duke in your last
it is singular that it is only through you that
he learns anything from home; I expect a
good long gossiping letter from you so
oon I do not expect it today but it should
not take more than seven days from New
Haven so I expect one within three
days as it is near 2 weeks since I wrote
you by the River. My health continues
very good I do not exceed myself, ad

all and at present the men are not
doing much there is a good deal
of Scurvy in camp and we are
badly off for medicines as our sup-
plies are not yet arrived the men need
fresh meat and Broth more than any
thing but notwithstanding the great
Name of this Country there is not a
particle of Meat to be found in
it Even if there was it would be
gobbled up in a moment
Myself and staff are living on
baked the Diana at the Rate of
175 Cents a day it is very Extraor-
dinary considering our food but
I cannot help it at present The Post
master has not made his appearance
yet though there is nearly 5 months
pay due us now I suppose we will
get it 4 months pay when he comes he
has paid all the N Orleans & Baton
Rouge troops off but I suppose he
is afraid to come up the River
how did you get along with the
notes and I enclose I sent you and
what kind of Money would you
prefer me to send you the Alotment
Rolls will come in so far as this time
so that I cannot send you as much time as before
it may be that I shall remit in some way through
the Postmaster as there may not be any agent of
Adams Express up here to take Charge of it but the
Alotment Rolls will not leave so much in
the mens hands to send home by Express
no money can be spent while we are here not
one Cent unless traders come down the River
and even then it will be difficult to do so so the
men cannot spend their money not even to get
tobacco how they get along without it I do not
know the only chance is to get it from the sailors
and no sooner do a group of sailors come ashore
than they are surrounded by a gang of the co-
lour men more at present than any other thing
J. W. Cobble