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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 July 22

Thomas W. Cahill

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Head Quarters 2^d Brigade
Defences of New Orleans
July 22^d 1863

My Dear Wife

Nothing particularly worthy of mention has occurred since my last letter, General Emory keeps me pretty busy, to day I received an order from him to go on as President of a Court Martial tomorrow, in addition to all the other duties he has heaped upon me, however I have no particular fault to find as it all helps to make the time pass lively and keeps things moving and makes me the more indispensable to him I have succeeded in drawing two months commutation for field and Quarters amounting to \$2,000 which helps me along nicely if they only stick to it I could not succeed in drawing it for the previous time that I served because I could never get a written order out of

Old Butler. but I succeeded in getting it from Genl Sherman by using a little strategy and it comes in handy for my running expenses which are quite heavy here as it costs me near forty dollars a month for board. Besides my stable rent, for this

alone I paid \$5000 for the six
months ending July first there is a
~~large~~ possibility that I may have
to refund it but I am more afraid
they may compel me to take a ho
use and thus save themselves the ex
pense of paying me and staff
as my staff officers are also entitled
to their Commutation from the
same reason that I am being de
tached from their Regiments
I have now four Commissioned Officers
on my staff besides a large force of
Clerks and Orderlies, two ^{of the highest} are from
the Ninth, Lieut. Hattenworth and
Goodman, one from the 47th Mass
Lieut. Munroe a graduate of Harvard
he is a fine young man and his time
is up for which I am sorry as he is a
very effective Officer to tell the truth
there is nothing like the Education
after all if a young man has the natur
al qualifications with it it is a wonderful
help and this brings me to the old thou
ght of the wonderful sight of trouble
I have had with the Officers of my own
Regiment to try to make anything of
them the great misfortune being that
Comparatively speaking none of them
are men of Education and on a post
like this of New Orleans important
questions are constantly arising requir
ing considerable skill to handle them.

for instance three days ago I received
orders from Genl Emory to appoint a board
of survey on the Cargo of the barque "Ser
"Wildé" which brought out a Cargo Cargo
of bread stuffs all of which are spo-
iled and the question is who is to blame
the Carrier, that is was the ship to blame
or was it the Commissioner at Boston who
shipped impure flour, now here is a
Case involving many thousands of dol-
lars and the Board of survey find that
the Quartermaster or Commissioner at Boston
is the man who is to blame and
he is Capt M^c Kim.

The other Officer is a Lieut Oliver of the 26th
Mass Vols and he is a son of a Lieut
Governor of Mass he came on duty to R
ag and of course I cannot say much about
him as yet but he appears a very smart
officer. of course under the regulations
I am obliged to select my officers equally
from the Regt & under my command.

We have more good news from Grants
Army we hear that he has Capt Johnson
all its pieces as also my old friend Br
e Kenridge who said to be Capt all to pieces
and that there are no rebel troops
now in the State of Mississippi now then
if Meade can only take one of die it does
seem as though they must be pretty well
used up we understand that they are
leaving out of this state as fast as they
can get in it this may be so but I had the
tiniest narrow shave with the rascals at
La Grange Crossing.

Every thing is lovely wishless at present
and the men are in good condition we
have lost but one man by death in the last
six weeks we have heard from Michael Judge and

and expect him in every day he was
doing well at last a fortnight, the men
have had a new issue of clothing and
well contented. all are well and
all the Companies are in the City except
3 which is at the W. S. Barracks and A
and D down the Coast Cornwall tells
me that he has sent home 200 of his last
pay, I have not seen anything of Gorey
yet I expect I will have to dust his
ack't a little for him when he comes
back for which I am not at all anxious
but if he has not straight papers it will
be the worse for him, what are they
doing with the draft are they giv-
ing it send us any men or not, I have
not answered Michael Tukeys letter yet
and have received nothing from you
or any body for the last three scannens
now tell me what it is if you don't
write I will stop, the time I take to
write is after every body is in bed and
you must not wait for the advertised boat,
the mails are sent out here by the Quaker
express boats which are not adver-
tised so that you cannot tell when they
leave, this must be the 12 or 14 letters
I have written you since I came out your
last was the 2^d of July and here is the 2^d
and none from Robert Hunt since the first
week in June, though he promised to write both
times I did or not, a man had a letter to the 9th
of July I heard through that you were all well
God keep you so but you must write
Give my respects to all Enquiring friends
say to Major Welch that the Enemy have been in
Rougemont ever since I came but but I have
not forgotten his Commission remember me to
Robert Hunt, then something of a row here between the
French and Irish Catholics about a French priest in St. John's
allens place, kiss the ladies as usual for me Give my
love to Ellen
your loving husband
Thos W. Child