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Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters

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9-13-1863

## Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 September 13

Thomas W. Cahill

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New Orleans ~~Sept~~ 13<sup>th</sup> 1863  
6 - P M

My Dear Wife

Yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of Sept  
came to hand to day, I have not been able  
to get any further intelligence about a house  
as the whole matter with reference to Govt pro-  
perty here has changed hands from the Quar-  
ter Masters Department to the Hon B. F.  
Flanders Member of Congress and agent  
of the Treasury Department so that the matter has  
been between two fires, and I cannot get any  
satisfaction from either for a short time  
You see it is pretty difficult to get such a house as  
we need with the furniture all right, I am  
glad you have such good spirits, particularly with  
reference to the Christmas Baze you so kindly pro-  
mise me, well well I suppose you will never quit  
your old tricks, I shall be more afraid of the move  
on account of the same present, tomorrow I  
will start the Dr and will go myself if pos-  
sible in search of Flanders and a house, furni-  
shed of course, I sent you three hundred dolla-  
rs on Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> came here tomorrow  
and I will send this by the Major. You ask about  
clothing for the children I have never seen weather  
here colder than the last of October at home.



no frost over an Eight of an inch in thickness  
but at times with no frost there are very  
cold winds but the men sleep in their  
tents all winter without suffering, the middle of  
the day is quite warm, I cannot tell what  
you may need to bring Extra in the way of  
table furniture unless we see what kind of  
a house we may be able to get, as all depe  
nds on that if we cannot get a furnished house  
why we can do nothing as it would be madness  
to think of boarding out here, I think I  
understand what you mean with the hint  
about living alone but do not see how  
we can get away from the Dr. and again  
I would <sup>add</sup> 15 or twenty a month to the Rent to  
separate, my idea would be to get a house  
sufficiently large to give us all a suite of Room  
apiece, but the difficulty is about a common  
table and food, and here there might be a  
chance for trouble particularly as I under  
stand from the Dr. since I commenced to com  
te that he has had a letter from Father Brady  
in which he indicates a desire to come out  
here this winter well now unless Father Land. I  
ever saw another priest that would want <sup>to</sup>  
to live with in one house, and I do not like  
the idea at all, particularly as I feel that  
having a priest in the house brings Company &  
Company brings Cost and Embarrassment so



in this City where every thing cost so much  
I sent you an Estimate of the probable cost  
of living here but that was based on a very  
moderate view of our table and would admit  
of no display whatever our living on that basis  
would suit you and me well enough but there  
must be no hangerson before whom we would  
be ashamed to place the plainest dishes  
The Dr is as anxious to save money as I am and  
I do not fear any extravagance on his part  
but cannot tell how much the pride of show might  
overcome him as he is a professional  
Man and I believe would gladly remain  
down here if he could, and the temptation  
might enter into his head to make friends  
if he had a house of his own or so called  
how I have never built any very lofty "Castles  
in the air" about remaining down here but I  
admit the dislike to New Haven, but so does his  
it is a stake to tie up to, while looking out for  
a better (By the by I wish you would say to Father  
that I promised some time ago to old Larry Mc  
Carthy that I would ask him if he received a remittance  
of I think 80 dollars which he sent him in June  
last I have promised to ask him several times and always  
forgot to do so) and I do think that my stay in New Haven  
would be as short as possible if he should leave it  
"What does Ellen think of the move" I must shorten up this letter  
as usual without putting half my thoughts on paper I will send  
you word by every mail and as full as possible.



If we get a house I will send you a pretty full  
inventory of its furniture, and notify you what you  
may need. Major Maher has not come in this  
evening and I may have to get up early tomorrow  
to see him as the boat is expected to leave early.  
Good night and God Bless you all at home

Concerning House in  
Camden Del. S.A.  
1863.