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Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters

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7-21-1864

## Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1864 July 21

Thomas W. Cahill

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Puerto Rico  
Parrnuda Hundred da

July 21<sup>st</sup> 1864 - 3 P.M.

My Dear Wife. I have just been Overhe  
ding My Big trunk. trying to make up  
My mind what I had best select for the few  
things I can keep with me. this is so little I do not kn  
ow what to chose, and shall keep the two flannel Coa  
ts and send everything else home including  
the pistol I have made up my mind that I shall  
to carry every thing on my back or in a valise  
whoever gets me in so tight a place as to make a pis  
tol usefull can have me without the pistols, I have also  
made up my <sup>mind</sup> to send home all the money except  
the 200 in small ~~paper~~ bills. I have made up my  
mind that the time between this and the first of  
Nov is too short to make much, so I have a chance I  
can send for it. Everything and Every body here  
seem to be taking it mighty Easy. not work and  
ding all the fuss made about it in the papers  
I do not see nor hear of anybodys getting hurt  
& very bad not even the Rebs, and yet to Read the



the papers one would thing the "Old Boy" had  
been to pay, down here at the Fort. I thin  
k it is about as much near as front. The  
fact is, two thirds the stuff in the papers is  
all lost the printing of which ought to  
be suppressed for the good of the Country.  
Col Farr has kindly offered me the lo  
an of a horse, he having two and not being  
allowed here to have but one, I tell you we  
are brought down to a pretty fine thing  
here in the way of Baggage and Equipment,  
there being but three small wall tents allowed  
to the Field and Staff, and one Shelter tent  
to each Commissioned Officer of the Line  
and one to every two Enlisted Men. Col Farr  
tells me it has been decided that no Comm  
issioned Officer can be R & E, Enlisted until the  
expiration of the Original Term of the Reg  
iment. Of Course this disappoints me very  
much as well as some other of our Officers  
but I suppose you and the others wives  
will not feel very bad about it. But don't  
tell anyone to have <sup>them</sup> make merry at



Our disappointment: all the New  
Orleans troops from the East are ready  
coming here & Regt<sup>s</sup> having arrived  
to day so we are all in the same boat what  
he or no I shall proceed to the Provost Marshals  
Office to get a permit to send home my trunk  
~~I shall~~ this I shall endeavour to retain  
my mattress to the last moment. Only leaving  
when compelled at the point of the Bayonet  
I will carry all I can pack on Farns horse  
and if we are as it is said going to be in a  
fixed Camp I can send for some of the  
others Give my respects to Father  
Hart and say that as soon as I have something  
besides baggage to talk about I will  
drop him a confidential line.  
I do not see how poor Father Leo will get  
along he can only have what he can carry  
himself, at least so we are told, as soon  
as we get an insight into affairs here  
I will write more fully about them  
Good bye Love to you all  
your loving husband  
Thos W. Cahill