

the rebels are in every strong
force just now. They cannot
have more than 10000 men
in the place at present
although there is a large force
at Clinton. The railroad
between these two places has
been cut by Col. Greisson &
his Cavalry, & this force will
probably be joined by Col.
Davis (1st Texas Vol.) who is
now operating on the Amite
River. I think Sunday morn-
ing next will see the Stars
& Stripes waving over Port Hudson.

When I first came down
I said that the place would
not be in our hands before
the 1st June. & I think I shall
be about right. If I thought

ORDNANCE OFFICE.

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans May 20th 1863.

My Dear Brother

I meant to have written
to both Tom and Ed by this mail
but they will have to wait a little
while longer yet. The steamer sails
tomorrow morning and I am just
going to write you a note today to let
you know I am quite well. There
has been nothing going on here
since my last. Hardly any busi-
ness of any kind & we are
having rather a lazy time. It
is hot enough now for any one
I should think for the sun comes
down so that it is almost im-
possible to walk the streets in the
middle of the day. I come over to

the office at 8 A.M. & read the papers
or write or loaf until nine or
ten, & then perhaps write a busi-
ness letter or so or attend to some
Requisition etc. About 11 o'clock
I go off to lunch & get back at
12 or 1 P.M. Then comes another
loafing spell until two or three
o'clock when I go to dinner. In
the afternoon I generally stay in
my room reading or writing until
about half past five or so,
& then go out for a short walk
or ride, & come back to tea at 7.30
In the evening I stay in the house
& play Chess, or Checkers, or talk
until 9 or 10 o'clock & then go to bed.

I don't expect to live this way
very long & I don't want to feel
it is too long a life to suit me

but for a week or so now I don't
object. It gives me a rest until
I get my full strength. You will
hear of good news from this
Dept. before you receive this.

Port Hudson will fall this
week - or perhaps I should say
within a week. Banks has
crossed, & is crossing, the entire
force to Bayou Sara, which
is about 10 miles above P. H.,
& he will therefore attack from
the rear. Anzer will advance
from Baton Rouge at the same
time, while the gunboats & mortar
boats will also open from the river.
Grant is within fifty miles
& can easily come down if
needed. I do not expect a
severe fight for I do not think

there was going to be any fighting of consequence I should get leave & go up, but from all I see & hear it is my opinion that Banks will not have much trouble with the place. The Lon. Louis left here last night to join Augers Command at Baton Rouge; - the 1st Vermont Battery also. There are not over 500 troops in the city now & not one good field battery. A good time for the rebels to come if they are coming at all. I have not heard yet where you are going this summer. Is it going to be a scatter as usual? I don't know that you have even decided to go any where but it is so hot here

that it seems as if summer
was everywhere. The first
June however is quite time
enough to be talking about
moving, so tell me all the
different plans that are
on foot for everybody. - I am
having a Monté Christi pic-
nic cleaned for me at the
storehouse. It is one turned in
which I have confisicated. It is
smaller of course than Uncle
Williams rifle, but I have got
something like a ton of Am-
munition, both ball & shot.

We have had no mails now
for a long time. The Quincy is over
due some 4 days & she will bring
a large one. The Thames is at Pensac-
ola. - will be here in a few days. I heard
thru. some officer from there.

Your loving son Appleton