

New Orleans
June 27th 1862
Friday. AM.

Dear Father & Mother.

Hearing that a Steamer was going North the first of next week I take this time to write you a few lines. althoug^h I have not heard from you since the 11th of April. Those papers which you sent me at that time and which have not come when I wrote last 16th inst. came to hand the day after I mailed my letter. the reason of the delay was because they were sent on a sailing vessel. those for Capt. Flanders. I sent to him yesterday at Carrollton or about there. by Capt. Henry H. How. formerly of Lowell. Horace & I both went to school with him. at Fiske's & the High School. I sent you a long letter the 16th inst. which you have probab^{ly}

received in this. The sickness of which I wrote. has entirely left me. so I am now as well as ever only I am quite thin in flesh. weighing but 138 lbs.

It is now near the 1st of July. and I have been paid but once since leaving home. so there is now 4 months wages due which I am expecting every day.

I think it was a God send. in having the Band come up to the City for from all accounts we get from the regiment they are very badly off in dead some Companies can turn out only from 10 to 15 men. No drill. the rest being sick both doctors have left for home and the Col. after getting the boys into a bad fix. has sneaked off home. I verily believe they would kill him if they had a chance. I have a great many wish and hope for Bract will die on the way home. such is the hatred of some against him. Here is one thing that has come out against

him. I have it the head nurse and assistant Hospital Steward that when we landed on Ship Island last December. there was as much whiskey in the Hospital Stores "as a horse could draw on good hard ground." and when we came away there was not 3 pints where it went to. (these are his last Steward's) very words. I don't know I have no knowledge of the patients having any. "the supposition is that Bract. robbed the sick. to treat his friends. and to drink himself at government expense. Do you wonder that the boys wish him ill? I don't. There is a report that another regiment is going to relieve the 26th the 1st of July. if they are not relieved soon there will not be much left of that splendence regiment. for it was a splendence one and Gen Williams paid them a just compliment when he said "he had not anything so much like soldiers

for many a month. This William was a member of Gen Scott's staff for a number of years. and unless he was a Soldier, he never could have held that position. Conine and I still occupy a hired room. I forgot to mention in the proper place that the regiment have a Doctor from the City with them at present.

The duty of the Band has been very light of late. perhaps they have got tired of music. occasionally we have a very hard job. we expect to have to work hard 4th of July. Since we have been here we have played for two Concerts. the first one we made **two** dollars each. the second one 80 cts each.

the proprietor of the theatre hired us in this way. he would bear all the expences. and give us half of the proceeds. as the weather is hot and money scarce. of course we ~~did~~ made but little.

[June 27, 1862] 5-

On Saturday the 2nd inst we were hired by an old Dutch Jew to play at the planters Hotel. for a "Grand Union Ball." at first we were to play the Brass Band for 2 hours on the veranda of the Hotel. and then we were to play for 40 thirty fancy dances with an orchestra which would take till 4 the next morning. by some means no ~~the~~ bargain was made about the price until 5 o'clock the afternoon of the Ball. Before that Brooks went and gave the job of playing for dancing to a Band here in the City. When they came to make the bargain the old fellow wanted to pay but \$50. for all of his music. which was dog cheap. then Brooks told him that he had hired this Band for dancing. then the old Jew was made. said he would not have this Band in the House. &c &c Brooks told him he might do just as he liked about that. for unless this

string Band played. the Brass Band would not play a single note which cooled the old toad down. So finally he agreed to give us \$5.00 to play out side from 8 o'clock till the Ball commenced. and to play one piece at supper time and pay the other Band \$5.00 each. and give us all both Bands a supper. we went to work and played till 4. before 10. when the Ball commenced. while we were playing. he (the Jew) wanted us to take off some thing. and after the Ball had fairly begun. wanted us to play between the dances all night. and fussed. and spluttered round till every got provoked. when we told him he was welcome to what we had done. but were going home. and off we started and left him in the lurch and well we did so. for I doubt if we could have got any thing if we played all night. the other Band secured this by demanding it before they began. There was only for 10 tickets sold five dollars & more than people like to

pay to dance such hot weather.

Every thing in this city remains about the same as when I last wrote. There is very little doing in the cotton line. 25 cents a pound is offered. and store houses are hunted for samples which are sold. one day this week. one of the cotton factors found in this storehouse samples enough to make 11 bales which changed hands. the article ~~say~~ is selling for one hundred dollars a hogg. flour for 30 dollars a barrel. 500 ^{lb} sold last week for that price. Gen Shipley regulates the price for the Bakers to charge for bread. but the Bakers use their flour for other articles. if the price is too low to make a profit. this week there has been but very little bread to be had. and beggars around the soldiers camp have been as plenty as musquitos in the night time.

Sunday 29th. Yesterday Sat 28th a box was received from the Fort

8
containing packages for the Band
how long they have been there I don't
know. I received a Box containing
almost a pound of tobacco. 3 papers and
a small tin box of mustard. the papers
bore date of March 8th one of them Feb-
ruary paper. "Lions Herald." all of them
good papers. but rather old. 4 months
I think the box contained something
else when it started. but when it
came the bottom was knocked off
and 1/2 of the contents gone. i.e. if the
box was full when it started. I think
it was. I also had a bundle of new
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a letter enclosed bore date of Mar-
ch 20 I see by reference to that letter
that the box was sent March 11.

that is the way with every thing
connected with the army! - cheat the
soldiers -

[June 27, 1862] 9.

Horace says in that note. "Will write before long." Have not seen the letter the last ~~time~~ letter. was dated April 11th. I have received several letters from Letitia since the date of yours. The Rhode Island. - mail steamer - arrived here yesterday. probably there is a mail for us. we have not got it yet.

Geo Richardson has left the Navy & got a position in the P.C. under Mr. A. Parker of Lowell. who is Asst P.M. he tells me that he has a much better chance than he had on the Pensicola. He must be getting good pay to ~~pay~~ the price he does for board. \$35. a month.

I wish you to be very discreet about repeating what I write to you about members of the Band. Levy has rec'd something from his Father I don't what it is. But about something that I have written home, about ~~something~~ body in the

Bands. Therefore I wish you would
be very discreet about repeating what
I write to you. Col Farr is in
the City. he is going to try and have
us paroled up to July 1st. I hope he will
succeed, and I think he will.

I saw Horace Morse yesterday he told
me that he had been sick, was
42 days unable to do duty. he is out
now. Geo. Foot is still in the Hospi-
tal. He played yesterday for the funeral
of young McKee, an aid to General
Williams. he was wounded when we
first came to the City in a skirmish up
the river. He died Friday, was 22 years
old. A fellow who is attached to the
Hospital, that he might have recovered
if he had had proper care. If an aid
to a General cannot have proper care
what do you think of a private soldier.
I am told that from 25 to 30 die every
week. I hope in all conscience that
I shall not be sick while in this

country. I have not seen any of the
Lowell boys in the 30th regt since I
wrote last. I have not heard any-
thing from Mrs Leighton for some time.
I do not know whether she has left
town or got tired of writing to me.

I really hope to hear from her before
long. There is a young lady who
lives just opposite of the house where
Conkie & Co. room, who is playing the
piano, nearly all of the time. She does
not play very well but makes a plenty
of noise. we have lots of fun as her ex-
pense. Since writing the other day, Flour
is selling for 25 cents a pound, or \$49.
a barrel. Eggs are 75 cts a dozen.

Gov Moore, the rebel Governor of the
State, has issued a proclamation,
in which among other things he has for-
bidden the people of the country from
trading with the people of the city.

it was published this morning
for the first time. I don't know
what effect it will have.

I will send you a paper containing it if I can get one.

The month of June has passed with out much rain, and the people think that yellow fever will not make its appearance here this season of course we are all very glad, and hope we shall not see it.

We are having a beautiful shower this afternoon, which cools the air finely. The thermometer stands usually from 90 to 100 degrees for almost all day. with heavy woolen clothes we find it rather uncomfortable.

I hope we shall hear something about our discharge something but have almost given up hoping for it. As it is most supper time. I will stop writing. And bid you good by for the present. I hope I shall find a letter from some of you in this mail.

From Your affectionate
Son Alfred

Soldier's letter, ALFRED PARMENTER, to his parents, the HORACE PERMENTERS, LOWELL, MASS., 12 pp with orig. env. sent with cancellation and stamped "\$", marked soldier's letter. Tells of much sickness in regt., the leaving of the Col. for home, rumor of use of hospital stores on Ship Island misused for parties by officers; playing with the band at concerts, and long story of playing for a "Ball"; black market in flour, receipt of a box 4 months old, mention of Rebel Gov. Moore proclamation on trading, and the heat in New Orleans when wearing woolen uniforms.

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Sunday 29th Yesterday Sat 28th a box was received from the Forts containing packages for the Band how long they have been there I don't know. I received a Box containing almost a pound of tobacco 3 papers and a small tin box of mustard THE PAPERS BORE DATE OF MARCH 8TH one of them February paper. "Lions Herald" All of them good papers but RATHER OLD 4 MONTHS. I think the box contained something else when it started but when it came the bottom was knocked off and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the contents gone. i.e. if the box was full when it started & I think it was. I also had a bundle of newspapers more than half for Capt Flanders which I will forward as soon as I have a chance. I think it was the first package sent in which some were sent to Flanders as a

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GOV MOORE THE REBEL GOVERNOR OF THE STATE HAS ISSUED A PROCLAMATION IN WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS HE HAS FORBIDEN THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY FROM TRADING WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY. it was published this morning for the first time I don't know what effect it will have. I will send you a paper containing it if I can get one.

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Geo Richardson has left the Navy a got a position in the P.O. under J. M G. Parker of Lowell who is As't. P. M. he tells me that he has a much better chance then he had on the Pensecola. He must be getting good pay to pay the price he does for board \$35 a month.

I wish you to be very descreet about repeating what I write to you about members of the Band. Peavy had rec'd something from his Father I don't what it is, but about something that I have written home about some body in the Band. there fore I wish you would be very discreet about repeating what I write to you. Col Farr is in the City. he is going to try and have us paid up to July 1st. I hope he will succceed and I think he will.

I saw Horace Morse yesterday he told me that he had been sick. was 42 days unable to do duty. he is out not. Geo Foot is still in the Hospital. We played yesterday for the funeral of yound McKey, an aid to General Williams. he was wounded when we first came to the city in a skirmish up the river. he died Friday. was 22 years old. A FELLOW WHO IS ATTACHED TO THE HOSPITAL THAT HE MIGHT HAVE RECOVERED IF HE HAD

Soldier's letter, ALFRED PARMENTER, to his parents, the HORACE PARMENTERS, LOWELL, MASS., 12 pp with orig. env. sent with cancellation and stamped "3", marked soldier's letter. Tells of much sickness, etc.

New Orleans

June 27th 1862

Friday A M

WHO IS ATTACHED TO THE HOSPITAL THAT HE MIGHT HAVE RECOVERED IF HE HAD HAD PROPER CARE. If an aid to a General cannot have proper care what do you think of a private soldier. I AM TOLD THAT FROM 25 TO 30 DIE EVERY WEEK. I hope in all conscience that I shall not be sick while in this country. I have not seen any of the Lowell boys in the 30th regt since I wrote last I have not heard anything from Mrs. Leighton for sometime I do not know whether she has left town or got tired of writing to me. I nearly hope to hear from her before long. There is a young lady who lives just opposite of the house where Conkie & I room who is playing the piano nearly all of the time. she does not play very well but makes a plenty of moise. we have lots of fun as her expense. Since writing the other day Flour is selling for 25 cents a pound or \$49 a barrel. Eggs are 75 cts a dozen.

GOV MOORE THE REBEL GOVERNOR OF THE STATE HAS ISSUED A PROCLAMATION IN WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS HE HAS FORBIDEN THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY FROM TRADING WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY. it was published this morning for the first time I don't know what effect it will have. I will send you a paper containing it if I can get one.

The month of June has passed with out much rain, and the people think that yellow fever will not make its appearance here this season. of course we are all very glad and hope we shall not see it.

We are having a beautiful shower this afternoon which cools the air finely. the thermometer stands usually from 90 to 100 degrees for almost all day. with HEAVY WOOLEN CLOTHES WE FIND IT RATHER UNCOMFORTABLE.

I hope we shall hear something about our discharg something but

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Friday A M

I hope we shall hear something about our discharg something but have almost given up hoping for it. As it is most supper time I will stop writing and bid you good by for the present I hope I shall find a letter from some of you in this mail.

From Your Affectionate

Son Alfred