

Head Qrs. Dist. Pensacola  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862

J.A. Roosevelt Esq

Your kind letter was rec'd and I need not express to you the pleasure it occasioned at its reception as it has been a very long time since I heard from you either directly or indirectly.

I am a little in the dark as to the meaning of the first few lines of your letter, viz "that my feelings are of a mixed character" also again "I know that your feelings of pleasure in your new place will be decidedly cooled when I inform you that I have written you a long and interesting letter" (?) "that you never rec'd."

I am glad that you purchased the McClellan saddle now as I have myself ridden one a great deal lately. I did wish that if you had not as yet purchased it, it did not matter as I could I thought make an excellent trade with a friend. I think it must be very cheap as the one owned by the Chf Commissary cost him \$100 and more.

In regard to McClellan, I'm pleased at his removal as it shows that the Govm't intends a vigorous prosecution to the death of this horrible rebellion. It is also exceedingly good news that Genl Banks has relieved Major Genl Butler, who is one of the blackest (morally) and most infamous scoundrels I know of or can imagine of. I earnestly hope for the good of our holy cause that no "Startling Developments" are made for a time, as it would tend greatly to discourage our "People" but be prepared for disclosure of the most damnable character and transaction that would make any patriotic citizen or soldier fill with rage... The papers will of course soon teem with reports but never will they know what we in the Gulf Dept can know and in fact do know.

Major Genl Banks' forces arrived at New Orleans in fair condition. The 28<sup>th</sup> Connecticut have arrived here and have relieved the 91<sup>st</sup> N.Y. V.

The 6<sup>th</sup> are in the advance on Vicksburg when last heard from they were at Baton Rouge. Col Wilson has command of a brigade, he has written a long letter to me through his Adjutant Gen'l, asking me to return to the regiment telling me that I could stand much better chance of promotion etc. I appreciate the interest he has taken in me and shall remember him with the best of feelings, but the men are not the class I admire for association and therefore I shall remain where I am for the present at least.

The rebels were within half a mile of our "Post" yesterday though not in large force. Some wks ago we killed quite a number of them and they are more prudent since.

I had letter from Dr [ ]. He tells me that he received the money I sent through you but says that he returned five (5) dollars as he "did not wish to receive interest. The \$3 he speaks of is not interest but is an amt. he let me have one day when I was at his house. I did offer him interest for the reason that I know it would not be agreeable to him as I know it would not be so to one or two other sincere friends I have.

Speaking of a horse, I have succeeded in getting a fair animal assigned me (with intent to purchase), it is a large bay, a "thorough soldier" will ride right up to a Battery while firing. I can fire a pistol between his ears and he does not care in the least, he can jump over any high fence and is stylish too.

Mum is the soldier word down here so I can not conscientiously write about how many troops we have, sufficient to say we can stand any 3,000 they can bring. There is so much danger of losing our [ ].

If I have time I'll write a few more lines before the mails close.

Give my best wishes and kindest regards to your family and accept my sincerest heartfelt thanks for yourself.

Hoping to hear from you often  
I am my dear sire  
Very Respectfully your Obt Ser

Oliver Matthews  
1<sup>st</sup> Le't Aide de Camp  
A.A.A. Genl U.S.V.