

Headquarters, Department of the Gulf
New Orleans June 13 1864

My dear sir

Your kind and interesting letter of the 29th ultimo was rec'd this morning. Many many thanks for interest you have felt in my welfare and for the many kind letters. When we are so far away from friends their letters are doubly interesting and are anxiously looked for. The long letter I wrote about the engagements I have reason to believe reached the hands of some Rebel instead of you. I have however written you several which it is hoped you have rec'd ere this. I sent one per Evening Star informing you of the departure of Major Genl Franklin for his home, on a/c of his wound rec'd at Sabine Cross Roads. I also enclosed you two card pictures, one of himself the other of Gov. Hahn, both are excellent pictures and I hope you will find them worthy of your album.

Genl Canby is indeed a good officer, but he does not supercede Banks. Everything goes on this Dept the same as usual with but one or two exceptions. Genl Canby is here at present but will leave in a few days for Vicksburg. It is a great mistake to suppose that Banks is mixed up with cotton in any way. When our transport left Alexandria Genl Banks sent his own staff officers to see that no cotton was sent on board, and if any was already on to throw it overboard. The Navy brought some away, because they can get prize money. The Navy officers of the Miss. Flotilla are becoming rich with the amt of prize money that they are getting. The Govrmt should prohibit it as it certainly prejudicial to its best interests.

All the respect that I have for Genl Fremont has gone. His action in accepting the nomination of the Cleveland Convention proved him to be a man seeking his own and not his country's good. But he will not be elected. I have not yet heard of the person in this Dept who has ever intimated their choice for him. Abraham Lincoln is the universal and popular candidate among our soldiers, and even if not nominated by the convention, we will put him up as an independent candidate and elect him without the least difficulty. He must be elected at any cost, his defeat would be a worse blow to our cause than the defeat of Grant. I think the Confederates are holding out owing to the hope that Lincoln will not be reelected. What do you think of it. I wish McClellan had run [] his (L) would be forgone conclusion which it is not far from at present.

I am glad to hear that you have succeeded in getting a good horse for your daughter to ride. Speaking of that reminds me that my horse is so far recovered that I can ride him. Although the ball is not yet extracted, I am in hopes that it will work through. It is now in 18 inches. He is considered one of the "handsomest horses in New Orleans," jet black and as gentle as a lamb.

I send you the papers almost every day, as to your Bro. I hope you receive them. I receive constantly your papers and I find them very interesting, many thanks for them. The Sanitary Fair did well. 1,200,000 is a great deal of money and shows what Americans can do when necessity requires it. It will alleviate thousands of brave men's suffering. I am anxious to get to the Potomac, but do not as yet see the opportunity. Not that I am anxious to do any more fighting, but I would like to have an active hand in the great work. By the way I find that I have been

under fire 30 times, 12 of which were severe battles. I feel like a veteran, having been in the service 3 years the 25th April 1864. I only wish that I could do more.

Remember me kindly to Mrs Roosevelt and your daughters, particularly remember me to the boys. It seems to me to be only a few days since I too was playing soldier, leading a party of boys around with wooden guns against a similarly armed body. I doubt whether I feel as much hatred in our engagement now as I did then. But it is getting very late. With best wishes for yourself and family.

I remain as ever
Yours sincerely

Oliver Matthews