SC-11848b: Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel Collection, 1861-1864.

1864 February

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Mead quarter 120 to 0.0 D Plaquemine Sa Heby 1964 My dead good which land! good storing letter of the 22 m alt and I have been joyon Ever since, I hay like you this is the first real good and long letter & ital since Of left home the others all wew as blow that they made Everything look black to me the thank had a Richard is himselfagan The weather here is as lovely since as any Climate Could hossibly be We can walk around for week has year for the fast five weeks with our Cople of feel pretty comfertable Every question you ask en yours and the give you the news which is very When we will have a fine Horse Carriage theight theme by ourself I Eugay it and let mo asme you my love that time is not very far

as for moving and leaving Willesburg & and perfectly willing may it ought to kning \$ 1400 stable. The chew beleaus busines is a failme for Vacion reasons yet of think there will not be anything lost. I think and of aoune you will let the Children Continue at Mrs Lowman & more Especial if they made any progress of they made any progress of the elating to the wantours matter to, & suppose your business littee is the one Charley last Well ever and bothing for the Pay master Every day yet if the does not soon Come of and thinking The may they away untill the receive Eight /8/ months pay and if For will send you 1 \$ 150 f fele hundred Dollars if Charley comes home before send any money de can let you have & 4 as fine hundred Dollars

it seems to me you ought to be able to manage that with faint bohn, for at little while Unite Josey is well and hearty Bussiness has not been very for filable for some time Taking his sickness, their former in New York, their stay and New Ocheans and the late business into consideration. Oddoubt wether they are worth as much to day as they werd on the 4th Inly last & wish my Bugain much for the certainly mounied of find looking gernale with I think his hidal tome amply upail hind for the Ephandinary Touble and incontenience he had in obtaining the necessary 1 Wyntovicks ", I Defineerly hope the stood it well. as for our Lay & will be home if bad thouse our before hand be as to be fine of not minning it, Though really in your lost you do not Jeen very certain welles

is againg to be an affair as I suffere though ere long the to inform me as I thinks of have a very longe Thous of interest in the matter. Jone Kindbett "Inesent shall not be very flowenty your may bet, it must be O.K. I much regrett the loss of our good neighbor Geogram, my evanuest by infathies one with his family. The death of In Houston is a fact offin ended though I knew the lady not get it must be tuible for the Captain. I hope Mono Myer has wereen by this time, and really uneary to lead of to mode trakers in

Theet Mr 3 Ule hand but very little news two of my Companies and stationed 18 miles down the river on the of posite Side Inheristending The building of a holden live, fore and the Clark Four Bruger of Budger and down there wind two mights ago they came nego being Captined they the Retels their outpast pricket of 15 men if Caveley 4th Wiscom Regneent Were sumounded 1 1- 12 o closell of might and all captioned but one who was fortunate perough to get away and inform talarm Captain les Commanding the got them out in time, to prevent being Captured. it was a pretty nonvortchang they day Jasey behaved like a true Inldies, he came up to day with his stack of think though he rather prefers Otaying with the he crowd.

I have been to see several very large Planters and find them Very hospitable, they live like finices are frond and aristocratice, but Efect. ingly pleasant & agreeable to the belished in Longitie and they to work for pay as they well toget while places and I am satorful in twenty fine years from now, the neger will be an educated well to do labore, and the white man now the my ond Experience, I am now a trong abolitionist bint I want laws and regulations by which the neger must he made to work and Edneated pelled to do it, Slavery is gone up wether the war end, to clay as w a year and their is no un Onjuy over it, it has her and anful jemtilution, & will pen you the black Code " of Louiseaugi Some of these days and dan later 2 fied it will make you shudden. How enderstand me when the I am a plione abolitioning of

mean that I and not so for party fine of my and consistion, for the lest Interest of the white man in the fourth and the black man any wheres. I find some for large slaveholders govern in my opinion prefer the old System. The port white man, the muchania Haborer in this Country however find that a new Era es dawing for their in this Country (touch) her thefore they were almost wouse than the negro stare her. I have not had the pleasure of meeting but very few of the fair det down here, what few I meet I find overbearing, houghly & Stubborn, powdered over earth flow or white paste to make then book vidioulous, they are much worse than the southern man, of this & a married lady of a large Planted is really a Decondary Institution General Banks & thinks manages the political Department Excellent I think he will have the tate in the Union a few State in a very thost time hi is decidedly one of the Amarlist trould be our next President

not gow will get one from made all my boys in the Regt they are getting them taken here. Illo to my plan d'and not tel you we will a am satisfied age whom some plan when I came home. Us long as the was looks so important and call after Call for men it feems as though e soldies and Patriot aview hour no rest Except in the army, I have an 4 wellent Regiment any men allmost worship me and if I were to usign to day one half of my officers would ale and perhaps demonalize the Mex which would be doing the Leve more darn then my humble Efforts perhaps Ever done it good but never mind I de morble here your really want me to revego I think you are really providing do not like to like and pless your my have to the Children Fall ferents

My dear good & Kind Cary!

Yesterday I received your very good & loving letter of the 22nd ult and I have been joyous ever since; I say like you this is the first real good and lovely letter I received since I left home; the others all were as blue that they made everything look black to me, but thank God "Richard is himself again."

The weather here is as lovely and nice as any climate could possibly be. We can walk around for weeks past, yea for the last five weeks, with our coats off; feel pretty comfortable.

I will first try and answer your every questions you ask in yours and then give you the news which is very slim. Of course the time will come when we will have a fine Horse, Carriage & sleigh & drive by ourselves & enjoy it and let me assure you my love that time is not very distant.

As for moving and leaving Millersburg, I am perfectly willing. If you can sell the House you may it ought to bring \$1400.00 or at least \$1300 with the new stable. The New Orleans business is a failure for various reasons, yet I think there not be anything lost. I think and of course you will let the Children continue as Mrs. Lowman's more especially if they made any progress.

I have not received your letter relating to the warehouse matter but I received the one you referred to. I suppose your business letter is the one Charley lost. Well we are looking for the Paymaster every day, yet if he does not soon come I am thinking he may stay away untill the 10th of March when I will receive eight (8) months pay and if so will send you (\$1500) fifteen hundred Dollars. If Charley comes home before I send any money, he can let you have \$4 or five hundred Dollars; it seems to me you ought to be able to manage that with friend Cohn, for a little while.

Uncle Josey is well and hearty. Business has not been very profitable for some time.

Taking his sickness, their journey in New York, their stay in New Orleans and the late business into consideration, I doubt whether they are worth as much to day as they were on the 4th of July last. I wish Mr. Benjamin much joy, he certainly married a fine looking female and I think his bridal time amply repaid him for the extraordinary trouble and inconvenience he has in obtaining the necessary "Yivutoolicks"; I sincerely hope he stood it well. As for our "Affair" you may rest perfectly easy I will be home if God spares my health whenever it comes off and long enough before hand so as to be sure of not missing it, though really in your last you do not seem very certain whether this is agoing to be an "Affair" at all or whether it is all

"wind." I suppose though ere long the matter will be positively decided & you must not omit to inform me as I think I have a very large share of interest in the matter. Your "Kindbett" [childbed] present shall not be very slovenly you may bet; it must be O.K.

I much regret the loss of our good neighbor Yergin, my warmest sympathies are with his family. The death of Mr. Houston is a sad affair indeed though I knew the lady not, yet it must be terrible for the Captain.

I hope Mrs. Myer has recovered by this time, am really uneasy to hear of so much sickness in town.

We have very little news, two of my Companies A & I are stationed 18 miles down the river on the opposite side superintending the building of a broken levee. Josey and his clerk Louis Burger of Chicago, a son of the Widow Burger, are down there and two nights ago they came near being captured by the Rebels. Their outpost picket of 15 men of Cavelery, 4th Wisconsin Regiment were surrounded at 12 o'clock at night and all captured but one who was fortunate enough to get away and inform & alarm Captain Au commanding the two companies of my Regt who got them out in time, to prevent being captured. It was a pretty narrow chance. They say Josey behaved like a true Soldier. He came up to day with his stock. I think though he rather prefers staying with the big crowd.

I have been to see several very large Planters and find them very hospitable, they live like princes, are proud and aristocratic, but exceedingly pleasant & agreeable to the Federal Officers. Slavery has been abolished in Louisiana and they are just as keen to get the negro to work for pay as they used to while slaves, and I am satisfied in twenty five years from now, the negro will be an educated, well to do laborer and the white man none the worse, this you know I see from my own experience. I am not a strong abolitionist, but I want laws and regulations by which the negro must be made to work and educated and the present Master be compelled to do it. Slavery is gone up whether the War ends to day or in a year and there is no use crying over it; it has been an awful institution. I will send you the "black code" of Louisiana some of these days and I am satisfied it will make you shudder.

Now understand me when I say I am a strong abolitionist, I mean that I am not so for party purposes but for humanity sake only, out of my own conviction, for the best Interest of the white man in the south and the black man anywhere. I find some few large slaveholders concur in my opinion of course the major part of them would prefer the old System. The poor white man, the mechanic & laborer in this country however, find that a new era is dawning for them in this Country (South); herethefore they were almost worse [off] than the negro slave here. I have

not had the pleasure of meeting but very few of the fair sex down here; what few I meet I find overbearing, haughty & stubborn, powdered over with flour or white paste to make them look ridiculous; they are much worse than the southern man. I think a married lady of a large Planter is really a secondary Institution.

General Banks I think manages the political Department excellent. I think he will have the State in the Union a free State in a very short time; he is decidedly one of the smartest Statesmen of the Age; I wish he would be our next President.

I send you a few Pictures; I doubt not you will get one from nearly all my boys in the Regt they are getting them taken here.

As to my plan I can not tell you; we will I am satisfied agree upon some plan when I come home. As long as the war looks so important and call after call for men, it seems as though a soldier and Patriot could have no rest except in the Army. I have an excellent Regiment, my men allmost worship me, and if I were to resign to day, one half of my officers would also and perhaps demoralize the Regt which could be doing the Govt more harm then my humble efforts perhaps ever done it good but never mind I do not believe you really want me to resign. I think you are all really proud of your Soldier man, only you do not like to let on.

Good bye. God bless you, my love to the children & all friends.

Ever your true
Marcus

