



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

1864 April

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Mr Head Ltrs 120th O. O. O

Baton Rouge La April 10/64

My dear dear Wife and good Children,

You have ere this unquestionably received my letter from Cairo in which I stated all of Interest that had occurred since my departure from Horn as well as the fact that I would leave on the Steamed Hannibal for the West. You will see by the above that my Regiment moved from Plaquemine to this City Baton Rouge the Capital of the State of Louisiana.

Here I arrived safe day before yesterday after a long monotonous and tedious trip from long because it was a very slow Boat

monotonous because the weather
was so very unseasonable as to pre-
vent any one almost from going
outside of the Cabin and tedious
because I had heard at Memphis
that my Regiment had been
moved from Nagresimine La
and gone up Red River
but which subsequently proved
~~a false~~ false. The Passengers
and Board were generally a
set of men who seemed interested
by nothing except playing Cards
which entertainment you know
I don't practice and perhaps
never do. Et c.

Yet with all that I saw and got
acquainted with some professing a
Gambler too strong in a set.

The first set were from Freeport
Ill. a smart low cunning
set who would stoop to use
any kind of means and the
diciest kind of tricks even for

Five dollars and one of them
I believe would cut a man's
throat for \$10 if he could do it
sneakingly, these two traveled
from Paris to Memphis.

The two latter were from New
Orleans at present got a Board
at Memphis, I saw them
fleece a fellow out of mind num-
bered (\$900) Dollars in about
two hours, they are fine looking
fellows good countenances in-
deed one had a large blue eye
an open face & splendid smile
but a perfect master of the
art his name is Eagle and
he was raised in Wayne Co
although I did not play &
told him I could see him
do it he took quite a fancy
to me was very kind & said
he honored and respected
a gentleman who would not
play any Cards at all

In Statchey we stopped a few hours, we walked up town, Dr Gill my new Asst. Surgeon who came with me wth Mr Wentworth & that man, coming by a short winter in which stood some very nice Jays among them some Ladies Violet Bopos being an imitation of a bowl full of Gold Coin I remarked that is very pretty he went in & asked the price \$8⁵⁰ pulled out his Pocket book & paid for it handing it to me. I at first refused but he insisted and wanted me to select anything else I liked but of course I would not take anything else I will bring the Bop home if I do not lose it.

He went to New Orleans & I suppose ~~General~~ ~~General~~ will "cheat" some poor devil out of

one hundred times that amount

I mentioned these things as a matter of "new" and "Experience"

We stopped and wooded at "Young Point" nearly opposite the place and within one hundred yards of where I was stationed in Feb'y 63 and when I looked over the many, many graves and thought of the brave and noble fellows whose ambition ended there by becoming victims of the malicious "Swamp" I felt sad.

At Pickensburg I looked over the the many ravines & Hills the rifle pits, forts and batteries and felt proud that I also done my might in aiding to rescue that "Gibraltar" from the hands of the enemy.

at Pirin Landing I saw the
very spot where my regiment
disembarked the Day before
the Battle of Thompson's Hill

I landed here and found
my pleasantly situated here
at the West End of the City by
the penitentiary a powerful and
commodious Building, my
Boys were happy indeed and I
received a cordial and warm
reception such as any could
feel proud of. The first night
at about 12 o'clock I was
serenaded by a new and
excellent "String Band" formed
in my Regiment since my
absence. "Auch so good wie
die Elizabeth". Though I am
sorry to say the Regiment is
not as healthy as it was
at Plaquemine though nothing
serious yet we have flux
and fever

This certainly was a ~~beauty~~
beautiful and thriving City before
this cruel war. The State House
a magnificent as well as gigantic
structure is situated on a
lovely and romantic spot
as you could wish to see, on
an eminent slope on the banks
of the Miss surrounded by an
ornamented yard, of all the
tropical flowers and shrubs
I can not describe it to you
only let me say it is really
grand, though the inside
of that once beautiful building
is all burnt out. The Arsenal
the blind and deaf and dumb
Asylum and the U.S. Hospital
are all monuments of Beauty
and formed Prosperity.
The City in itself itself is
nothing very grand, the stores
& places of Business are
but indifferent would not

for style and beauty with
those in Worcester they would per-
haps with Millisbury.

The Dwelling houses are generally
the plain true Southern style
square large high Room
and very wide Porches on
each story ~~and~~ ^{and} on every side
of the house, people I know but
few as yet. Brother Joseph and
sister Ann are in New Orleans
I have not seen them yet.

I understand the Boat
leaves for St Louis & I must
close if the boat does not get
untill to morrow I will write
again this eve. My love to the
Children, tell them to be good and
learn. The weather is awful
hot. Tell Cohn to send my Greeting
my respects to him & family, my
love to Elizabeth I all your loving
Ever your loving
Mason

Head Qrs. 120th O.V.I.

Baton Rouge La April 10/64

My dear dear Wife and good Children,

You have ere this unquestionably received my letter from Cairo in which I stated all of Interest that had occurred since my departure from home as well as the fact that I would leave on the Steamer Hannibal for the Regt. You will see by the above that my Regiment moved from Plaquemine to this City Baton Rouge, the Capital of the State of Louisiana.

Here I arrived safe day before yesterday after a long monotonous and tedious trip; long because it was a very slow Boat, monotonous because the weather was so very unseasonable as to prevent any one almost from going outside of the Cabin, and tedious because I had heard at Memphis that my Regiment had been moved from Plaquemine, La, and gone up Red River but which subsequently proved false. The passengers on Board were generally a set of men who seemed interested by nothing except cards, which entertainment you know I dont practice and perhaps never dit. Eh?

Yet with all that I saw and got acquainted with four professional Gamblers, two and two in a set.

The first set were from Freeport, Ill[inois] a smart

low cunning set who would stoop to most any kind of meanness and the dirtiest kind of tricks even for five dollars and one of them I believe would cut a mans throat for \$10, if he could do it sneakingly; these two traveled from Cairo to Memphis.

The two latter were from New Orleans at present, got a Board at Memphis. I saw them fleece a fellow out of nine hundred (\$900) Dollars in about two hours. They are fine looking fellows, good countenances; indeed one had a large blue eye, an open face & splendid smile, but a perfect Master of the Art. His name is Eagle and he was raised in Wayne Co. although I dit not play & told him I could see him do it, he took quite a fancy to me, was very kind & said he honored and respected a Gentleman who would not play any Cards at all. In Natchez we stopped a few hours; we walked up town, Dr. Gill, my new Asst Surgeon who came with me, a Mr. Wentworth & that man, coming by a show window in which stood some very nice toys, among them some Ladies Toilet Boxes being an imitation of a bowl full of Gold Coin, I remarked "that is very pretty;" he went in, asked the price, \$8.50, pulled out his Pocket Book & paid for it, handed it to me. I at first refused but he insisted and wanted me to select anything else I liked but of course I would not take anything else. I will bring the Box home if I do not lose it.

He went to New Orleans & I suppose will "cheat" some poor

devil out of one hundred times that amount. I mentioned these things as a matter of "news" and "experience".

We stopped and wooded at "Youngs Point" nearly opposite the place and within one hundred yards of where I was stationed in Feby '63, and when I looked over the many, many graves and thought of the brave and noble fellows whose ambition ended there by becoming victims of the malarious "Swamp", I felt sad.

At Vicksburg I looked over the many ravines & Hills, the rifle pits, forts and abatises and felt proud that I also done my might in aiding to rescue that "Gibraldar" from the hands of the Enemy. At Bruins Landing I saw the very spot where my Regiment disembarked the day before the Battle of "Thompson's Hill".

I landed here and found my [regiment] pleasantly situated here at the West End of the City by the penitentiary, a powerfull and commodious Building. My Boys were happy indeed and I received a cordial and warm reception such as King could feel proud of. The first night at about 12 o'clock I was serenaded by a new and excellent "String Band" formed in my Regiment since my absence, "Auch so good nice die Elizabeth". Though I am sorry to say the Regiment is not as healthy as it was at Plaquemine; though nothing serious yet, we have flux and fever.

This certainly was a beautiful and thriving City before this Cruel War. The State House, a magnificent as well as Gigantic structure, is situated on as lovely and romantic a spot as you could wish to see, on an eminent slope on the Banks of the Miss[issippi] surrounded by an ornamented yard, of all the tropical flowers and shrubbery; I can not describe it to you, only let me say it is really grant, though the inside of that once beautiful building is all burnt out. The Arsenal, the blind and deaf and dumb asylums and the U.S. Hospital are all monuments of Beauty and former Prosperity.

The City in itself is nothing very grant. The Stores & places of Business are but indifferent; would not [compare] for style and beauty with those in Wooster; they would perhaps with Millersburg.

The Dwelling houses are generally the plain true Southern style; square, large & high Room, and very wide Porches on each story and on every side of the house. People I know but few as Yet. Brother Joseph and Sinsheimer are in New Orleans; I have not seen them yet.

I understand the Boat leaves for St. Louis & I must close if the boat does not get untill to morrow I will write again this Eve. My love to the Children, tell them to be good and learn. The weather is awful hot. Tell Cohn to

send my clothing my respect to him & family my love to
Elizabeth & all.

Ever your loving & true

Marcus



Old gas 120th O.V.C.
Baton Rouge. La April 20/64

My dear dear Wife.

This is the 4th letter I send to you since my arrival here & as yet I have received none from you which makes me feel somewhat uneasy.

Yet I have not written to you as often as I would if we had better mail facilities, though steamboats pass here frequently as high as 4 per day and yet it is not unusual for us to be ten days without being able to receive or send away a mail. Owing altogether to the beauties of the Gulf Department.

Since my arrival here I have been busied than I had previously been for a year, and working very hard with my Regiment and I am happy to say the fruits show worthy of the labor. — For a great part we had to rise at the early peep of dawn about half past 3 o'clock A.M. and are ordered to remain, under

Arms" untill after Sunrise "owing
to a big "scare" they get up in
this town about twice a month,
lasting from the morning of the 1st
to the evening of the 15th & the 2nd
scare from the morn of the 16th to
the eve of the last of the month

It being very damp from dawn
till sunup and unpleasant to let
the men stand still, I drill them
till after Sunrise, at 7 o'clock
Breakfast at half past 7 and
mounting, at nine I drill till
Eleven, at one I have Inspection
from three to five Battalion drill
at 6 I have parade from 7 to 9 in
the evening I have Officers school
so you see I am hard to work, I
feel well on it, only I have a very
severe rheumatic pain in the small
of my back, which troubles me
to rise when I am sitting down.

My Regiment never looked better
then it does now, everybody com-
pliments me on them, I have
scarcely been out of Camp
since I am here, only after
Dress parade we ride a half hour

To Stanton, DeWitt and myself.

DeWitt is my new assistant
an excellent young man and we all like
him well. A very pleasant little af-
fair took place night before last, as
I was quietly laying on my couch, pre-
paring my lesson for the next day
school my door was opened and
in came Captains Jones, Frommfelder
and Miller, Jones commencing to make
a speech presenting me with a beautiful
"Meershamm pipe" worth about
\$50 a beautifull Present indeed
I was taken by surprise truly, yet
I rallied and made (they say)
a very good reply. It is just what
I allways wanted, I shall send
it home to have it taken care of
and let us hope that when in
after years I sit by my own fireside
surrounded ^{by} my true and loving
wife my good children, smoking my
"meershamm" I may be able to
reply with you my loved the comforts
of life due to us and tell your
many a little tale of my "military
Campaigns and may the days be
many and happy ones for all of us

Uncle Jasey and Furber
are here but not doing much.

Uncle Jasey attends every drill
and parade and watches it with
as much interest and joy as
though it was a family affair.

How are all our dear children?
Are they doing as well as they were?
do they study well? & behave as
good as when I was at home?

Does Matty know me yet? And how
is Henry Sherman Spiegel? Give I
hope. You must write often and write
me every thing and tell me how every-
thing is going. I bought a horse
here, a black fine horse, for \$250
I am offered \$350 for him, if Charley
was here I think I would sell him.
(that is the black) Is Charley Herzer
at home? Are my new clothes done?
I would very much like to have him.

We suffered a very severe defeat
at Red River, lost 22 guns, 250
Wagons & 3500 men. I should not
be surprised if our Brigade would
be moved. I send this letter by a
young man going to Ohio. Good bye my love
God bless you. Your true loving
brother

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I.

Baton Rouge La. April 20/64

My dear dear Wife

This is the 4th letter I send to you since my arrival here & as yet I have received none from you which makes me feel somewhat uneasy.

Yet I have not written to you as often as I would if we had better mail facilities, though Steamboats pass here frequently as high as 4 per day and yet it is not unusual for us to be ten days without being able to receive or send away a mail. Owing altogether to the beauties of the Gulf Department.

Since my arrival here I have been busier than I had previously been for a year; am working very hard with my Regiment and I am happy to say the fruits show worthy of the labor - For a week past we had to rise at the early "peep of dawn" about half past 3 o'clock A.M. and are ordered to remain under arms untill after "Sunrise" owing to a big "scare" they get up in this town about twice a month, lasting from the morning of the 1st to the Evening of the 15th & the 2nd scare from the morn of the 15th to the Eve of the last of the month.

It being very damp from dawn till Sunup and unpleasant to let the men stand still, I drill them till after "Sunrise"; at

7 o'clock Breakfast, at half past 7 Guard Mounting. At nine I drill till eleven; at one I have Inspection, from three to five Battalion drill, at 6 Dress parade, from 7 to 9 in the evening I have Officers School, so you see I am hard to work. I feel well on it, only I have a very severe rheumatic pain in the small of my back, which troubles me to rise when I am sitting down.

My Regiment never looked better than it does now, everybody compliments me on them. I have scarcely been out of Camp since I am here; only after Dress parade we ride a half hour, Dr. Stanton, Dr. Gill and myself.

Dr. Gill is my new assistant, an excellent young man, and we all like him well. A very pleasant little affair took place night before last. As I was quietly laying on my couch, preparing my lesson for the next day School, my door was opened and in came Captains Jones, Frowenfelder and Miller; Jones commencing to make a speech presenting me with a beautiful "Meersham pipe" worth about \$50, a beautiful Present indeed. I was taken by surprise truly, yet I rallied and made (they say) a very good reply. It is just what I allways wanted. I shall send it home to have it taken care of, and let us hope that when in after years I sit by my own fireside surrounded by my true and loving wife, my good children, smoking my "meersham", I may be able to enjoy with you, my love, the comforts of life

due to us and tell you many a little tale of my military campayne, and may the days be many and happy ones for all of us.

Uncle Josey and Sinsheimer are here but not doing much.

Uncle Josey attends every drill and parade and watches it with as much interest and joy as though it was a family affair.

How are all our dear children? Are they doing as well as they were? Do they study well? and behave as good as when I was at home? Does Hatty know me yet? And how is Henry Sherman Spiegel? Fine I hope. You must write often and write me everything and tell me how everything is going. I bought a horse here, a black fine horse, for \$250; I am offered \$350 for him. If Charley was here I think I would sell him (that is the black). Is Charley Herzer at home? Are my new clothing done? I would very much like to have them.

We suffered a very severe defeat at Red River, lost 22 Guns, 250 Wagons & 3500 men. I should not be surprised if our Brigade would be moved. I send this letter by a young man going to Ohio. Good bye my love. God Bless you.

Your true & loving

Marcus

Head Quarters 120th St
Baton Rouge La April 23/64

My dear dear Lucy!

I got your very good and kind letter (full of troubles) yesterday and must say I had to take a good and hearty laugh over it poor girl so much trouble it seems then that Elizabeth and the sisters both "caved in" at once only the "remedies" are different, while the former unquestionably will require further "excavation" the latter will have to be filled up so it goes in life, like maladies to different parties need frequently quite different. Well, well, the reason I laughed was because I could see you in all your troubles so natural in your letter

I am really glad the cistern,
Caved without an accident for
I never liked it where it was
and as you request I agree to be
saving enough to make up for
the "unexpected Expense" I am
indeed glad Elizabeth is married
it certainly takes a heavy re-
sponsibility from us and
we can truly congratulate us
inasmuch as we married her
off well, I will write her a
marvelous letter. You must not
do the work yourself by no means
get a girl and I promise upon
my honor that I will save two
Dollars per week which I can easily
do, I will never forgive you and
myself if you should get sick on
account of working too hard, do
get a girl and a good one and
do not look to a half Dollar
more or less per week, now do this
at once, I ordered it I will!

I have this morning written a letter to Julia & also one to Charles and send him my picture, I do not see any reason why we should be proches when last I saw them (as well as first) they treated me very kind and injured me none since. Aint I right?

I will also write to Martha to day. Shall be very glad to get my new clothes as mine are beginning to look very shabby, yet inasmuch as we have marching orders for Red River I am not so very particular as I would have been if we stayed here.

I would really have liked could we have been permitted to stay here awhile longer, not but in fact my place is in the field, yet for reasons of the health of my new recruits should have preferred staying here, but the Eastern troops got whipped up Red River and we Western boys will be relieved.

here from Garrison duty by them
and go and perhaps retrieve the
defeat they sustained.

We may not however start
for a week or so, I understand
McClernand is to take command
of the Expedition if so I look
to the result as a success, as
almost foregone conclusions.

Here we expected an attack to
be early, two hours before day
morning & under arms, but I
never felt there was any use
for it, but an old General
"Philip St George Cooke Brig
Gen. U. S. A. is an Abolitionist
and a regular old Gramp,
but a very clever gentleman.

When we leave here we go to
Alexandria and should not
be surprised if we were suc-
cessful, but I might some-
day or later write you and
letter from Texas i.e. Galveston

I would really like to get there. In the meantime will keep you posted of all our manoeuvres, facts prospects and doings and you must not be uneasy on account of me for I feel almost assured "all will go well" and that "with the favors of a kind providence our mutual happiness and bliss will be furthered by it. God grant all for the best.

My prayers, wishes, hopes, fears all center in you my love, I think I know and appreciate you, and I feel and know that one way we can enjoy the comforts of marriage life and respectable & well to do folks, together in the circle of our dear good children and be happy. I received a very kind and encouraging letter from Simon

Wolff giving me positive assurance
that I will be "Starved" though
it takes, time, perseverance, money
and pluck, but he says, it
shall be done. I will send
you the letter as soon as I
answered it. Petitions will
flow into Washington on my behalf.
I think and all will be right.
then you will be "General's"
News I have but little if any to
communicate to you, I am to work
harder than ever I have for a
year past, studying and
drilling & I can see the effects
would to God you could see
it I am satisfied you would
feel proud, even if you would
not pay it.

This is Sabbath and I am
invited to a regular Sabbath
Dinner at Mrs Baer, a Jewish
widow here, a place that would
seem very pleasant to go to

if it were not for 6 or 7 as
mean children as I ever can.
The woman is as near Harriet
(of Michael) Joseph only about
10 years older in looks, as
any two persons I ever saw
in looks and appearance
only this Lady is thoroughly
educated in French, German
or English, but for all the
world like Yette. She has a
Store is making money, it
is a place of resort for Quakers
&c for the Union Officers
of course she is smart enough
to get permits &c from them
to send Goods out. That finishes
all my acquaintances here
Roxelles is making a fine
Soldier, he is learning to drill
he is no drummer but a
soldier, he is well liked and
in a good Company, I prefer letting
him learn to drill and make

Soldier than a servant.
Uncle Josey is very well, but
-Junhemier is quite unwell,
-Uncle Josey goes up Red River with
me when I go. You must tell
Hamlin that he must be a good
boy. Everybody that ever saw him
speaks of him as a good boy and
a little gentleman. Lizzie of
Course is a good girl & Mosey
is Pa's biggest little boy, does
Hattie know one yet! &

I send you a lot of Pictures
Will send you more soon.

Send you one of mine taken
in Hayemine & send her. he
sold 400 of them at 50¢ a
piece, I have the finest Horse
you ever saw for a buggy horse
he is very large, heavy, black
Horse, I had him in a buggy
the other night, Every body can
drive him Adieu Adieu
Your true & loving
man

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I.

Baton Rouge La April 23/64

My dear dear Cary!

I got your very good and Kind letter (full of troubles) yesterday and must say I had to take a good and hearty laugh over it poor Girl so much trouble it seems then that Elizabeth and the cistern both "caved in" at once, only the remedies are different: while the former unquestionably will receive further "excavation", the latter will have to be filled up; so it goes in life, like maladies to dif[ferent] parties need frequently quite different cure. Well, well, the reason I laughed was because I could see you in all your troubles so natural in your letter. I am really glad the cistern caved without an accident for I never liked it where it was and as you request I agree to be saving enough to make up for the "unexpected expense." I am indeed glad Elizabeth is married; it certainly takes a heavy responsibility from yus and we can truly congratulate us inasmuch as we married her off well. I will write her a masetof [congratulatory] letter. You must not do the work yourself, by no means. Get a Girl and I promise upon my honor that I will save two Dollars per week which I can easy do. I will never forgive you or myself if you should get sick on account of working too hard; do get a Girl and a good one and do not look

to a half Dollar more or less per week. Now do this at once, I order it Himmell [heaven].

I have this morning written a letter to Julia & also one to Charles and send him my picture. I do not see any reason why we should be "proches" when last I saw them (as well as first) they treated me very kind and injured me none since. Aint I right? I will also write to Martha to day. Shall be very glad to get my new Clothes as mine are beginning to look very shabby, yet inasmuch as we have marching Orders for Red River I am not so very particular as I would have been if we stayed here.

I would really have liked could we have been permitted to stay here awhile longer, not but in fact my force is in the field, yet for reasons of the health of new recruits. Should have preferred staying here, but the Eastern troops got whipped up Red River and we Western boys will be relieved here from Garrison duty by them and go and perhaps retrieve the defeat they sustained.

We may not however start for a week or so. I understand McClernand is to take Command of the Expedition; if so I look to the result as a Success, as allmost forgone conclusions.

Here we expected an attack; were up early, two hours before day every morning & under Arms, but I never felt there was any use for it, but our old General "Philip St. George Cooke,

Brig[adier] Genl, U.S.A." is an Alarmist and regular old Granny but a clever Gentleman.

When we leave here we go to Alexandria and should not be surprised, if we were successful, but I might someday or other write you a letter from Texas, i.e. Galveston.

I would really like to get there. In the meantime will keep you posted of all our maneuvers, fads, prospects and doings and you must not be uneasy on account of me for I feel almost assured "all will go well" and that with the favors of a kind providence our mutual happiness and bliss will be furthered by it. God grant all for the best.

My prayers, wishes, hopes, fears, all center in you my love. I think I know and appreciate you, and I feel and know that ere long we can enjoy the comforts of marriage life and respectable & well to do folks, together in the circle of our dear good children and be happy.

I received a very kind and encouraging letter from Simon Wolf giving me positive assurance that I will be "Starred" though it takes time, perseverance, money and pluck, but he says it shall be done. I will send you the letter as soon as I answered it. Petitions will flow into Washington on my behalf. I think and all will be right; then you will be "Generalin" [a General's wife]. News I have but little if any to communicate to you. I am to work harter than ever I have for a year past,

studdeying and drilling & I can see the effects. Would to God you could see it; I am satisfied you would feel proud, even if you would not say it.

This is Shabbath and I am invited to a regular Shabbath Dinner at Mrs. Baer, a Jewish widow here; a place that would seem very pleasant to go to if it were not for 6 as mean children as I ever saw. The woman is as near Harriet (of Michael) Joseph only about 10 years older in looks, as any two persons I ever saw in looks and appearance, only this Lady is [as] thoroughly educated in French, German as [in] English, but for all the world like Yette. She has a Store, is making money. It is a place of resort for Dinner &c for the Union Officers & of course she is smart enough to get permits &c for them to send Goods out. That finishes all my acquaintances here. Roselles is making a fine Soldier; he is well liked and in a good Company. I prefer letting him learn to drill and make Soldier than a Servant. Uncle Josey is very well but Sinsheimer is quite unwell. Uncle Josey goes up Red River with me when I go. You must tell Hamlin that he must be a good boy everybody that ever saw him speaks of him as a good boy and a little Gentleman. Lizzie of course is a good Girl & Mosey is Pa's biggest little boy, does Hattie know me yet?

I send you a lot of Pictures will send you more soon.

Send you one of mine taken in Plaquemine & send here. He
sold 400 of them at 50¢ a piece, I have the finest horse you
ever saw for a buggy horse he is very large, heavy, black Horse,
I had him in a buggy the other night, every body can drive him,
Adjieu Adjieu

Your true & loving

Marcus



Patou Rouge La April 27/64

My dear good Caroline!

Your very good kind sweet and long letter came together with yours of the 2nd packed up in the clothing and I must say it made me feel full of love and admiration and were it not that I feared a lecture from I would write you a real as you call it "gerhayist" letter, but you would give me a lecture on it a gain. — Well to begin I had to day one of those surgical operations performed which I have so often to undergo, which before it was cut open prevented me from sitting down, I could walk, ~~my~~ ride Horseback, but not sit. I had to take my meals standing. The new suit is the best fit I ever had of Cohn or anyone else. I wore it once on Desparade, but

as you desire, take very good care
of it, and I will promise you that
when you and the Children come down
here this fall to spend the winter, the
fruit shall be in good condition yet-
to act, the Chevalier with my
lovely & good Wife. You say in
your letter, reading of, men whose
absence from home loose the charms
of home, gets you thinking sometimes
I do not think my dear Wife, that it
should or ought, if I would think
that my sweet home, with all its to
me lovely surroundings, with the many
loving hearts could ever loose its charms
I would wish to cease to live.

Would to God you could hear me on all
occasions and under all circum-
stances speak of my Wife and my Children
and my home or know the feelings
of my heart and thought - would
never never entertain room in your
heart. It made me feel sad when
I read it, but I know you must not to
hurt me

Tell the Children that I feel
very happy indeed to know they are
doing so well, tell ^{my} Hamlin not to feel
discouraged even if Lizzie beats him
in a Headmatch or two spelling is only
one Branch of Business and he may
spell in many other things and Branches
and tell him that Captain Peter Jones and
all those who saw and know him say that
he is the nicest little gentleman Boy
they ever saw and if we live and
stay in this Department till ^{my} Fall he
may come down with you and we
spent the whole winter together. There
are Officers here who have their
Wives and Eight Children here. I do
not think we shall have quite as
many this winter. Tell Lizzie that
I have not yet been in New Orleans
for her piano, I am much pleased
with her keeping head, that is the
way to do she is the girl for me.
Morey must be a good boy
and stay in the House and

mind his ma, if he does I will
bring him something real nice, if not
I will not bring him anything

You must not let my dearest Betty
forget her Pa Pa I remember her
well.

It is so pleasing to hear & be able to
talk only good of his Children, Poor
Lieut. Col. ~~Stocum~~ who only lately
came here, ^{his son} stole a five hundred Dollar
check and sold it Columbus and ran
off & if they catch him, he will be put
in the Penitentiary, the boy is only
12 years old, the Lt Col who sleeps in
the next tent to me laments and
cries most all night, if any of
my Children would do so dis-
graceful a trick an act mean
whereby their Pa and Ma would
come to shame, I would pray
to God to be killed in the first
battle rather than live to see them
again, but thank God I fear
not, my children are good Children

and honest they will not tell any lie or take even the least little thing that ~~it~~ does not belong to them.

You need not fear of mother coming if I do not come for she will not come so you can be easy on that score.

I do not know yet whether I can come or not I know one thing however and that is "if I can, I will, cost what may"

Uncle Josey has gone to Wicksbury to get permission to start a store, I will fix the Ancony matter all right.

In one thing I have changed and that is it used to make me feel bad when you betreed me about being saving and careful, but now it pleases me and I hope you will do so "lightly" in all your letters, I am sure it has a good influence and I promise you to be as sparing as I can consistently with my station if you agreed to get a good bid and "stines" for yourself, I will save all you spend in getting just what you want.

I send you again a few Pictures and
I hope you will by and by get familiar
with every face in the Regiment, they
are truly good boys I had them and
I believe the feeling is mutual.

Our new asst. Surgeon Dr. Gill is a
real fine fellow. We could not have
found any place to do the Regt
& our "mess" better, he is as all of us
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General McClelland & Staff passed here
the other day to go up Red River and
if possible retrieve the great disaster we
sustained up there, by the utter & gross
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since the first Bull Run fight we
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defeat as we did up Red River, Our
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up there & if Banks is not removed
I know not what will follow. He
pays more attention to Secs and
Cotton Speculators than to please them

then he does military, the former he
can do the latter he is utterly ~~in-~~
competent to fill, he is a good politician
but not worth a pinch of snuff as a
Soldier. —

We are ordered up Red River and are a-
waiting transportation, I hope by the time
we get up there we may have Genl Geo-
A. McSherman Command the Dept
I have no doubt the next letter you get from
me will be written on board of the Transport
on our way up the River.

In this City there is nothing new, I
marched the Regt. on Parade through
the City day before yesterday and
we were highly complimented by
every body.

I wish I had Charley here, I believe
I could get a thousand Dollars for
him here, as soon as one of my
Officers goes home I shall send for
him. I hope Sherman has him
again.

Has Charley Herzed got home

yet, tell them to write to me, how
things stand, I am anxious to
know. Roselles is making a fine
Soldier he is with Miller & doing
fine, he drills well and likes it
well.

The weather here is very hot, as hot
as it is in Ohio in July. everything is in full
growth I've got beets, new Potatoes &
any kind of Vegetables, new living is very
good but not near as good as it was
some time

Baton Rouge La April 27/64

My dear good Caroline!

Your very good kind sweet and long letter came together with yours of the 2nd packed up in the Clothing and I must say it made me feel full of love and admiration and were it not that I feared a lecture from [you] I would write you a real as you call it "ferhayist" [excited] letter, but you would give me a lecture on it again.- Well to begin I had to day one of those surgical operations performed which I have so often to undergo, which before it was cut open prevented me from sitting down, I could walk, ride Horseback, but not sit. I had to take my meals standing.

The new suit is the best fit I ever had of Cohn or anyone else. I wore it once on Dressparade, but as you desire, take very good care of it, and I will promise you that when you and the Children come down here this fall to spent the winter, the suit shall be in good condition yet to act "the chevalier" with my lovely & good Wife. You say in your letter reading of "men whose absence from home loose the charms of home" setts you thinking sometimes I do not think my dear Wife, that it should or ought, if I would think that my sweet home with all its to me lovely surroundings, with the many loving hearts could ever loose its charms I would wish to cease to live.

Would to God you could hear me on all occasions and under all circumstances speak of my Wife and my Children and my home or know the feelings of my heart and thought would never never entertain room in your heart. It made me feel sad when I read it, but I know you ment not to hurt me.

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Mosey must be a good boy and stay in the House and mind his ma, if he does I will bring him something real nice, if not I will not bring him anything. You must not let my dearest Hatty forget her Pa Pa I remember her well.

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[The letter stops in mid-page]