

Thibodaux La Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Father,

I have not received a letter from home in a long while & do not know how to account for your silence. Your last letter was dated 15 Nov. & since then none have been received, altho' several mails are in.

I have just returned from New Orleans, where I have been spending a week. The Gen'l gave all our court a furlough for that length of time, in consideration of our having got through our business, much sooner than he expected. I had a very pleasant time of it, but as the weather is extremely cold, I felt rather blue.

Genl [Nathaniel P.] Banks is in N.O. [New Orleans] sick. Our forces in Texas have possession of Matagorda Bay & I hope soon to hear of their having Galveston. The force under Gen'l Franklin is still lying at New Iberia, & are rapidly making that place capable of standing a long siege. I think that most of the force which went up that way will come back & go to Texas to reinforce Genl. Banks, whose force is not more than 8 or 10,000 men at the most. I am glad to hear that [General U.S.] Grant is doing so well at Chattanooga. I hope he exterminates [Braxton] Bragg entirely. The rebels in N.O. looked very blue when the news was received & immediately started a rumour that France had purchase Louisiana & Texas from the Confederate Govt, but of course no one would listen to such a story as that.

The weather is again cold & blustery. It has been pretty warm for two or three days, but the wind has changed & there is now a heavy norther blowing. Harry [Tiemann] received his Valise on Sunday. The apples which were in it, had all rotted & soaked through the valise making a bad stain. None of the articles inside were hurt, except they were slightly damp. I am very much obliged for the razors looking glass &c.

We had a good time here Thanksgiving day. We had Sack, Wheel-Barrow & Blindfold races & had considerable sport seeing the fun. I dined out & among other dishes we had roast Turkey & Pumpkin Pie, which rather reminded me of home. Altogether we had a very pleasant time, & I was sorry when the day was over.

Harry is enjoying good health & so am I. I hope all at home are equally favored.

With love to all, I remain

Your affectionate Son

Frank