

If not, I assure you they may be, for I don't think there is any grade yet created, high enough to induce one to volunteer in that line. Even "Two Stars" would be rejected with contempt. I am too much with regular officers to fancy any thing of the kind, even supposing I had any desire that way, which I most certainly have not.

I have an offer now which I am strongly tempted to accept, but have not yet decided upon. You may have heard me while in N.Y. speak of the Billingshurst & Regue Gun. It is a new thing, & intended to answer the purpose of Light Infantry in some degree. It fires 25 rounds at once & can be fired 16 times per minute, thus throwing 400 balls

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

New Orleans Feb 21th 1863.

Dear Father

Nothing has happened since my last letter to Mum on the 20th inst., so that this afternoon my letter will be full of "little nothings." I don't think it can be a very long one either unless I finish it after supper, for the "Chaco" of night are a coming down swift &c, and it is rapidly getting dark. The mail closes at six o'clock for the North, but as the vessel does not go until tomorrow morning, I shall have this sent on board in the last Official Bag - it being of course on important Government Business. The loss of the *Elle Warley* with our mails was a great appropriation & we are all in