

Head Quarters 8th Regt. U. S. Vols.
New Orleans May 18th 1862

I wrote to Laura a few days ago, & supposed that my Letter would leave here the same day that I wrote it - but the steamer that took the mail met with an accident and had to return here for repairs so that I have a chance to write again - We left Ship Island on the 6th & after hardships and privations too numerous to tell off arrived here in 7 days, instead of 2, as we expected - The city had at that time (5 days since) been occupied by Gen. Butler & Phelps and 4000 men, for about 10^{or 12} days, and great fears were entertained, that either the people here would rise against them, or that Gen. Burgin would come down by Rail Road from Tennessee and wipe the little army out of existence, and it is still very much feared, that some such attempt will be made. Since I wrote Laura we have changed our Quarters from ^{near} the river to a higher & far more pleasant locality, we are now in the Mechanics Institute a large new building, more than 4 times as large as the Town Hall in Burlington and 4 stories high, and also occupy 2 other large buildings adjoining. My office is a ^{good} room on the second floor 25 feet square, and I am infinitely more comfortable than at any other time since I left home! I think I wrote you