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MMN # 70921

Date: May 21, 1862

Description: Zerah Getchell wrote to Col. George F. Shepley declaring himself a Unionist and offering his services to the occupying Union army.

New Orleans May 21st 1862

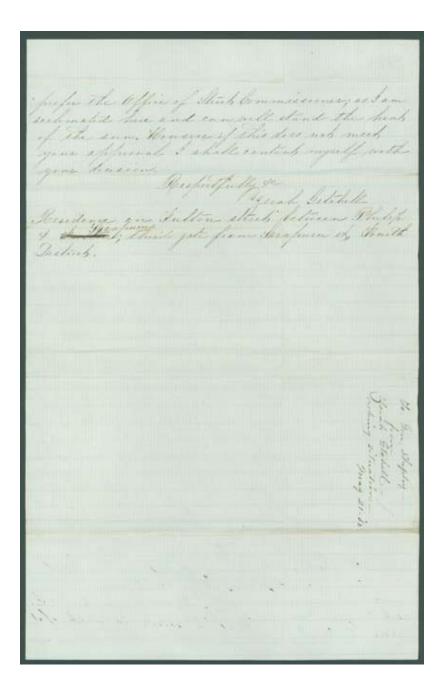
Gen G. F. Shepley.

Military Commandant of New Orleans Sir.

In reading your proclamation this morning I thought perhaps you wished the services of some loyal citizens, and I hereby present myself as an applicant for some situation or business. I am from Bath Maine, and have only resided here three years, and until recently have never been out of employment.

But the present stagnation of business has left me idle and without the means of supporting my family. I am a Unionist and for this have been abused and persecuted by the Secessionists of this place; but I suppose I need not regard their threats of vengeance. If you can afford me employment or business of some kind you will confer a great favor on me. I can furnish you good testimonals in regard to my character for sobriety & honesty; no man here can charge me with aught, except being a Unionist; and that I know is no disgrace in your estimation. I am the son-in-law of the Mr. Laster whose name you see announced as the Union Candidate for Recorder of the Fourth District.

The little money I had accumulated was in Confederate Notes, and now useless; this however I do not regret as I would cheerfully resign twice as much, if I thought it would advance my country's cause. Should my request meet your approbation, I would



prefer the Office of Street Commissioner; as I am acclimated here and can well stand the heat of the sun. However if this does not meet your approval I shall content myself with your decision.

Respectfully &c
Zerah Getchell
Residence on Fulton street between Philip
Sarapuru
& Fulton; ^ third gate from Sarapuru st, Fourth
District.

[sideways at bottom]
To Gen. Shepley –
from
Zerah Gtchell –
asking situation –
May 21– '62