



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 good 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 testimonials 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

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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.

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  
& ~~Fulton~~; third gate from Sarapuru st, Fourth  
District.

Mr. Gen. Shepley  
Zerah Getchell  
Asking situation  
May 21- '62

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To Gen. Shepley -

from

Zerah Gtchell -

asking situation -

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