

Transcript of Letter from Frank L. Lemont to J.S. Lemont, May 5, 1862

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Poquosin River, Va. May 5th, 1862

My Dear Mother;

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge receipt of your letter, which I received this morning. It come with the back mail. It has indeed been some time since I have heard directly from you. But I did not think you had forgotten me. I know the disadvantages you labor under, in reading or writing. When I can hear that you are well, it matters but little how I hear. Language cannot express my thankfulness for the long continuance of your health, and also the health of the family. My chief desire is, that you may all be blessed with life and health.

I have strange and startling news to tell you, that have originated since last night. Yorktown is in our hands. Evacuated early this morning.

Our Regiment disembarked yesterday and marched a short distance toward the theater of action. Encamped three miles in the rear of the federal lines for the night. Early last evening the roar of the artillery began to grow louder and the shots were exchanged thick, and fast all night. Toward morning it seemed that a battle was raging in earnest, The artillery belched forth its deadly missiles with frightful earnestness and rapidity. The infantry was not behind in the work of giving a parting salute to the retreating chivalry.

Volley after volley fell among them (and) tore up the dirt upon their retreating footsteps. We expected to fight there, and many would doubtless have lain their bones upon the peninsular. But the seigh of Yorktown exists only as a thing of the past. They were again out maneuvered, and obliged to to fly or be captured entirely. Monday, doubtless the Yankees would have opened their Artillery upon Yorktown, and a terrible battle would have been fought But that is averted. No fight at Yorktown. The men appear to feel as though they had lost their prey. Norfolk is reported to be in our hands. Richmond will soon be. Virginia will soon be cleansed of her impurity.

We have embarked again and are about to start we know not where. Towards Richmond I expect after the retreating foe. The anticipated pitched battle has turned into a running fight. Nearly all of our Army is in motion today. Some pressing hand on the very heels of the rebels. Others preparing to follow. The army in front of the town moved immediately up as soon as it was known that the enemy were leaving. 9000 prisoners are said to be captured, 4 field Batteries and many seize guns. but the confusion is so great it is impossible to get at the truth at present, But I have said enough about war at this time. Now I want to give Father a word of advice through you. It made me feel sad when I read about how you had to work. Tell him if he ever heard my plea, to hear it now, and immediately procure some one to lighten your burden. I shall be ill at ease untill I hear that you (are) suitably provided for. Let me hear in my next letter that you have a good man to do the work which by no means should come upon you. I cannot think that Father will be so blind even to his own interest as to let you wear your life out in such a way. I know just how you are, and I think I know about how you feel. I can imagine you ascending the hill and waiting at the

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the
foot of steps at the old back door hardly feeling strength enough to accomplish the task of getting into the house. Is it not so often, dear Mother? I cannot feel easy here as long as you are delving (?) at home. And what I have said is no idle talk. I feel it all and much more would I say had I the opportunity. Tell Father all I have written and may he take speedy action upon it.

My health is still as good as need be. And all the boys are well. Lieut Robinson has returned from Maine thereby lightening my burdens a little, which was never very hard. I am glad to hear that Grandfathers family are all well. Tell Uncle William his hired man never will hurt anybody. I was very much dissapointed in him. I cant respect a man that breaks his word with me.

Give my love to Grandmother Sawyer and tell her that she is ever in my thoughts also. Grandfather, and Grandmother Lemont. I am in hopes to send Father a snug little sum if we are soon paid off. My love to him and all the family. Tell Josie to cheer up and get well against I get home. Write as often as you can and dont forget me in your prayers, Good bye.

From your:

affectionate Son

Frank

Mrs. S. R. Lemont