

Transcript of Letter from Frank L. Lemont to J.S. Lemont, June 8, 1862

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Camp 5th Maine Regt. Va. June 8th 1862

My Dear Mother:

It is a quiet sabbath after noon and I seat myself to write a few lines to you. How do you do dear Mother, to day? I hope you are as well as I am for then you would be enjoying the best of health. How have you spent the day? Have you attended church to day? How I longed, when I arose this morning to be at home, that I might again have the privilege of attending meeting. I suppose you have thought of me to day. and perhaps now, at the same time we are thinking of each other. If thought could communicate with thought, I doubt not we should commune with each other much of the time. But it was not so ordained, hence it would not be right and we must submit to a more tardy method of communication. I have but little chance now for complaint on that score. You are all very punctual in writing to me, for which receive my sincere thanks.

I suppose you are daily looking for another great battle in front of Richmond. Two already have have been fought and most sadly have they told upon the rebel cause and now the great and decisive engagement is pending. Ready to burst forth in all its fury at any moment yet for some reasons (good doubtless) the attack is withheld. It is a bubble easily burst, and when once opened, the tide of battle will surge with frightful earnestness and rapidity, and heart sickening will be its results, should it come. And this is the questi on. Will they stand? Will they peril their all, life, friends, home and their hopes of victory, upon a (battle) here. Victorious it would do. But defeated they are used up, lost. Still they persist in holding their ground unless compelled to fall back by force. Along in front of us, they occupy the same positions they held a fortnight (ago), not a mile from our camps. Whenever they get a chance, they shell us though rarely doing any damage.

Our guns always respond promptly and have never failed to silence them at the third or fourth fire. There is no denying the fact that our guns, both small and large are superior to theirs. They are more accurate and of longer range. Since I last wrote home, we have (moved) back two miles or rather down the creek. While the Regt. was passing a point in full view of the enemy, he opened on us with shell. They threw eight, plump in amongst us and for a few moments the buzzing and whirring of a thousand distorted pieces of iron was anything but pleasant. I had command of the rear guard, which moved 40 rounds in the rear of the Regt. One came at us bursting about a rod in front of us as it struck the ground. Luckily it hurt no one. None of the Regt were injured from that shelling. But this will do about war.

I should like to have some of your bread and milk. I dont think I should turn up my nose at it as I used to. I hope you will forgive me for

all the trouble and anxiety I may have caused you in my fault findings.
I have learned better than that now. and when I ret urn to you I hope to be

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able to prove that my lesson has not been learned in vain. I have saved from my earnings during the months of March & April 160.00 which I have forwarded to Father. I hope he will receive it safely, and with advantage to himself. I have saved about \$75.00 a month since I received my Commission. Before that I laid up nothing. The reason Capt. Daggett sent so much more this time than I, was because he sent none the last time we were paid. But I shall have to close and take the Co. to divine services. Perhaps I will write a little more after meeting if I have time.

(no signature)