

Transcript of Letter from Frank L. Lemont to J.S. Lemont, November 2, 1862

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Camp of the 5th Maine Regt. Va. Nov. 2nd. 1862

Dear Mother;

Another opportunity presents itself for me to write you a few lines. But whether you are alive to receive it or not is more than I can tell. I remain as yet perfectly in the dark, having heard nothing from any of you but once. I have talked hard but it does no good and now I am going to write without regard to receiving letters from you. It is astonishing, but I'll not complain, for perhaps your letters are miscarried. I may not soon have another chance to write to you my dear Mother. But I have no desire to alarm you yet I feel constrained to tell you the truth as best I know it. We are now across the Potomac. Started at 5 A.M. this morning and crossed at Berlin six miles below Harpers Ferry and have advanced about four miles into Va. where we are now halted I suppose for the night. It is sabbath day, but you would not think it, so great is the activity now going on. Only fifteen miles away, and directly in our line of march the Rebels and our folks have been disputing for two days the pass known as Sinckers Gap. They are hard at it to day and the reports of heavy guns come about as often as I write a word. The question arises, shall we be led into the fight on the morrow? I know not dear Mother what to morrow will bring forth.

It is very certain that an active campaign has now commenced, and the events of the next fortnight will be fraught with the intensest interest to the Country. If the Rebel Army Stand at or around Winchester, the severest battle of the war must soon take place. If they dont stand, it will be a race for Richmond.

I would, dear Mother, that I could set your mind perfectly at rest concerning myself. But I cannot, and we must wait patiently if possible, for a solution of those mysteries that lie locked up in the future. May the future bring with it the happiness we so earnestly desire. I hope that my life will be spared for your sake. for I want to return to you and prove to you how dutiful I will be, and if I am spared I hope to be an honor to you. Should it not be my fortune to survive the struggles yet to come. I pray you not to think that I fell out of the path of duty. Think that I fell, if fall I must, at my post as become a true soldier and a man. Think not that I say these things dearest Mother, to cause you needless fear or alarm, I would not say them if I thought it not best. May god help you and me to bear up under whatever he may have in store for us.

I do not think I am going to be killed, yet I may be.

I have written to you concerning your affairs as much as I could and cannot tell what advice you stand in need of now. Whenever you let me know what you stand in need of I am only too ready to do all in my power for you in anything.

Nov. 2nd 1862

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I would advise you to have the name of Melinda Lemont recorded with the record of the deed to which it is attached. I have never written to you about sending you any money. I dont know but what you have thought strange of it. The reason has been that I have always forgotten to speak of it. We have not been paid, but expect to be paid about the 15th of Nov. I shall then receive six months pay , and shall forward \$500. 00 or upwards to you. I hope you are not suffering for the want of funds . Oh! that I could hear from you. This anxiety is wearing. My sun of life seems to have gon down ere it had ascended near to the meridian. Mother I long for a kind and cheerful word from you. Why do you withhold your sympathy?' Have I done ought to forfeit my right to your confidence. Oh! I hope not. But it needs a brave heart here, and I will not be a coward. No not for life. But you dont know dear Mother how much it increases my courage to have good loving letters f rom home . You know such things have an effect on me. Did I ever tell you that Aaron saved my Valise, overcoat &c? He did. Fortunate was,nt it? It would gratify me to look in upon you this Sabbath eve. and learn just how you are situated. But if we all are s pared we shall soon be reunited and our joys will al l be sweeter because we shall know better how to appreciate them.

My health continues good. I hope you and the girls are well. Have you moved to L. yet. I wish I could be there to assist you. Dont, I beg of you, tug at large loads, for you are not able. Promise me that you wont? I hope I shall get a letter in the next mail from you. I have rec'd nothing in the last two mails from any source. But I must close, I will try and write very often. Give my love to my dear Sisters and remember me to all my friends, and dont forget to pray for

Your Son

Frank

Mother