

Transcript of Letter from Frank L. Lemont to J.S. Lemont, November 7, 1862

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Camp, 5th Maine Regt . White Plains, Va. Nov. 7th 1862

My Dear Mother;

Your long looked for letter dear Mother has at last arrived, and I assure you that it relieved me of a burden of anxiety. It was in every way as satisfactory to me as I could expect under the circumstances.

I am not unmindful of the care and anxiety which everywhere beset you. I know you are passing through trying scenes. I cant feel fully reconciled to the providence or fate, that imposes upon you such tasks. I know you are not deserving so hard a fate. But this awful network of circumstances has entangled us and I know of no way now. but for us to disentangle ourselves as best we can. Trials will come thick and fast during the next few months, and perhaps years, and meet them we must. Let us meet and overcome them if possible. We can outride the storms of the present and anchor in the smooth waters just ahead. Only have courage. We will yet be a happy family, though we mourn a loss that never never can be made up to us. But I would caution you dear mother not to let your thoughts dwell too constantly upon the trouble that bears so heavily upon us all. We will cherish his memory as the most sacred thing of our lives. But it is not our duty to make it the subject of our every thought.

I am pleased to hear of your prosperity. Not an hour in the day passes that brings not with it a thought of you. I live and act for you, and my anxieties all center upon our little family. I try to realize the responsibilities that devolve upon me the only male member of the family. Oh! that I may act with discretion always. I am not ignorant of my many weaknesses but conscience is ever striving with me urging me to be true to myself and my friends. If you have your health I trust you will meet with no insurmountable barriers in the discharge of your duty. I often ask myself the question, am I bearing my part of the burden put upon us? Sometimes I think I am not. Then I question the resolve that sent me back to the Army. I would give much to know if I did right in leaving you. This question has caused me much anxiety The few words contained in your letter, "I want to see you but I believe it was the best for you to go back and prove yourself a being worthy to be called a man" afforded me more true comfort and happiness than I have felt for many a day. Only let me know that my actions meet your approval and I am content.

The grandest movement of the war is now being vigorously urged forward. Immense Armies are now advancing on Richmond from three different points. Our Army commenced its advance a week ago today. and we have marched from ten to fifteen miles every day since. We are now near Manassas Gap, and I think from appearances that we shall stop here today.

We are having quite a tough snow storm. Have you had any of that yet? I guess we,ve got the start of you on that score. I cant tell when we shall

be paid now that we are on the march. I want to send you some money very much but it is impossible for me to do it now. I hope you will not suffer for the want of it. I think you will not. you need not for I think you have enough at your command. My health is good.

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I think you have got along nicely with your harvesting though I know it has been hard for you both in body and mind. Dont work too hard, while money will hire your work done. Save your strength that you may enjoy life hereafter. Have you sold the horse? I suppose you have not. Perhaps you can better keep him. I am sorry to hear of the illness of Uncle John. I hope he will soon recover.

I want the girls to write to me very often and write all the little things that transpire daily. My love to them and remember me to all.

From your loving Son

Frank

Mother