

Transcript of Letter from Frank L. Lemont to J.S. Lemont, November 23, 1862

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Author: Frank L. Lemont

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Stafford C.H. Va. Nov 23rd 1862

Dear Mother;

Your welcome letter of the 11th came duly to hand relieving me of anxiety as usual. It found me in the enjoyment of almost perfect health, and as light hearted perhaps as it is possible for me to be at this time, and under these circumstances. It seems to me that I have suddenly passed from the dreamy state of boyhood into manhood with all its cares and sorrows. I feel now that I must rely upon myself almost wholly for whatever I have or am, I find that my lot is now cast among the ambitious, the unscrupulous and the wicked. I am daily brought in contact with things uncongenial with my nature and foreign to my principles. But while I continue in the service I must submit to all these little annoyances. But I would not have you think by this that I am unpleasantly situated in the main. I have been told that no Officer in the regiment was better liked by the men under them than myself. Tell this to no one for I wish you only to know it. I have a strange longing to spend the next few days with you. How I wish I could be at home and spend Thanksgiving. But I cannot and I must practice contentment. I wish I had more of it. I'm so impatient at times when I think how slowly I am getting along and how little I am accomplishing for myself and my friends. Ambitious restless fires burn within me destroying my happiness. I often ask myself the question why am I not content? Am I not enjoying a medium degree of success? Have I not accomplished as much as very many of our young men of my age? Then why this restlessness? Why these longings after fame? Will this ambition injure or benefit me? Too little of it makes men drones. Too much leads us astray from the true aim and end of life.

Our corps lays nine miles from Fredericksburg and about three miles from Aquia Creek. By consulting the map you will see just where we are. Our advance arrived here 5 days ago but owing to recent heavy rains we have been delayed at this point. And are likely to stop here some days to come. Then a vigorous onward movement will begin with a view to take Richmond. It will soon come I think. And when it does the north will have their blood thirstiness satiated. It will flow in torrents, but we are all ready and anxious to fight if we must and then go home. It is rumored that the Paymaster will be here tomorrow and pay our Brigade. If he comes I shall soon be able to send you a round little sum. I wish I could have done it before, but I trust you know how it is, and won't think I have forgotten my duty to you. I am glad to hear that you are getting along as well as you are. I realize as much as I can how hard it is for you to discharge the many duties that daily devolve upon you. I expect you put the best side out though I have the fullest confidence in all you write. I feel anxious about Josie's health. Take the best of care of her. She is not destined long to remain with us I fear. If money will purchase anything that will add to her comfort or benefit her in the least don't withhold it. I want her to write me a long letter. I admire

her letters. She is talented in that respect. Aaron is well as ever. We get along just the same as ever. Write often some of you. I hear that Grandfather is failing. I may never see him again. Tell him all about me and give my love to him and Grandmother. Dont worry about me in the least. Give my love to the girls. I want them to write. Remember me to all my friends and accept much love from,

Your son

Frank

Mrs. J. S. Lemont