

Camp 159th Regt. N.Y.S. Vols.
Thibodaux, La., Sept. 24th 1863

Dear Father,

Your letters of the 5th & 12th insts. are at hand and I was very glad to hear from you for from your long silence I was fearful that you were ill.

It is glorious news for us to hear of the successes of our Genls. All eyes in this Department are anxiously turned towards Charleston and all true Unionists are praying for the success of our arms at that place. There is a large Expedition starting from here the object of which is the subjugation of Texas. I understand that our regiment is to be left behind. It is reported that Edward [Leslie Molineux] has volunteered to be Aide to Maj. Genl. [William B.] Franklin. How true this is I cannot say, for I heard it from very good authority, but there are so many rumors flying around that one cannot believe any thing he hears unless it is from Head Quarters.

You advise me in your last letter not to resign for a small money matter. My resignation has gone in, but it will be rejected. It is not for the money that I sent it in, but for the gross injustice shown by the orders from Hd. Qurs. Here I have worked and been wounded as an Officer and yet they refuse to recognize me as such for a space of nearly five months. I have been obliged to support myself for eight months without a cent of pay and am now in debt to the amount of Four hundred dollars or more. This may seem to you a large amount, but when you consider that I have to purchase clothes, which have cost double what they do home and feed myself also with provisions at the high rate at which they are sold here (Ham 23¢, a half loaf of bread 25¢, &c) you will not wonder that I am so deeply in debt, especially as this amount covers a space of 8 months. How long it will be before I am paid, I cannot say. I hope it will be soon, but when I am paid I will only receive \$300 with which I must pay my debts & struggle on. Ask Edward [Leslie Molineux] if justice is shown in this Department & he will tell you, no!! He has suffered from it, but being a Colonel has had it righted in a measure. Here are also Officers court martialed and without a chance to defend themselves, Witnesses being denied them they are found guilty. Is this justice? Many instances could I tell you, but they are unnecessary. Can you blame me if I resign? When I enlisted it was from purely patriotic motives, as you know, but since being in the Army I have seen so much swindling and cheating going on unpunished, so much partiality shown that I am utterly disgusted, not with my country, but with those who have the power.

Edward is at present in New Orleans arranging matters, I presume, for his expected trip to Texas. If he goes, God grant his return in safety. I am only sorry that he is in a Department where his services are so little likely to be recognized. Had he been on the Potomac, I do not in the least doubt that his shoulder would have been graced with a star, but here he will work long ere he gains it.

I am glad to hear that Nettie and the baby are getting well and that all the rest are enjoying good health. I have enjoyed good health for the past few weeks, having felt none of the feverish symptoms for some time. I hope I have entirely recovered from it. Harry [Tiemann] is enjoying very good health.

You say you do not like our photographs. I thought Harry's an excellent one and so thought all who saw it. Mine I was told was a very good one, for a full face. I shall take your advice next time I have any taken, which I hope will be in a few days. I wish

you would send me yours and the rest of the folks. Send all you can get as I want to see how the folks look.

I wish you would send me a paper on the morning that each steamer sails as it is difficult to get late news. I should also like you to send me Harpers' Weekly, as such a paper is very acceptable in camp. Postage Stamps also, I should like a few of.

Give my love to Grand mother, Nettie and all the children, with much for yourself.

I remain your
Affectionate Son
Frank

Direct
1st Brigade 4th Division
New Orleans & Elsewhere