

Camp 159th Regt. N.Y.S. Vols.
Thibodaux, La., Oct. 21st 1863

Dear Father,

Since writing my last I have received two letters from you, which I was unable to answer at the time of receiving them, as I was in New Orleans working at my muster, which, thanks to Gen'l. [Henry W.] Birge, I have at last got all straight & have rec'd my pay to June 10th, hardly enough however to pay my debts & I still owe about one hundred dollars which I hope to pay next pay day. I hope to be able to send some money home before long.

There is no news at all in our Department from the front. Our advance is steadily progressing into the enemy's country. It may be some time before they have an engagement, but that their progress will be disputed is undoubted.

We are all rejoiced to hear that [Gen. William Starke] Rosecrans is so strongly fortified as to fear not attack from [General Braxton] Bragg. I hope the next engagement they have Rosecrans will give Bragg such a thrashing he will never get over it.

Harry [Tiemann] has not been well for some time past. He is suffering from headache which last two or three days at a time. I hope he will entirely recover before long.

I enclose you some Photographs which I had taken last time I was in New Orleans. I hope you will like them better than the last I sent home. I wish you would send me photographs of all the folks, as I suppose they must be altered somewhat from what they were. The "Harpers Weekly" came safely to hand. I am much obliged to you for sending it, as it helps kill time wonderfully.

We are fixing our camp up in preparation for cold weather. We may stay here all winter although this is difficult to say. Gen'l. [Henry W.] Birge has at last received his appointment from the President as Brigadier. This pleases all his friends of whom he has quite a number in this Department as well as at home. He may be sent in the field, in which case I suppose, Edward [Leslie Molineux] would command the Brigade.

Last time I heard from Edward (through letters to our Lieut. Col.) he was quite as well as usual. I have not heard from him directly since he has been away. I intend writing to him tomorrow or next day.

I am sorry I have nothing more to write about but there is no news at all at present. I should not wonder if you should see Joe Stephenson home before long as I understand his regiment's time is up. I saw him while I was in New Orleans. He is looking very well indeed.

Tell Nettie I will write the latter part of this week. Give her my love, as also to the rest of the folks,

Hoping soon to hear from you,
I remain
Your affectionate Son
Frank

J.W. Tiemann
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