

Camp 159th Regt. N.Y.S. Vols.
Thibodaux, La. Oct. 26th 1863

Dear Father,

I understand that Harry received a letter from you yesterday. I have not yet seen it, but hope to today.

I am enjoying very good health & am growing quite stout. I am troubled once in a while with catarrh [catarrh] in the head, which annoys as long as it lasts. Harry [Tiemann] is biliously inclined & has been quite unwell several times lately.

It is a very dull day, the rain is pouring down outside & consequently every one keeps in their tents. We have had some pretty severe weather lately & in consequence have been building fire places in our tents to keep us warm. Our fire place is quite an ingenious one & well worthy of a description. We dug a hole about 8 feet long by 3 wide & 4 deep which we built up with bricks to within a foot of the top, making a furnace in this shape –

AB is the furnace itself. A is the place where we feed the fire & C is the pipe which leads out to a larger pipe which carries off the smoke. B is covered over with a thick iron slab. The door way between A & B is stopped with a piece of sheet iron. The bricks then come even with the floor & we lay iron bars across the space above B. Above A is the floor which we lift out when we want to make a fire. We get from this so much heat that we have to open our tent wide & even then it is almost too warm. The idea was taken from the 13th Conn. where they got it I do not know.

There is no news here of any importance. It is rumored in N.O. [New Orleans] that [Gen. William Starke] Rosecrans has defeated [Gen. Braxton] Bragg terribly. The news comes thru rebel sources & is doubtful. Our army has had no fight as yet. They are still moving on. I have not heard from Edward [Leslie Molineux] in some time. I expect to write to him today.

I wrote to you a few days ago enclosing some Carte de Visites. I hope they arrive safely. If you do not receive them write & let me know.

Joe's [Stephenson] regiment is in receipt of some 600 conscripts, so it is doubtful whether he will return north or not. I have not heard from him since I saw him in New Orleans about two weeks ago. He was doing well when I saw him.

Give my love to all the folks at home with plenty for yourself.

I remain Your Affectionate Son
Frank