

Headqrs. 159th Regt. NYS Vols
Baton Rouge La. Feb. 23d/63

Dear Father,

Again I take my pen to drop you a few lines as I feel in pretty good humour for writing.

Yesterday was, as you know, the anniversary of the birth of the "Father of his Country," but the day being Sunday and the men being entitled to that day any way, today was also given them. I was on guard yesterday and as I got no sleep last night, of course I did not enjoy my holiday much. In the morning we had the usual regimental inspection. At noon a salute of 32 guns was fired by two of the land batteries and from one of the gun boats. At 2 o'clock P.M. the regiments composing our brigade were marched to Brigade Headquarters where an address was delivered by one of the Chaplains. The men were very much pleased with the whole affair, especially when they learned they were to have next day for holiday.

Today we expected to have quite a grand time, as our neighbors the 25th Conn vols. challenged us to a game of base ball, which was accepted. All the preparations were made for the match, the men were selected and the officers of the 25th came over to see if we were ready, but about an hour afterward Lt. Col. [Gilbert A.] Draper told us that the 25th had withdrawn their challenge.

A match was made up among ourselves, for we were bound to have some fun any way. Lt. Col. Draper took our side and played for himself. Edward [Leslie Molineux] had the other side, but one of our Lieuts. played for him. After an exciting match of about four hours, Edward's side came off victorious. The day passed off quietly and peaceably, and the men appeared satisfied with the way their holiday had passed.

A flag of truce boat went up the river today with some 350 rebel prisoners on board. There is one expected from Port Hudson with some of our men tomorrow.

There is not much show for a move from here for some time to come. There are about a half dozen gun & mortar boats in the river, but I hear they have been ordered back to New Orleans.

I enclose you a sample of the currency still in vogue, although green backs are plenty.

Hoping this finds all well

I remain

Your Affectionate Son

Frank

Harry [Tiemann] sends his love & regards.