

Simmesport, May 20th 1863

Dear Father,

Your letter of 25th Apl. is to hand today. I do not know how it is but you do not receive all my letters. While we are marching it is impossible to write regularly, but I write at every opportunity.

Since my last we have again been marching. On the 9th we were marched to within 12 miles of Alexandria. We went into camp on the plantation of the only union man between Brashear City & Alexandria. On the 14th we were marched off again. This time we did not march as fast as when we first started. We traveled about 15 miles a day and arrived at this place on Sunday, the 17th. We are now making rapid preparations for a march of 15 days. Vicksburg is named as our destination. There is nothing of interest occurring here. It is warm enough to keep in the shade all the time, and makes one feel exceedingly lazy.

At Simmesport we managed to get a rebel mail. I enclose you a couple of letters. One will interest Nettie as it is written by a slave woman to her son. I also enclose a paper & some stamps for Neddy & Leila.

The weather still continues fine. We have but little rain, but when it does come it generally soaks us through.

I suppose Edward [Leslie Molineux] is home by this time. I enclose a letter for him, which please give him at the first opportunity. Now that he has gone away the officers all want him back. All unite in saying what a noble fellow he is, or to use our term, "a perfect brick."

Will Tackaberry's old reg't. the 90th is here. They came up to take the place of the 6th. Billy Wilson's reg't. who have gone home, their time being out.

I do not see much of Harry [Tiemann] now as he is busy at Hd.qrts. He is perfectly well & enjoys himself as usual.

I am sorry to hear through N.O. [New Orleans] papers that [General Joseph] Hooker has been driven back across the Rappahannock. I hope this is not true. We look anxiously for news in regard to his movements. It is reported that Stonewall Jackson is dead from wounds rec'd. at the battle of Chancellorsville, which from all accounts must have been a terrific affair.

I hope soon to receive a mail with ½ dozen letters for me, but we only get a mail about once a month now as there is no regular communication between our advance & N.O.

I will try & write at every opportunity. No more at present. I remain

Your affectionate son,
Frank