

Camp 159<sup>th</sup> Regt. N.Y.S. Vols.  
Thibodaux La. Jan'y 31<sup>st</sup> 64

Dear Father,

I am in receipt of quite a bunch of letters from you dated Jan'y 2d 9<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> which I received a few days ago.

I am glad to hear of Harry's safe arrival, & hope he will settle down to business & make money. It seems pretty lonely here to me, now that he is away, as I used to see him once in a while, which was something.

I have not seen or heard any thing of the meats, although I send to N.O. every two or three days to enquire about them. It would be as well to call at the Express office in N.Y. & see if they have been forwarded yet. They were shipped Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 63.

I expect we will leave this place about the last of February. Genl. Grover has command for a force which is stationed at Madisonville on the other side of Lake Pontchartrain, & we will probably join him. I think we are going to attack Mobile before long, although this is not sure. The 13<sup>th</sup> Conn. have all reenlisted & expect to go home on furlough shortly. This will leave us all alone here, for a time.

The inhabitants of this place are gradually becoming more confident & are now fixing up their houses & gardens, which for the last three years have been going to waste. The place is gradually assuming an appearance of life which fairly astonishes me. When we first came here you could not see more than twenty or thirty inhabitants. Now there must be at least a thousand. To be sure they are all pretty much secesh, but it shows that their confidence is returning, & they do not treat us, as they did when we first came. This is owing I think to the strict regulations & discipline which are enforced with the soldiers, who are not allowed outside the camp without a pass. This keeps them in bounds, & any complaint made by the citizens is immediately investigated & the offender punished. I have become acquainted with a number of the residents & am well received wherever I go. The name of Tiemann seems to be pretty well known down south, in connection with uncle Daniel's administration.

I hope uncle Daniel gets my muster fixed all straight as my pay is stopped to the amount of about \$600. I have taken the liberty of drawing on you for \$20 payable to the order of Jno. W. Shields. I have ordered to be paid to you on my account by a friend of mine who owes it to me the sum of \$100. which he will do as soon as his accounts are straight in Washington where they have gone for examination.

Edward says he wrote to you a few days ago & sends his regards.

Give my love to all at home & tell them I will write at first opportunity.

I remain your  
Affectionate Son  
Frank.