

THE SERGEANT JEROME PEIRCE COLLECTION

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WRITTEN BY	Jerome
WRITTEN TO	Allie
WRITTEN AT	Probably Memphis, Tenn.
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ENVELOPE



LETTER TRANSCRIPTION

Sabbath morning 9th August [Corrected from July by Transcriber] 1863

"No news but good news" my dearest wife

But it's a lovely morning and altho crowded close, we've made a shade with our tents cloths and I've room to sit on my knapsack and so prepare another 'word' for you.

Arrived at Memphis Tenn. yesterday at 10 o'clk A.M. where my first letter was mailed. Went on shore at the old place when I wrote you when Ben sent his letter where we remained four or five hours which was passed in bathing, cooking, etc. Had a fine late dinner of beans and I boiled some juices of ham. We've plenty to eat now!

Well, Allie, I continue to feel finely and amuse myself reading and thinking of some quiet camp where we can recruit up once more and finally of one day seeing home.

Oh, I forgot to mention that your letter of the 3rd July met me [at] M. [Memphis] with the pictures of Maria and Nellie P. I am ever so much obliged and will write them as soon as I can. It was very kind in them to remember me so. Maria looks changed of course but it is still our friend "Maria" and Nellie looks a little sober but very acceptable.

Ah, how much I wish we could all meet the Pruitt family, with Albert and Maria I mean, and chat over old times. For there's something very pleasant as I look back upon it for all we did not quite "see" everything as now. I have a deep and abiding regard for the P's [Pruitts] for I know they were my true friends.

Will, it seems, is in Worcester. Good fortune altered him and his. He's chosen a pleasant spot to locate. Shall write him soon.

You spoke of Lieut. Ward's death by his surgery. I don't know who you mean. Was it not Howe?

Did you ever hear that young Baker [is] mentioned? It is said he was killed at Antietam. I never could hear anything definite about him. He mustered men at Worcester for the 15th and went with them, joined that Reg't and so fell so we heard. Col. Joslyn would know. We heard he, J. [Joslyn], was wounded again, but since contradicted. Col. Ward being killed. I suppose Joslyn is Col.

Are you having a quiet pleasant Sabbath at home with darling Lulu?

What a different scene here. Deck full of men reading, sewing and other things. Not Sabbath like, while the deck bell has just [announced] "stop sounding" (as they've been "heaving the lead") and we're running close to the shore. Could throw a cracker on land.

Read the 2nd and 3rd Epistle St. John and a Psalm early this morning. How many short verses that would [be] for brief messages home! For instance, 5th verse 2nd Epistle "And now I beseech thee Lady" and how glad when I can write you the 12th verse of the same.

P.M. Was interrupted and have been to see Ben and chat awhile. Always has a kindly message for you. Is very well.

Have some papers I will mail with this which are interesting showing the Rebel view of affairs.

You speak of my remembering the Orange boys. I do and are more or less with them every day. All are well but Harrison Goddard and Hiram Woodward. I think the change of climate is what is wanted more than anything else. It is very warm today with a gentle breeze to offset the effect of the steam heat.

I still have the books and shall try and send them home from Cairo or Kentucky. Did not have time to send by Col. Norton who is at home by this time.

Col. (Ex) Bowman is on board. One man died today of our Regt., Co. G I believe. Sick were not left at M. [Memphis].

By the way, two of your letters, 8th and 9th, are behind somewhere. No doubt will turn up after awhile. Shall enclose to Frank by this [letter] so you can exchange. I desire to know of Joe's movements and how father is to get along. I suppose Uncle Munik can assist them. And how is Aunt Pamela too? Does Lulu go to see her often? Remember me to them. Wish I could take a lounge in the armchair and enjoy the shade and quiet for awhile.

But I must close. Hope you receive all my scrawls. Love to all.

Why don't Polly write? Shall make inquiries sometime if she neglects me too much.

Love abundantly to all and to yourself first.

From your own.

Jerome

Direct [letters] to Cincinnati, Ohio again.

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTES

NOTE 1: July 9th in 1863 fell on a Thursday instead of on a Sunday (Sabbath). However, that date did fall on a Sunday in August of that year. Based on that fact and based on a review of the contents of the letters Jerome wrote just prior to and after this letter, there is no doubt that Jerome made a mistake

regarding the month when he wrote this letter. In other words, he wrote it on August 9, 1863, instead of on July 9, 1863.

NOTE 2: "Heaving the lead" is a nautical term for when depths are measured with a lead and a line. <https://classicsailor.com/2018/04/heaving-the-lead-2/>

NOTE 3: The Epistles of Saint John are three of seven universal letters written to the overall church rather than specific communities. The reference to lady refers to a specific community. The Epistles are in addition to the Gospel of John. The fifth verse of the 2nd Epistle is "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as writing a new commandment to thee, but that which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another." The twelve verse of the 2nd Epistle is "Having more things to write unto you, I would not by paper and ink: for I hope that I shall be with you, and speak face to face: that your joy may be full." <http://biblescripture.net/2John.html>

NOTE 4: According to the Unit History, Lieutenant Howe died on July 7, 1863, of smallpox contracted at a hospital.

NOTE 5: The "Ben" referred to in this letter was Benjamin B. Edmands. He enlisted as a Private at age 27 from Brookline, Massachusetts, and he was subsequently promoted to Corporal. On January 20, 1864, he was discharged from the 36th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment for promotion as a Lieutenant in the 54th Massachusetts Regiment of Volunteers.