

THE SERGEANT JEROME PEIRCE COLLECTION

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WRITTEN BY	Jerome
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ENVELOPE



LETTER TRANSCRIPTION

Thurs 18 Dec 1862

My dear ones,

Have just returned from Regimental Inspection, and tho' have nothing in particular to say, thought I would send a line.

You have spoken in some of letters if my getting my *picture taken* and send [sic] home. I have had no opportunity. I seldome [sic] leave camp, to go where an Artist was. you have to have some [sic: so] many *passes*, signed by two or three officers. I understood there was an Artist some mile, or more from here, awhile ago. did not know it at the time. I have not altered much[,] if any, from last winter, and I am *not ambitious* to be taken in regimentals, and the pictures you have are much pleasanter to see probably, so for the present you must rest Content. It is hard work to get away from camp, and we are very busy most of the time.

We are still in Camp, and settled down as ever. Cold weather somewhat. Our attempt at the battle over the river was a *bad failure* as far as I can learn, and a terrible, and foolish sacrifice of life, and

I know not what will turn up next. it may send us into *winter quarters*[.] The Rebels, are very strongly *entrenched*, and I think *hard customers* to deal with.

There was but little bombardment before they ordered the charge, and their double row of forts enabled them to shell out, as fast as captured, so carrying them by storm was impossible. It is hard betting[?] what the next move will be. not very cheering to our troops. Such are the impressions we get here.

The City is a ruin and in the hands of the enemy again.

This is a sad record, but truth I think, will show it a fact. It seems you have met Mr & Mrs Emerson. I wrote Lucy a few days since. Hope you will visit the[m]. Hope Mrs. E will write me soon. Should like to be at home to look about among the friends, seeing we have turned the *first leaf*, of this *glorious Campaign*! Has the *money* reached you safely? I have sent in all \$8.00, 3. at one time, and 5. at another, the last while at F, the proceeds of *my watch*.

Fri Eve. Was interrupted yesterday to get "rations" and have been busy ever since. Today the regiment are on Picket. I did not go, and I must tell you what I have been doing. Left to myself, with spade & *axe*, have been hard at work building a *chimney* to my tent-! So here I set by candle light, with a *little fire* in the fireplace. 'Tis not quite finished and of Course don't work very brisk, but it will soon. Have thought much of you today. 'Tis still enough when the boys are away. Should have a *mail* [meal?] if they were *in*, but shall not have it till they return. How do you all do? I trust your mind is relieved by this time, about the battle. all has been still since we crossed the river. Have no idea of the future. It may keep us here all winter, but I hardly think it will. Alonzo R is Commissioned First Leut. and is appointed *Adjutant*. made his first appearance yesterday in Inspection. he will make a fine officer in time. it is quite an elevation. Has a tent to himself near the Col, extra pay & allowances &c

Jos H. is away with the rest, so I am quite to myself. my fire burns nicely and don't smoke. We build these chimneys of *turf*. my fireplace is about 3 1/2 ft wide, and 2 deep, narrowing to the back some, like the old fashioned, fireplace. Hardwood sticks for the front frame, &c[.] We have to go some ways for wood. You would be surprised to see the clearing we've made in the woods here, and more still to see we *back* the heavy sticks about *half a mile*. Such is Army life. I shall not regret it[s] close. Rec^d the "*Ploughman*" and some *letter paper*. thanks for the same. have had one "formal" also. Got some sermons from Kate, the other day, so I am full of reading—also the Christian Freeman, and a short letter from Caleb Mayo. My eyes ache some and must bid you "good night." My darling Lulu—a kiss for her. did she get my letter? How my heart yearns to you all, but we must still be hopeful and patient. Will close tomorrow.

Sat Eve 20th

Have been very busy since my last *note*, Fixing up our tent, which will be quite Comfortable. Got quite a mail by waiting. Yours of the 14th Sunday. It done me much good. You must not think I sold my *watch* from anything you wrote. I felt that I Could not carry it these times, when I Could procure so much that was more needful. It was considerable trouble to take care of it, so I made the most of a good opportunity, and still farther, I did not know what might happen to me, when it might get lost and do no one any good. So dismiss at once, any other[?] thought, for I think only of *you[r]s* and *Lulu's good* in all *my moves*, and exercise the utmost Care for myself accordingly.

My eyes are troubling me, caused by the fires, so I must be brief in closing. Had a nice letter from Mr & Hortense Johnson, with yours. they have a "big" time dedicating the Hall Christmas &c.

You need not be in haste about Lulu's picture, altho' I should like it much. Mary had quite an *adventure*, but I'll risk her, most anywhere. Should like a chat with her, but my eyes are to[o] troublesome tonight.

Of our moves in future I cannot speak. rumor says we are going into Winter Quarters. I am inclined to think so. We feel that there will be a *pause* and I hope a *peace*. There ought to be judging of the doings over the river the other day! Lulu must accept a kiss instead of a *letter* this time. Love to all, and Good night[.] may heaven keep you for your loving

Husband Jerome