

THE SERGEANT JEROME PEIRCE COLLECTION

LETTER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	42
DATE OF LETTER	Dec. 2, 1862
WRITTEN BY	Jerome
WRITTEN TO	Abbie
WRITTEN AT	Camp near Fredericksburg, Va.
NUMBER OF PAGES	4
TRANSCRIBER	Donald Pfanz
TRANSCRIPTION DATE	June - July 2018

ENVELOPE



LETTER TRANSCRIPTION

Camp near Fred[e]ricksburg Va
Tues morn 2^d Dec/62

My dear Sister Abbie,

It is now more than *two weeks* since I have written you, and Sat Eve. came a mail which had been detained and brought several back letters, and yours of the 11th Nov. Did you think it was my birth-day? My thoughts are so much with my dear friends, at home, that it takes *real duties*, sometimes, to realize the present, and serves to lighten and cheer up the realities of the present. I have obtained a look at some home papers lately and see they c[h]ronicle the movements hereabouts but still our Corps and Reg are seldome [sic] mentioned. We have done some laborious marching since the middle of Nov. It will be a fortnight tomorrow, since our arrival here, where we were miserably accommod[a]ted at first for a Camp, but a few days since we changed, and now are pleasantly fixed "among the pines," on elevated ground, and a view through the woods to the river and Rebel city of F. Batteries are erected on both *sides*, and gunboats are said to be in the river, and still all is silence, and apparently inactive, but

I think *only apparently*, for we are singularly favored in the weather, and I don't think it is passing unimproved.

But the great event is the change of *Commanders*. Burnside is at the head. It is well. I think I saw for the first time, *last Eve* Gen Halleck's statement, in regard to the *supplies* for the army and so forth. As far as the 36th were Concerned, we were all able to move from *Pleasant Valley* long before we did. some were in need of shoes it is true, but it was only till we crossed the River on that fearful *stormy Sunday*, when we were wet, and cold, that we saw any *ragged men* to speak of, which was caused by the[ir] carelessness, for many burnt their *clothing at the fires*, after that wet time. Many men are *needlessly* deprived by this one thing.

I have always been an admirer of Gen McC. but I find the N.Y. *Evening Post* and the *solid* press of the Country approve of the change, and I am an unqualified supporter, and admirer of the *President*, and fully believe there was need of the change. To see Gen B. is to feel more *confident, and brave*, and the other day, at a review saw Gen *Sumner*, another man in whom you feel safe, a silver grey head and beard, and keen eyes, and he gave us a handsome salute as he passed. I think everyone should sustain the Government, and not endeavor to distract by party spirit. But I have no fears Old Mass has *spoken out*, and I have no doubt the loyal element will prevail in spite of the discontents of New York and other states. Have had a treat in reading lately the *Registers*, N.Y. Eve. Post[,] "*Journal*[" (Boston) and am glad they speak as they do. The health here is generally good altho' Co B has lost three men of late, from Dysentary [sic]. the last one was buried last Eve.

My own health is excellent, and I trust I am duly thankful.

I thank the Dr for his advice on eating raw *Pork*. I have eat[en] but little and shall Cook it in future[.]

We are living very well at present as the supplies come readily by rail. I suppose you were at home Thanksgiving. How my *heart* yearned to be at the loved *spot* once more, and how I long for the mail that gives account of the meeting! We had services last Sabbath, for the occasion. Our Chaplain, also one from the Penn^a Reg [preached], the first on the *Times* and the *encouraging* aspect of things and the other on the *sins* of the nation and Camp. But I always fall back on the memory of *sabbaths* at home, your letters, and mention of your sabbaths, for *real food*, and in quiet moments (and they are few) with more *refreshment* to the tired spirit, than all I hear of services here, tho' I always attend.

And then the *Register*. I take so much comfort with that. many, many thanks to whom I owe it.

Do you find any time for reading anything but *news* and the papers? If you do, remind me of it, for you Can't tell how much I cling to the memory of past *reading*. Does it seem strange to you? I often think of Cha[r]les Lamb's *Letters*, &c[,] Wordsworth, and grand old Shakespeare, and *his pictures of war*, so has he lived in all relations of "life[" (I have sent for "*Henry Fourth*,"") and the Calm sweet instructions of *Scripture*. how different I look upon them! especially the *Psalms*. I often open by accident, to see what 'twill be, and on Sunday I opened to the 60^{eth} and on board the *Steamer* once off Hampton Roads, opened to the 3^d and so on. (Will close by and by, am interrupted[.]) A little later =

We have commenced our drills again so that time these short days is precious and our *candles*, we Cannot get regularly, and I am Compelled to hurry *writing* and I trust you will make great allowances, and correct where you can, for Allie tells [me] you are copying my letters into a book. I presume I forget to answer questions, or mention many things. I hope to write fri[e]nd *Mary* and the *Smith's* (A.O.) soon. If a mail arrives before tomorrow I may add a line. Wrote to Allie and sister Kate on Sunday[.] Can you tell me of *Edw^d Bloud[?]*, who went to war. was in the 13th Reg I believe. Remember me to each & all of the f[r]iends, the Dr's family not forgotten.

As ever your loving
Bro Jerome

[Marginal notes]

[Page 1] Thank you for the Stamps. *Dont send* them as I can obtain them.
The place of our encampment is called *Falmouth*.
A little sprig from my *bed*, my feathers.

[Pages 2-3] Please tell me how *Allie seemed*, and I do hope she will keep up well.
and the various new publications. How I should love to see them. tell me all you can of new books &c. I
wish some of the lady friends would write me, and not wait for me--Miss S Waldo, or Miss Walker. It
would be *appreciated*[.] And for Mr or Dr Ellis, What Could I say to him? Always remember me to him.
Is there a *Reading club* this winter?

[Page 4] P.S. Saw some account, & Extracts from the Life & letters of *Irving* in the *Eve Post* (N.Y.) Have
you seen the book? It must be a *treat*.