

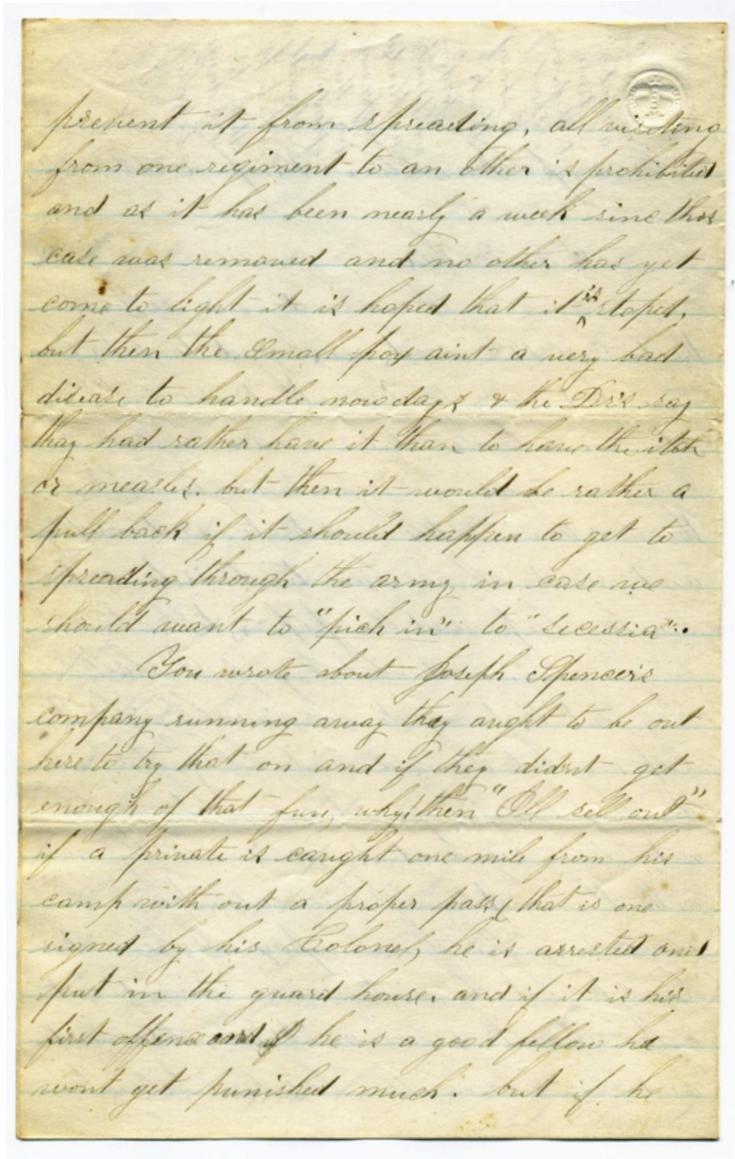
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 MMN #34153
 Date: Jan. 28, 1862
 Description: John French letter to his brother

I suppose the young
 folks
 are having
 a good
 time to the dancing
 school
 I should
 think
 Jordan
 would make
 a splendid
 appearance
 on the
 floor. I
 should
 like to be
 there to
 one dance
 by golly

Camp Franklin Va Jan. 28 1862

Dear Brother,

I received your letter of the 12th & 19th, and, was glad to hear from you but sorry to hear that Lois is still in a feeble state. I am well, but have no news of importance to write, the weather is still morderate, and muddy, and, about all we have to do is to eat, smoke, sleep, read the papers, tell stories, sing songs, and — but I guess I shall make out that we do considerable if I keep on, but then, it "aint likely that we do all of these things at once oh! no of course not. Our regiment is quite healthy now with the exception of one case; there is one case of the small pox broke out in Co E but the victim was removed out of the regiment as soon as it was discovered and every precaution has been taken to



prevent it from spreading, all visiting
from one regiment to an other is prohibited
and as it has been nearly a week since this
case was removed and no other has yet

is
come to light it is hoped that it ^ stoped,
but then the small pox aint a very bad
disease to handle now days & the Dr's say
they had rather have it than to have the itch
or measles. but then it would be rather a
pull back if it should happen to get to
spreading through the army in case we
should want to "pick in" to "secession."

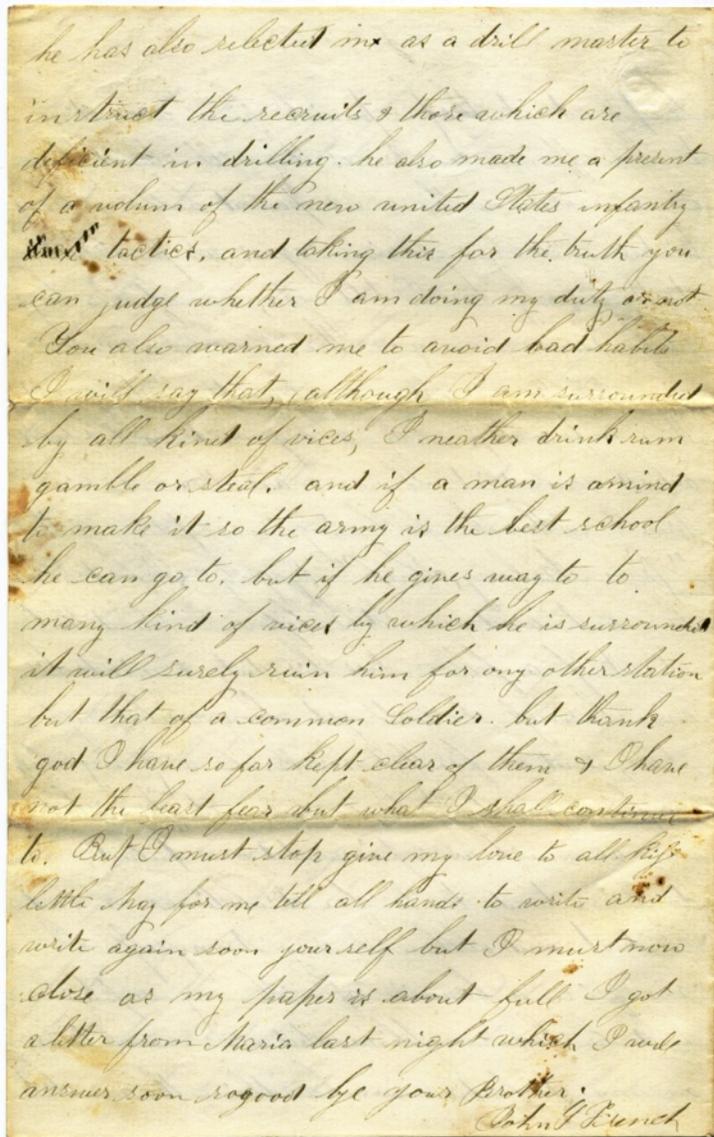
You wrote about Joseph Spencer's
company running away they ought to be out
here to try that on and if they didnt get
enough of that fun, why! then "I'll sell out"
if a private is caught one mile from his
camp with out a proper pass, that is one
signed by his Colonel, he is arrested and
put in the guard house, and if it is his
first offense and if he is a good fellow he
wont get punished much. but if he

keeps at it that punish him according
to his offences. Sometimes they will stand him
in a barrel with a 32 pound ball suspended
to his neck by a chain. rogues are punished
pretty severely here I tell you, one of our boys
stole some money & the Colonel made
him walk over the encampment under guard
three or four days with a big card on his back
which covered it all over & an other one his
breast with the following inscription on them
"Jim Malony, Thief." "by golly" I had rather
be shot and would be before I stand that.
But if a fellow does his duty & minds his
own business he will get along well enough
here, and as for that matter he will anywhere
as for my self I have never yet ^{been} punished or
even as much as reprimanded or rebuked, nor
do I intend to be for disobedience or bad
conduct. and althou I say it myself I
am quite a favorite of with my captain
and he has complimented me several times
on my perfection in handling the musket

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he has also selected me as a drill master to
instruct the recruits & those which are
deficient in drilling. he also made me a present
of a volum of the new united States infantry
tactics, and taking this for the truth you
can judge whether I am doing my duty or not
You also warned me to avoid bad habits
I will say that, although I am surrounded
by all kind of vices, I neather drink rum
gamble or steal. and if a man is amind
to make it so the army is the best school
he can go to. but if he gives way to
many kind of vices by which he is surrounded
it will surely ruin him for any other station
but that of a common Soldier. but thank
god I have so far kept clear of them & I have
not the least fear but what I shall continue
to. But I must stop give my love to all kiss
little May for me till all hands to write and
write again soon yourself but I must now
close as my paper is about full I got
a letter from Maria last night which I will
answer soon so good bye your Brother
John S French

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