



Washington DC July 6 1861

Dear Brother,

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know how I get along in this new county. I am well and feel good we don't have much to do yet in the line of fighting but hope we shall soon if we are ever going to[,] the fourth passed of the same as every other day and had nothing extra but we have pretty good times every day a good many of our regiment are sick but nothing dangerous the change of climate & water has affected them some. Congress met on the fourth & they had quite a time in the City, yesterday we got the Presidents message. he recomends the raising of men enough to make four hundred thousands men & cleaning the d—n rebels out but I suppose you get all of that news as soon as I do. the second Maine regiment left here wensday night & moved over into Virginia about eight miles from here & the 3rd is going to day I was over in to the 4th reg the other day & see Silas Perkins he was glad to see me & told me that Eben Whitcomb was in the reg & was Captain of the Searsport Co. I did not see him for he was not there but I am going over again

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Fifth Maine Regiment Museum
MMN #34136
Date: July 6, 1861
Description: John French letter to brother

the news is that a battle took place over in Virginia & the Fedral troops
took between 200 & 300 prisoners. I haven't got any news to write
because I don't hear much & we have to get a few days
papers but you probly get more than I do I want you to write to
me & tell me how you spent the 4th I suppose you had about the
same old good time that you always have. We have got a brass band
in our regiment composed of 24 pieces & they all say it is the
best band in the county. I see Abe Lincoln last night he
passed by here in his caridge he is a good looking man not half
so homly as he is represented to be. The nigers are thick as flies around
here & that makes me think of our journey here we passed by slave
plantations where they was at work & they looked about as I supposed
they would: they would all swing their hats at us as we passed
we saw one secession flag at Havre de grace it was some ways
off from the road if it had not been we should tore it down I
guess we had a bully good time on the road in New York we
had a good time every body said we was the best regiment
that had come from Maine & out here they think the Maine boys
are the largest & the rugedest men in the army since I began to
write this & the 3rd regiment has gone by on its way to Virginia
& it rains like the Devil Silas Perkins is here & one of the Mass
boys & we are having a good time singing & blackguarding
I have just heard that the second regiment has had a
brush they lost 40 men but they hemed in 4000 rebels &
kept them until reenforcement come up & helpt them
& what the result will be I have not heard yet. But
guess the rebels will get hell enough anyhow I don't think
of anything more at present I want you to write me
all the news I will send you some paper if I can get
any worth it no more this time good G[od] Direct
your letters to Washington D.C. Fifth Regiment Maine
Co. E.

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J S French