

L É O N H A R M E L

**Letters from Léon Harmel and the
firm of Harmel frères to Louis and
Eugène Vuilliot (April-May 1867)**

Lettres autographes, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Manuscrits, NAF
24228 et NAF 24234

1867

THIS EDITION

This is an English translation of the original French text, made for the website leonharmel.com in 2026. It follows the original sentence by sentence, without cuts or additions.

The original collection brings together the letters of Léon Harmel and of the firm of Harmel frères to Louis Veuillot, to Eugène Veuillot and to the manager of *l'Univers* held at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (April-May 1867), translated here in full from their first publication. It has been typeset in the spirit of the original; the illustrations have been cut out of the digitised document and restored.

Léon Harmel, le Bon Père du Val-des-Bois

leonharmel.com

Translated from the transcription of the copies digitised by the Bibliothèque nationale de France (gallica.bnf.fr). Source gallica.bnf.fr / BnF.

Original documents: <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b10074065x> ;

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b10073856n>

Version of 4 October 2026.

Val-des-Bois, 8 April 1867, to Louis Veillot

Letter signed by Léon Harmel. BnF, NAF 24228, f. 605.



*En-tête imprimé du papier à
lettres de la maison Harmel
frères (lettre du 2 mai
1867).*

Val des-Bois[?] 8 April 1867.

Sir,

My brother Ernest was very happy with the meeting he had with you: he gave us all great joy by telling us of the new promise you made to come to Val-des-Bois.

We dare to hope that you will not be too long in fulfilling your undertaking.

Ernest is busy in Reims finding buyers for your shares: we have also written to our friends in Charleville and Sedan. — But besides

the usual difficulty that one meets all too often, even among Catholics, when money is in question, the moment could not be worse.

In every kind of industry except those connected with the military art, business has been going deplorably badly for some time, and the situation, far from improving, grows worse day by day. — We no longer have any security, we do not know where we are heading: the morrow, that morrow on which one must be able to count in order to work[?], the morrow is heavy with storms: shall we have war tomorrow, shall we have worse still, no one knows. — And everyone takes up a defensive position that hampers everything and brings everything to a halt.

If the crisis lasts a few more months, we do not know what we shall do with our working class. —

We can only entrust ourselves to God, and ask him to preserve for us and for the eight hundred people whom we feed that daily bread which has not yet failed us, but which might[?] well fail us if Jesus does not come to our help.

We had wished to take a large amount for ourselves, but in view of the circumstances we shall confine ourselves to asking you for

Five shares — that is, 2,500.00, which we shall hold at your disposal.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of the deep esteem and affectionate devotedness of

Your very humble servant.

Léon Harmel

Kindly let us know where we should pay in our funds in Paris.

Val-des-Bois, 12 April 1867, to Louis Veillot

*Letter signed “Harmel frères”, in the same hand as the previous one.
BnF, NAF 24234, f. 232.*



*Signature de Léon Harmel (lettre du 8 avril
1867).*

Val-des-Bois 12 April 1867.

Sir,

We have received the letter dated Paris, the 11th inst., and signed
by your sister.

We enclose herewith a draft

No. 22086 Paris — to the order of Mr Eugène Veuillot — 2,500.00
francs

this draft is to be cashed at

Messrs Claude Lafontaine, H. J. Prévost[?], Martinet & Co.

131 Boulevard Sébastopol (Monday 15 April)

These five shares are allocated as follows

1 — of 500 francs each in the name of Harmel-Tranchart[?]

1 — of 500 francs in the name of Jules Harmel

1 — of 500 francs " " Léon Harmel

1 — of 500 francs " " Ernest Harmel

1 — of 500 francs " " Abbé Théophile Rabutet, our chaplain

As for the subscriptions, we have asked Mr Wattelier[?], 19 rue de
Sèvres, to take out two at once, which he is to pay immediately
one in the name of Harmel frères at Val-des-Bois near Bazancourt
(Marne)

the other in the name of Mrs Guillot-Harmel, widow, rue d'Anjou,
Reims

Please acknowledge receipt of the enclosed draft by return of post,
so that we may authorise the banker to release the funds. — We shall
authorise him only after receiving your acknowledgement of receipt.
Please accept, Sir, the assurance of the deep devotedness of your
very humble servants

Harmel frères

Mr Louis Veillot

Val-des-Bois, 14 April 1867, to Eugène Veillot

Letter signed "Harmel frères", in the same hand. BnF, NAF 24234, f. 234.

Val-des-Bois 14 April 1867

Mr Eugène Veillot,

10 rue des Saints Pères,

Paris.

We confirm our letter of the 12th inst., which brought you a draft for 2,500.00 francs

We were expecting your letter this morning acknowledging receipt of the said draft, so that we could instruct our banker to release the money.

So do not present yourself tomorrow, Monday, to cash our draft, but wait two days after sending your acknowledgement of receipt before presenting yourself at the banker's.

The five shares we have taken are to be allocated as follows

2 — of 500.00 francs in the name of Harmel frères

1 — of 500.00 in the name of Mr Théophile Rabutet

2 — of 500.00 in the name of Mr Louis Lelaurin[?]

We have further to ask you for

2 shares of 500.00 francs each in the name of Mr Emile Lejay[?]

1 " of 500.00 francs in the name of Mr Provin.

We shall pay you the funds as soon as we have an answer about the draft we sent you.

Please be so kind as to subscribe Mr Provin, at Reim[s], to the daily edition of l'Univers, so that he receives the first issue to appear.

Your very devoted servants

Harmel frères

Val-des-Bois, 2 May 1867, to the manager of *l'Univers*

Letter signed “Harmel frères”, in the same hand. BnF, NAF 24228, f. 607.

Val-des-Bois 2 May 1867

The Manager of l'Univers,
10 rue des Saints Pères,
Paris.

For some days now we have been receiving two copies of l'Univers,
one with this wrapper
the other with this wrapper

Please kindly cancel one of the two copies — we have only one
subscription.

Shares — Please let us know where we stand, if you can. How
many can[?] we have? According to our letter of 14 April, we can[?]
still take three shares, which you reserved the right to accept or
refuse.

We have the honour to remain yours faithfully:
Harmel frères