Camp of the 11th N. B. Vol.
One half mile from the
Town of Knoxville Tenn.
Nov. 24th 1843

Dear Brother James:

Your and Mary's letters of the 20th ult have just been
received and eagerly read.

They came up from London today
our brigade is at London and so the
mail for all the regiments goes there
unless there is some one to stop it.

My health is as good as ever the
climate of Tennessee seems to agree
with me first rate.

Tenn is more like Va than
Kentucky the soil is darker
and more rocks are found than in
Va. In Va. the forests are almost
wholly composed of hard wood trees
while here Pine and cedars as as long
as pine and hemlock in Va. The
wood here is like Virginia mud

Camp of the 11th NH. Vols.
One half mile from the
Town of Knoxville Tenn.
Nov. 2d 1863

Dear Brother James:

Your and Mary’s letters of the 20th ult have just been received and eagerly read.

They came up from Loudon to-day our brigade is at Loudon and so the mail for all the regiments goes there unless there is some one to stop it My health is as good as ever the climate of Tennessee seems to agree with me first rate.

Tenn-- is more like Va. than Ky--. In Kentucky the soil is darker and more rocks are found than in Tenn. In Ky—the forests are almost wholly composed of hard wood trees while pine and cedar is as plenty as pine and hemlock in NE The mud here is like Virginia mud
almost as red as that round a 
bright kiln, and as sticky as clay.
There are more frame houses here 
than in Ky., but their people are 
all foolish enough to build their 
chimneys out side their houses.
We think they build their chimneys 
first and put their house in the 
space between them; every neat cottage 
I have seen has its pretty appearance 
spoiled by two chimneys built against 
each end. I have heard a great deal 
of loyal East Tenn.—now I have 
seen it East Tennessee so loyal 
beauld doubt I have not seen. 
Hardly a person I thought was excit 
since coming into the state.
The people all welcome us as their 
deliverers and say don't you let the 
Rubes in again.” I have had several 
ask me if I thought the rebels would 
come here again and when I told 
them I thought not their countenances 
brightened up and they would say I
almost as red as that round a brick kiln and as sticky as clay

There are more frame houses here than in Ky. but the people are all foolish enough to build their chimneys out side their houses. We think they build their chimneys first and put their house in the space between them; evry neat cottage I have seen has its pretty appearance spoiled by two chimneys one build against each ent. I have heard a great deal of loyal East Tenn' now I have seen it East Tennessee is loyal beyond doubt. I have not seen hardly a person I thought was secesh since coming into the state

The people all welcome us as their deliverers and say “doubt you will let the Rebs in again” I have had several ask me if I thought the rebels would come here again and when I told them I thought not their countenances brightened up and they would say I
never want to see any more of the
vainable gray books.
People in the country house told
me they had had no coffee or tea
for two years till you fusters come
and all they could do was to
bake with the oil of coffee
seeds of the best negro man's farm.
I brought with me a lot of coffee
spirits of the finest brand and many
rums.
The women would not take
money but wanted coffee.
Now as I have got out of Ky.
I must tell you a little of the dirtiest
the people are there and here.

One step in to a log house (some
houses are scarce in southern Ky) about
the size of a wood shed of same form
in NC. Here in one room perhaps 20
by 12 live a man his wife and where
from 10 to 16 children, you treat your
self by the huge fireplace and a flock
of dirty, ragged, shawlers children stare
at you, some of them are bold enough
to ask you in this manner: "Golds
give me some tobacco, or note given
never want to see any more of the miserable gray backs.

People in the country have told me they had had no coffee or tea for two years till you Yankees come in all the poor class call us and all blue coats Yankees I bought with 1/8 of a lb. 3 pints of the nicest sorghum molasses I ever eat. The woman would not take money but wanted coffee

Now as I have got out of Ky. I must tell you a little of the dialect the people use there and here

You step in to a log house (frame houses are scarce in southern Ky) about the size of a wood shed of some farms in NE There is one room perhaps 20 by 12 live a man his wife anywhere from 6 to 16 children, you seat your self by the huge fireplace and a flock of dirty, ragged, shoeless, children stare at you, some of them are perhaps bold enough to ask you in this manner “Solder giv me sum tabacco, or soler give me
an apple". The woman sits by the fire place so near she can spit in it easily reaching a long stand pipe, and appears to care but little about you or anything. I've asked her how far it is to reach a place I reckon you will think it a right smart distance before you get there. Why, Pats is the road more muddy, what we have come over "deep muddin' freedom". Her soldier husband if she has any biscuit to sell "Saw me take it. The rebels stole all our wheat and corn and my old man he run away to hide from being conscripted and I haven't seen him now going on 19 months since he up in Riz". Then she goes on a long story of how she hid her horses in the woods from miles from her house a week's last winter and her cow in a corn and used to go and leave these little broto alone dark nights and noisy them bad and come and she slept ever day the rebels would find them and then the farmer's cows most starved. Red Soap So
an apple” The woman sits by the fire place so near she can spit in it easily smoking a long stemmed pipe, and appears to care but little about you or anything. You ask her how far it is to such a place “I reckon you will think it a right smart distance before you get there” Why I ask is the road more muddy then what we have come over “heap mudder I reckon” Then soldier asks her if she has any biscuits to sell “Law me sakes no. The rebels stole all our wheat and corn and my old man he run away to keep from being conscripted and I han’t seen him now going on 19 months I spec he up in Hio” Then she goes on a long story of how she hid her horse 6 weeks last winter and her cow in a cave and used to go and leave these little brats alone dark nights and carry them hay and corn and she speced evry day the rebels would find them, and then the poor critters most starved &c &c &c &c
All the time she is telling this she is stuffing the smoke out of her mouth like a steam engine only stopping to cuff this or that little brute who is up to some mischief (Now I am not exaggerating this although I am one of my own language. I speak of how nine tenths of the poorer class of people live and could write pages of just such talk of I had time and could remember their words it would be amusing).

Then Perk if I can buy any biscuits at the house on the way to the Saff.

“Reckon not. He'd beat the mill and now since I lost to groat all the meat I had I reckon you will find a corncob and flavas bread right smart scarce.” Dashed an old man. Now far it was to the Saff we were then just this road, marchingville he said reckon it goes one 12 miles to the Saff then on both sides the Saff it is a mighty rough road reckon it is ten better than 8 miles from here to — creek X from creek to the Saff it is a night smart distance. But enough of this.
All the time she is telling this she is puffing the smock out of her mouth like a steam engine only stopping to cuff this or that little brat who is up to some mischief (Now I am not exaggerating this although I use some of my own language. I speak of how nine tenths of the poorer class live and could write pages of just such talk if I had time and could remember their words it would be amusing)

Then I ask if I can buy any biscuits at the houses on the way to the Gap. “I reckon not The rebels burnt the mill and ever since I hat to grate the meal I had I reckon you will find corn and flour bread right smart scarce” I asked an old man how far it was to the Gap we were then just this side Barboursville he said reckon it goin on 12 miles to the Ford then on tother side the Ford it is a mighty rough road reckon it is better than 8 miles from Ford to ___ Creek & from creek to the Gap it is a right smart distance &c But enough of this
I received your letter also one from Mr. and Mrs. Kendall as I returned from a trip about the town of Knoxville. I went the first moon looking over the place. It is a splendid city for a city situated on a rise of land on the north bank of the Tennessee river just between the river and the town, and Va. R.R. The buildings are all newly looking nice and pretty, free from the destroyers hand but all wear a glowing aspect for so many are unoccupied. The stores are opening with new goods but very small stocks limited variety at exorbitant prices as everything has to hauled two miles via the R.R. Common brown sugar is sold for 50 cts. ps. lb. Coffee 1.50 ps. lb. Flour 1.00 ps. lb. While from butter 65 cts. ps lb. Potatoes 2.00 bush, and other things according.

The stores are filled with men and women who have come 10, 15 or even 20 miles to trade some on horse back others on foot. They have been without groceries as long they are glad to get them at any price. They need all devoting ever the
I received your letter also one from Mr. and Mrs. Rindall as I returned from a tramp about the town of Knoxville. I spent the forenoon looking over the place. It is a splendid cite for a city situated on a rise of land on the north bank of the Tennessee river just between the river and the Tenn. And Va. RR. The buildings are all looking new and pretty free from the destroyers hand but all wear a gloomy aspect for so many are unoccupied. The stores are opening with new goods but very small stocks limited variety at exorbitant prices as everything has to be hauled 200 miles via the Gap. Common brown sugar is sold for 50 cts pr. Lb. Coffee $1.50 pr lb. Flour 12.50 pr bbl. While for butter 60 cts pr lb. Potatoes $2.00 a bush. And other things according

The stores are filled with men and women who have come 10, 15 or even 20 miles some on horse back others on foot. They have been without groceries so long they are glad to get them at any price. They were all exulting over the
news that Breckin had subdued Longstreet and opened communication with Sumter and the R.R. to Chattanooga would never be opened. I saw one lady well dressed hanging on a splendid silk dress but old fashioned somet having a huge shirt under it as the first one she has had for two years as she wore none. I visited Dr Brown's old printing office in one room was his new printing materials partly set up two men were setting type. Two and next to the head of type "Brownlow's News & Wrig & Rebel Ventilator" which will be stamped on paper in about a week. In an adjoining room there was any appearance of the rebels having used it for barracks, just as I got in to the office Horace Maynard came in and asked for Dr Brownlow foreman said he happened to be his quarters at Gen. Canons Headquarters. I had pointed out to me Brownlow's house it appeared to be unguarded. At the court house there was a crowd of men and women wanting to get passes to go home or out of town. A heavy stick on the side with you meet a soldier with fire buxom quaffing over headmaster or some
news that Hooker had whipped Longstreet and opened communication with Burnside and the RR to Chattanooga would soon be opened. I saw one lady well dressed having on a splendid silk dress but old fashioned bonet buying a hoop skirt reckon it is the first one she has had for two years as she wore none. I visited Dr. Brownlow’s old printing office in one room was his new printing materials partly set up two men were setting type. I saw and read at the head of type “Brownlow’s Knoxville Whip & Rebel Ventilator” which will be stamped on paper in about a week. In an adjoining room there was every appearance of the rebels having used it for a barrok; just as I got in to the office Horace Maynard came in and asked for Br. Brownlow foreman said he has gone up to Gen Carters Headquarters. I had pointed out to me Brownlow’s horse it appeared to be uninjured. At the court house there was a crowd of men and women waiting to get passes to go home or out of town. At every step on the side walk you meet a soldier with fixed bayonet guarding some headquarters of some
of Uncle Sam's property. The street is full of Uncle Sam's wagons and squads of cavalry going to and from the trains stopping in front of every building used by Southerners. The city presents a very military appearance. Burnside captured two ambulances and a number of cars, and military trains move east to Greenville and southeast to London. People say Burnside came in so suddenly the rebels had no time to burn the depots and rolling stock public buildings &c.

I mean that Burnside is succeeded by Thomas and Gen. Grant commands now and all armies west of the Alleghenies. I am glad General has got command of us again. I guess he will put us out of quarters soon.

We got bread and fresh meat enough quarter rations of everything else. Then we wrote our letters and went into quarters near the town house I don't know as the rebels will agree to that however. They are making sausages again if you have the meat all cut for you. I am not very good and should like to cook meat but Colonel R. and show you how to fill my
of Uncle Sams property  The street is full of Uncle sams wagons an squads of cavelry going to
and fro  the stars & stripes hanging in front of evry building used by Government gives the city a
very military appearance  Burnside capture 5 engins and a number of cars, military trains run
east to Greenville and south to Loudon  People say Burnside come in so suddenly the rebs had no
time to burn the depots and rolling stock public buildings &c

I learn that Rosecrans is superceded by Thomas and Gen Grant commands us and all
armies west of the Alleghanies  I am glad M T. has got command of us again  I guess he will get
us out of quarter rations soon  We get bread and fresh meat enough quarter rations of everything
else.  I hear we are going into winter quarters near this town soon  I don’t know as the rebs will
agree to that however.  [?] are then making sausages again if you have the meat all cut for you it
is not very hard  I should like to drop in at 47 Fulton St and show you how to fill [?]

Haven’t heard from Charlie or Wm yet