

Camp of the 11<sup>th</sup> N. H. Vols.  
One half mile from the  
Town of Knoxville Tenn.  
Nov. 24, 1843

Dear Brother James:

Your and Mary's  
letters of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 here pine and cedar is as plenty  
as pine and hemlock in N. E. The  
soil here is like Virginia soil

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

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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  
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; every neat cottage  
I have seen has its pretty appearance  
spoiled by two chimneys <sup>one</sup> built against  
each end. 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 "don't you 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

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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

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never want to see any more of the  
miserable gray books.

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, <sup>and all bless words</sup> Yankees.

I bought with 1/8 of a lb. of coffee 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 N.C. There in one room perhaps 20  
by 12 live a man his wife any where  
from 10 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 <sup>perhaps</sup> are bold enough  
to ask you in this manner "Golder  
giv me sum tobacco, or soter give me

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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 any where 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 smoking a long stemmed  
pipe, and appears to care but little  
about you or anything. You ask  
her how far it is to meka place  
"I reckon you will think it a right  
smart distance before you get there"  
Why, Dash is the road more muddy, <sup>than</sup> what  
we have come over "heep muddier  
I reckon" Then soldier asks 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  
shan't see him now going on 19 months  
I s'pose he up in Rio" Then she goes on  
a long story of how she hid her horse in  
the woods fars miles from her house  
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 expected every  
day the rebels would find them, and  
then the poor criters most starved Xe Xe Xe Xe

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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 muddier 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 spected 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 puffing the smoke 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 of people 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 had to grate all 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 goes on 12 miles to the Ford then on to the side the Ford it is a mighty rough road reckon it is ~~little~~ better than 8 miles from Ford to — Creek & from creek to the Gap it is a right smart distance <sup>or</sup> but enough of this

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I received your letter also one from ~~you~~<sup>Mr.</sup> and Mrs. Kendall as I returned from a tramp about the town of Knoxville I spent the forenoon looking over the place. It is a splendid site 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. R.R. The buildings are all nearly 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 per bb. Coffee 1.50 per bb. Flour 12.50 per bbl. White poor butter 60 cts per bb. 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 to trade 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 venting over the

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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 Hooker had whipped Longstreet and opened communication with Burnside and the R.R. to Chhattanooga would soon be opened. I saw one lady well dressed having on a splendid silk dress but old fashioned bonnet 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 <sup>and read</sup> at the head of type "Brownlow's Knoxville Whig & Rebel Ventilator" which will be stamped on paper in about a week In an adjoining room there was very appearance of the rebels having used it for a barrikade; just as I got in to the office Horace Maynard came in and asked for Dr Brownlow foreman said he has gone up to Gen Easters Headquarters I had pointed out to me Brownlows house it appeared to be uningured. 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 or some

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of Uncle Sam's property. The street is full  
of Uncle Sam's wagons or squads of cavalry  
going to and fro the stores & stores hanging  
in front of every building used by Gov-  
ernment gives the city a very military  
appearance. Burnside captured Sangans  
and a number of cars, military trains  
run east to Greenville and south to  
London. People say Burnside come in  
so suddenly the rebs had no time to  
burn the depots and rolling stock public  
buildings &c.

I hear that Basicrons is superseded  
by Thomas and Ben Grant. comm-  
ands us and all armies west of the  
Alleghenies. I am glad M.G. 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 <sup>winter</sup> quarters near this town  
soon. I don't know as the rebs will agree  
to that however. They are there 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 up

I don't hear from Charlie

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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