Dear Father and Mother:

It has been a long time since I have written to you directly, but I suppose my letters to Boston have reached you and you have learned of my situation among the mountains of East Tennessee.

I have enjoyed good health since crossing into Tennessee. We have been on short rations during the whole time but the country has afforded us great many provisions or at least what we call provis.

As by care the ambitious and industrious get what is wanted in the country consequently some fare better than others. I think I must abide in the foraging business. I can dig as many potatoes as many apples or buy as much molasses or honey as the most man. I am growing fishing since we have had a chance to log in teams a few days.

We don't hardly know what to think of the rumors about our going to Baltimore and Washington. We expect as Thumpe is relieved of he has a command we shall go with him. However we have been in the army long enough to be contented almost anywhere. If we could only draw full rations and get clothing enough we should enjoy ourselves for this is a fine country to live in. And thing we miss that is the mail. It takes so long for a letter to go or come from NC. I got a letter a few days ago from my brother written Nov 17 that we hope soon to see better times.

Uncle Sam is doing the best he can for us the want of transportation is the cause of our not getting what we need. I myself am pretty well supplied with clothes but a
Dear Father and Mother:

It has been a long time since I have written to you directly but I suppose me letters to Boston have reached you and you have learned of my situation among the mountains of the East Tenn

I have enjoyed good health since coming into Tennessee. We have been short rations during the whole time but the country has afforded us a great many luxuries or at least what we call luxuries

To be sure the ambitious and wide-awake get what is to be had in the country, consequently some fare better than others. I think I’m not behind in the foraging business I can dig as many potatoes pick as many apples, or buy as much molasses or honey as the next man. I am growing fleshy since we have had a chance to lay camp a few days.

We don’t hardly know what to think of the rumors about our going to Baltimore and Washington We expect as Burnside is relieved if he had a command we shall go with him. However we have been in army long enough to be contented almost anywhere, if we could only draw full rations and clothing enough we should enjoy ourselves for this is a fine country to live in. One thing we miss that is the mail It takes so long for a letter to go or come from NE. I get a few days ago from Mary written Nov 1st But we hope soon to see better times. Uncle Sam is doing the best he can for us the worst of the transportation is the cause of our not getting what we need I myself are pretty well supplied with clothes but a
great many of our Regiment and especially those Regiments which came down here early in the Fall and mostly in want of food shoes and clothing. This Rebels captured a large quantity of our clothing. We hope soon to be in Readford communication with the North and get supplies, mail and news as we did last year. Our Camp is settled in a mountain gap. High, steep hills on either side a sheer and nice little brick chink it is called here pronounced Deunneearn and which affords us excellent water. My tent is on the bank of this fine stream so all I have to do is to down the bank a few feet to get a drink of water. The mountains are covered with a heavy growth of hard wood, these big trees stick down and roll down the slick hill side right on to our fires. Have not learned anything of my bundle which notice must bring he has not got to the Regiment, but are daily expecting him. I have written to James and Mary two letters since we left & and I sent one today giving an account of the siege. I have received only one letter from America the siege dated Nov 20th. In Frank's letter I got the amount of the aliments which is correct. Supposed the money was as safe there as anywhere. Can't think to write me about it. Supposed you don't lay too far on that land. Supposed not pay another cent. Many said on last post letter from home you had just filled the pig and was making sausage. Hallet very big this day before Christmas and has got some baked panes received the little letter. We wrote you off last week there are allotments of $800 each one to come to General Stance more than what you had then. Would complete the year. You mail goes soon and there is time to write more from your affectionate Son

Write often.
great many of our Regiment and especially those regiments which came down early in the Fall are sadly in want of shoes and clothing. The rebels captured a large quantity of our clothing. We hope soon to be in Rail-road communication with the North and get supplies, mail, and news as we did last year.

Our Camp is situated in a mountain gap high steep hills on either side, a clear and nice little brook (creek it is called here pronounced by Tennesseans crik) which affords us excellent water. My tent is on the bank of this fine stream so all I have to do is step down the bank a few feet to get a drink of water. The mountains are covered with heavy groth of hard wood, these big trees we chop down and roll down the steep hill side right on to our fires. I have not learned anything of my bundle which sutler was to bring, he has not got to the regiment, but we are daily expecting him.

I have written to James and Mary two letters since we left K, and I sent one to-day giving an account of the siege. I have only received one letter from Anna since the siege dated Nov 20th In Frank’s letters I got the amount of the allotments which is correct I suppose the money is safe there as anywhere. I want Father to write me about it. I suppose you don’t pay taxes on that land I should not pay another cent. Mary said in her last letter from home you had just killed a pig and was making sausages, I killed my pig the day before Christmas and have got some baked now. I received Mr. Mock’s letter We were paid off last week there are two allotments of $18 each now to come to Concord $18 more than what you had then would complete the year. The mail goes soon and I have no time to write more

From you affectionate Son
W.J Templeton

Write often

Please and a few stamps

We have drawn rations of tobacco I will send Father a little piece of Tennessee tobacco