

North East of Knoxville
Dec. 27th 1863

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 heard of my situation among the mountains of East Tenn.

I have enjoyed good health since coming into Tennessee. We have been on 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 am 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 most man. I am growing fleshy since we have had a chance to lay in camp a few days.

We don't hardly know what to think of the ~~reverse~~ rumors about our going to Baltimore and Washington. We expect as Burnside is relieved if 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. One thing we miss that is the mail. It takes so long for a letter to go or come from N.E. I got a letter 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 transportation is the cause of our not getting what we need. I myself are pretty well supplied with clothes but a

PAGE 1

Lee Spring, near Blanes
Cross Roads 20 miles
North East of Knoxville
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Little pieces of ~~papers~~ ~~papers~~ ~~papers~~
Mr. Jones draws various of ~~papers~~ ~~papers~~ ~~papers~~ & will send ~~papers~~ ~~papers~~ ~~papers~~

great many of our Regiment and especially those regiments which came down here early in the Fall are sadly in want of food shoes and clothing. The rebels captured a large quantity of our clothing. We hope soon to be in Railroad 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 sheer and nice little brook (creek it is called here pronounced by Tennesseeans creek) 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 a heavy growth of hard woods, these big trees we chop down and roll down the steep hill sides right on to our fires. I have not learned anything of my bundle which ~~putter~~ ~~putter~~ ~~putter~~ 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 Ky and I send one to-day giving an account of the siege. I have received only one letter from Anns since the siege dated Nov 20th. In Frank's letter I get the amount of the allotments which is correct. I suppose the money is as 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 the pig and was making saurages. I killed my pig the day before Christmas and have got some baked now. I received Mr. Block's letter. We were paid off last week there are ^{two} allotments of \$18 each now to come to Concord ~~more~~ more than what you had then would complete the year. The mail goes soon and I have no time to write more. From your affectionate Son

Write often

Wm. S. Campbell

PAGE 2

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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