

before election
has caused the
whole
of the Cap for head
party to recall
with doubt
energy for the
causing a tragedy
I have many friends
for the cause
but I hope that

our victory comes
off victorious I
should be certain of
it if we could
could it only
have the feelings of
victory and I think
they had fought two
miles down and
of the Bt with
all the same
mine down to
all from your
fictional brother
C. M. D. S.

Genl. Co. J.
9th N.H.
Lynchburg
Feb 19th 1864

Dear Brother

Your welcome letter of the 24th

✱ Your card duly to hand and as ever
I was pleased to hear from you and that
you and all were enjoying good health
and spirits, which I am happy to state is
the same with myself at the present time
I have not heard from home since I
received yours but I am in hopes to get
a letter today. I have ~~received~~ written
to Mary and Stephen since receiving yours
There has been but little mail received by
any one since we arrived here and we
are afraid that most of our mail has
been sent on to Knoxville Tenn as
we were expecting to go there direct when
we started from Camp Nelson but the
roads are in such a bad condition that it
is impossible to go any farther at present
Gen. Long has gone to Knoxville himself
and we expect him back in a few days
when we hope to learn something defi-
nite as to what we are to do or when we

and to move to from here but it is a
general impression that when we
have this place we shall march towards
M. J. with the rest of the 9th A. C.

The past week has been intensely cold for
this Country and to such an extent that
we have had no drill of any kind for
it has been all the men could do to
get wood enough to keep themselves warm
although there is plenty of it close at hand
and good wood too. I have but little of
other than dry red Cedar I have ~~got~~ a
large stove fireplace at one end of my
Tent with plenty of sawdust for a floor
(we get it at a Gov saw mill close by) so
that I keep as comfortable as a kitten. The
men too have all got houses built of logs
with fireplace in so that we are all the
better prepared for cold or wet weather that
we were when in the field.

Our camp is close on the River bank and
as level as a house floor and of such a sandy
soil that we have no mud which is
truly a great blessing in this Country at
this time of the year.

Brigade Court Martial is now being held
and our deserters with them of other charges
are being tried so that when I write

you next I shall be able to give
you the decisions I do not think that
any of the deserters will be shot as many
of them have been returned to their Cos
for duty without trial but I should have
but little pity on a fellow who took
\$500.00 dol from the Gov for enlisting and
then desert on the first opportunity death
is now too soon a punishment for such
I sometimes think that the old punishment
of whipping would be a good punishment for
the first offender About 400 recruits for the
11th & 12th left here yesterday morning to
join the Regt which is at Knoxville They
must have had a cold time of it last night
and how they will ever live to get through
is a mystery to us all but they are under command
of their Colo (Harriman) who was obliged to obey
his orders received from Knoxville to report there
immediately He had no Surgeon with him and
many of his men were sick our Hap Steward
was sent on with him Our Regt is enjoying very
good health at the present time; some of the new
recruits are having the measles the old men
have all had it.

Well since writing the above the mail has
come in and I had the good fortune to get
other letters this time, one from Stephen dated

the 2^d and one from Mary dated the 7th and
one from Andrew Whalley same date; Quite
a mail to what I have since I have been
in this place I was glad to learn from both
S and M, that you were all enjoying your
usual good health, although sickness and death
has paid its visits to those near and around
you I learned from M^r that Menele you had paid
you a short visit I would like to have been there and
seen him A. Whalley's letter was quite a surprise
as he was the last one of my old friends I had thought
of hearing from but I find this shoulder
straps renew old friendship as well as amonities
He had received a letter from B which spoke of me
and gave my address. His letter was very interesting
as well as Patriotic and I shall write an answer
directly As I sit here in my Tent with my eyes to
the floor I can see by pushing the canvas aside several
gun Boats and Steamers passing up and down the
River which is not more than five rods distant
and is itself not more than 20 rods wide The Steamers
being no hard tack and pork, and the Gun Boats
go for their protection There are 19 G. B. and S. in the
fleet but the width of the River does not permit
more than six to come at a time Several of the
G. B. have been fired into by guerrillas
Colo Bliss of the 7th Regt. Inf. is Post Commissary here
and our Colo Titus in Command of the Brigade
I should judge by M^r's letter that S. is influential among
the Schoolmasters was having rather of a marriageable
effect - but perhaps it is a good one for war times
Will H I can think of nothing else of interest to
write I have not seen a paper for several days so
I don't know what the late war news are There is a
good deal of excitement in N. H. at the present time
as Election comes the a week from next Tuesday The
last Call of the President coming as it did just