

You see this envelope is of southern origin
I have checked it up in a house at Norwich
should be the house

Camp at Ennis Station
6 miles from Knoxville
Feb 5th 1844

Dear Brother James:

Yesterday
I received a letter from Mary
~~dated~~ dated Jan. 3^d. It was the
first I heard from Boston since
Mary's letter written Thanksgiving
eve. I was almost out of patience
waiting for a letter but the long
expected missive came at last
and with it Emma's and Eddie's
pictures. I was very much pleased
to receive them. Emma looks
just as she did a year and a half
ago only a little taller. I can see
those same sparkling eyes and
rosy cheeks. Eddie I should think
has changed a good deal I should
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6 Miles from Knoxville
Feb 5th 1864

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glance but on looking closer I
can see a little resemblance to
the Eddie of 1842. Tell Emma I
thank her for the ~~kiss~~^{she} sent me
for I know it was a sweet one.

I write this to you as I suppose
Mary has ere this gone to Hillsboro
I hope she has not gone to ~~pre~~ Davis
to work she will get sick of being a
slave for them if she tries it.

Tell her when she gets through work
in Boston to go home and I will
send her more money than she
can earn in a month doing
house work.

My health ~~has~~ has been as
good as usual we have had very
pleasant weather for the past
few weeks it has been so warm we
could sit around in camp in our
shirt sleeves and be very comfortable
I suppose you in the north are

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Tell her when she gets through work in Boston to go home and I will send her more money than she can earn in a month doing house work.

My health has been as good as usual we have had very pleasant weather for the past few weeks it has been so warm we could sit around in camp in our shirt sleeves and be very comfortable I suppose you in the north are

freezing over a coal fire while we
are sunning ourselves in the open
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snow squalls this winter Jan 24th
and 18th it snowed a little perhaps two
inches each time. It seems so
odd to not have any snow in Feb.
we can hardly realize that it is
winter. We had our coldest weather
about Christmas and for a week
after. I was not a little surprised
on reading Mary's letter to learn that
you were married Christmas eve.
I congratulate you upon your good
selection. You have no doubt joined
yourself to one who will, as nearly
as woman can, fill the place of our
lamented Maty. In Lizzie the
children will find a mother well
worthy the name. May a long and
life of happiness and enjoyment
be granted you and your little family
is the earnest prayer of your mother

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Suppose you have heard by way of the papers that we of the 9th Army Corps are coming home. I have no doubt now but we shall be in N.H. by a March meeting. We are daily expecting orders to march for in the direction of London no doubt we go via Chattanooga. We are impatient waiting for the order to leave ~~leave~~ this wretched state Tenn. has got to be worse than Va was last Spring. The 9th of Feb. we left the army of the Potomac last year and I think about the same time this year we leave the army of the Cumberland. Anyway I hope to cast my vote for Gov. Gilmore at the next election. I tell you we feel highly elated at the prospect of seeing our friends and homes once more.

We have done a great deal of hard service in Tenn. The 9th army corps are dreaded by the rebels as much as they are relied on by the loyal people of Tenn.

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You see this envelope is of southern manufacture I picked it up in a house at K which was doomed to the flames

Saturday Feb. 6th

It is a rainy day with us and I will try and finish this letter in time for the mail. We have heard rather startling rumors to-day. We hear that war is imminent between France and the United States. I hope it is not so but if the government of France is to take sides with the south they will find they have a good job on their hands. Burnside's old Menagerie will be round 50000 strong. It beat all what a terror the few hundred men of the 9th Army Corps, are to the rebels. In our retreat from Strawberry plain the rebels followed us so closely that we could distinctly see their lines of battle but they dared not attack us for though they probably outnumbered us five to one they were ^{affray} of the veterans of the 9th. Left Monday about 4 P.M.

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it is ~~spelt~~ because Gen. Sturgis hung
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interesting and sure they interest me
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written, but wait till I get home and
I will tell you all the news I sent a
letter home about 10 days ago and
received one from John Burt dated
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