On Richel Near Lances orans 20 miles morth east of 9 I sommenced this letter the & to execting to finish it the meet day but as I wrote you before we were ardered off in front of the rebels. I don't know as I can make the letter mare interesting than to coppy from -dum the events of the 18 days sige. Defore beginning this I will fell you are situation of the present time. Um anapsaches came up husday night, but jutirday me were ordered out conting and went about 4 miles re towards wight wer had hardly lime to draw our holf the flour and ment before we were detailed to go one pickel nearly three mile from samp, so here we are stationed You the road side burning and quantity of rails and ver the parses of the great numbers of cetiz and who are in returning to their homes, hoving stold within one line rebelle at A juga to the word why I have a great many young me hing took of here who were surrendered at Harroburg they fear the relicle will fint them in their service again, so they seek protection within lines. I went out lorageing this anoming succeeded in buying a carter full of care motures and one day onions 10 cents the people are in a dole of of distilution nothing hordly to be obtained at any finice what carry there was left by the Rebel and quarternasters lake leaving but little for the awners use thundreds are desposing of their effects and starting morth pincepally for By. They all say they will to death if they stay here. All the robels seem to want here is to get the supplies and the conscripto the you had on to hear the people here express their hatreds of the rebells Many of the conscripts and paroled prisoners cay they will much be taken a line by the rebels, they will storie to death livet in our lines. He are on half and marter rations but we have been ably to forage so as not to suffer, but foraging about flaging out, but every day once thank bit encloy brings would

PAGE 1

On Picket Near Lanes crossroads 20 miles north east of Knoxville Dec. 24th 1863

I commenced this letter the 6^{th} expecting to finish it the next day but as I wrote you before we were ordered off in pursuit of the rebels. I don't know as I can make this letter more interesting than to coppy from my memorandum the events of the 18 days siege. Before beginning this I will tell you our situation at the present time.

Our knapsacks came in Tuesday night, but yesterday we were ordered out scouting and went about 4 miles returning towards night we had hardly time to draw out half lb. of flour and meat before we were detailed to go on picket nearly three miles from camp, so here we are stationed by the roadside burning any quantity of rails and examining the passes of the great numbers of citizans who are now returning to their homes, having staid within our lines while the rebels [?] the country. I have conversed with a great many young men living east of here who were surrendered at Vicksburg they fear the rebels will put them in their service again, so they seek protection within our lines. I went out foraging this morning succeeded in buying a canteen full of cane molasses 50 cts and one [?] of onions 10 cents the people are in a state of of destitution nothing hardly to be obtained at any price what corn there was little let by the Rebel our quartermasters take leaving but little for the owners use hundreds are desposing of their effects and starting north principally for Ky. they all say they will starve to death if they stay here. All the rebels seem to want here is to get the supplies and the conscripts Oh! you had ought to hear the people here express their hatred of the rebels

Many of the conscripts and paroled prisoners say they will never be taken alive by the rebels, they will starve to death first in our lines. We are on half and quarter rations yet but we have been able to forage so as not to suffer, but foraging is about playing out, but evry day since Grants late victory brings us nearer the north by R R and steamboat communication, two steamboats loads of

of supplies have reached us me dennesse river and some we expect the direction of hard took and porte which last year we complained of. by the way to night is the night before I hait was and while I am sitting by the big rail fire Foreist Wall Market is awarring with a primisecous peronds of goose buners. Memorandum Monday Nov. 16th The long roll was beater at 5 A M. and me left our meat little houses built of fine tembere house we had was god an busily on the week previous and fell into line marched to the semioircular ridge morth of the city and formed a live of bottle courning the difect and buildings . North Teplor our arms cold and leasty nights on the He moved into the raty the rebels are in our first and occupy our camp ground they are engaged in planting bellevies and degging wifle fits on the select our little 17th On hickely no finerny one our line the rebels are mostly on our left roveling spechels in our front the murrorous dwelling houses slower and botels month of the olefet buildings are ordered to be deared ready to be borned him more are left at very house ready to apply the lorch as soon as the relading in one ficket lines. The coligons have lift their dwellings in agreat horry some leaving most all their furnature cows and figs. and the orlders have correr and pelogeny me all get a lot of rations in the whats pototoes, flour fork meal molasses de se. How loth Releved from frechet at 6 Acts fell brokets the city and day refle fits with the assistance of negrows and estigans on the bluff east of Day street Derring the lay of mas

PAGE 2

of supplies have reached us via Tennessee river and soon we expect the luxuries of hard tact and pork which last year we complained off.

by the way tonight is the night before Christmas and while I am sitting by the big rail fire Faneuil Hall Market is swarming with a promiscuous crowd of goose buyers.

Memorandum

Monday Nov 16th The long roll was beating at 5 AM and we left our neat little houses built of pine timbers we had worked so busily on the week previous and fell into line marched to the semicircular ridge north of the city and formed a line of battle covering the depot and buildings.

Nov 16th Slept on our arms cold and frosty night

" 18th We moved into the city the rebels are in our front and occupy our camp ground they are engaged in planting batteries and digging rifle pits in the site of our little city

19th On picket, no firing on our line the rebels are mostly on our left cavelery pickets in our front The numerous dwelling houses stores and hotels north of the depot buildings are ordered to be cleared ready to be burned two men are left at evry house ready to apply the torch as soon as the rebs drive in our picket line.

The citizens have left their dwellings in a great hurry some leaving most all their furniture cows and pigs and the soldiers have commenced pilaging we all get a lot of rations in the shape potatoes, flour, pork meat molasses &c &c.

Nov 20th Relieved form picket at 5 AM. fell back to the city and du rifle pits with the assistance of negrows and citizens on the bluff east of Gay street During the day I was