

Near Nashville, Tennessee

Dec. 10th

Dear Brother, — I rec^d your note of the
8th at day before yesterday, I was as glad
as ever to hear from you & to hear that
you were all well. & especially to learn
that you had had such an increase to
your family, don't fail to do your duty
towards your scholars, I hope you will have
good success this winter & that your repu-
tation as a District School Teacher, will
stand higher before the term is closed than
ever mine or Lambert's did. Martha says
it makes you feel big to teach school
I don't see why it should, to be sure it
is a pretty high position to place a farm
or boy in, but not one that gets out
big feelings. You may try to be big as you
please, it will add one inch to your height.
Perhaps Martha was joking, at least I took
it so, may be she is the one that feels

so big, & thinks every body else feels
the same way, I wouldn't wonder at it
going to school as she does at Salem
& boarding at Aunt Salley's & then
she has so many beaux & goes to Union
College now & then, & has another got
so she allows all this, If so, I want to
know, so I can pick me out a penman
while I have a good chance. So you are a
member of the debating club on South Hill
I wish I had been there to have heard
you speak last week, what was the question
what is your president? Did the side beat
you was on, Does Joe Connor like to debate
as well as ever? Why don't he answer my
last letter? I would like to hear from him
what does he think of the war? By the
way what does Uncle & Feather think of the Pres-
ident's message to congress, I have read
once very lately, I rec'd of the paper you sent
me (and more). Did not Dr. Fitch write
the last article about the bridge? It was a
very funny account of the sad catastrophe

indeed, You need not hurry about sending
a paper with Benck Aaron's death in it, I
have got track of the old one you send
me. It is at about - Margarets - with a
number of others. I have written to have
it sent me, I want for the life of me
see why they didnt forward it to me, I tell
you I was mad enough to explode when
I heard they were keeping my papers, Pork is
very cheap in Salem now, I wish I had
some fresh pork to eat now, all the meat
we get is Bacon, I have got tired of it, I yes
we get a little fresh meat now & then, what
is better north in Salem now, It is worth
from 75 cts to \$1.00 a pound here, I had
a letter from Lambert last week he writes
that his company & a co. of Cavalry are going
300 miles north to get back some female
prisoner from the Indians he will be apt
to see some hard times before he gets back,
They expect to have to fight hard to get
them. Go Billy I think as you do, that
the boys are crazy in reference to the

Indians, I don't think as Lambert does that they
ought to be annihilated, because they treat us
extremely, its no sign we must retreat in the
some kind of barbarism. You expressed the
wish some time ago, that you wished I was where
Lambert was. Do you wish so now I do not,
I would not travel places with him for a good
deal, Belly I have come to the conclusion that
the world can never whip the south & that
if the war is ever settled it will be with
a compromise, I have no news of impor-
tance to communicate to you this time,
I will give you in brief all I can now call to
mind, In the first place I must not neglect
to say that I am well, with the exception of
a slight cold and sore throat, last week
three days were before prisoners at Belton,
by the rebels week before last we lost some
shut down our quarters he died with the
disease, his assistant died to do do with
his body, a few days ago he heard of his death, a
great many are now dying off, our loss
which numbered 92 men when it left
of health, now, but 36. It
was the families march through the
range, that reduced the number so, I have said
all along that I have been well, I have not been
sick one day put all together since I started
on the march, I have had the head ache once or
twice, when I feel unwell I take a dose of pills,
I think I am the only one that has taken up
I pressed ready to do my duty whenever called
upon, not only have I missed my baton going
on guard. This morning our guard was put up at
1 o'clock, & commenced marching at 8 30 we
did not go far, we only stay in camp, about 40 miles
are 3 or 4 weeks. Perhaps we may be ordered to
move again tomorrow morning, I think it is prob-
enough intention to move us plain towards
no like the enemy are concentrated.