We are now encamped on the Franklin pike, six miles from Nashville, our camp is very pleasantly situated in the woods. We have been having some very fine weather for the past few days, in fact, perfect summer.

I believe I never told you in any of my former letters that my Mess. (No. 2) has a contraband Cook, did I.S. well we just have that. And one of the best cooks you ever set your eyes on. His name is Killis. he used to work in a baker's shop, and he is tip top. Oh yes I sent my likeness with that of Capt & Barness to Father & Mother. Ed Haines has doubtless got home by this time.

Write often. love to all

Your brother Robert

Camp Hamilton Dec 14th/62.

My dear Sister

Your interesting letter of Dec 7th was received yesterday, and I hasten to answer.

Without doubt you and the schoolmam are just more than enjoying yourselves this winter. Yes indeed I am just the fellow that could enjoy myself at home during the holidays, but it wont do to think of such a thing. I listened to an eloquent discourse to day, delivered by the Colonel of the 74th O.V. perhaps you may have heard, or read of the rev Mr Moody the great Methodist minister, well he is now the Col of the 74th and it

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Has Isaac Sharp gone home yet? it is a little curious to me that he did not enter the army such a fiery fellow as he used to be I should think its exciting scenes would be suitable to one of his temperament. Capt Vantine Lieut Wood & Bumpus and in fact the entire Company is enjoying good health at present. it is wonderful how our Company stands the service we have not a man in Hospital, but come to think I must except one George Billings one of our Drummers he has applied for a Discharge on account of Consumption.

Will news is about played out with us and so I will dry up

Robert

Camp Hamilton Dec 19/62

Dear Father

I recd your of Dec 14th and was much pleased to learn that you were all enjoying good health. I never enjoyed better health in my life than at present. To day the weather is very fine with the sun shining a la summer ~~and~~ We have warm days and cold nights, with occasionally a shower of rain. I am of the opinion that if Rosecrans is awaiting a use of the Cumberland before making a forward movement he will in all probability lay idle during the entire winter

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as there is but little prospect of a rise in the Cumberland before spring. We have received the news of the repulse of Burnside at Fredericksburg, and I am now confident if Rosecrans dont move forward and gain a decisive victory at Murfreesboro the cry of Foreign intervention will again be the cry. I am expecting great things of our General and only hope I may not be disappointed in my expectations.

Certainly Rosecrans has the material for giving the Rebels their cure and when he does move look out for some big tracks. Col. Morton arrived in camp a few days ago, and it is now rumored that he has tendered his resignation. I dont know how true it is, but in all probability the rumor is correct.

Property has of late been changing hands to a considerable extent in Elmore, I see by your letter.

I am in hopes that you and Eli Eoff may effect the trade that you mentioned, as I am anxious to see you rid of the mill as it is too hard words for you to carry it on.

I wrote to William quite a while ago, but have recd no answer as yet. I see by the papers that Grantz army has come to a halt for the present. Christmas will soon be at hand, and my Mess are talking of getting up a dinner on the occasion. if we do get up a dinner I will send you a bill of fare, and also the price list.

way to him that I listened
He is quite eloquent. I think you
could have heard him.
I received that letter that you
wrote to me, and directed to camp
Dennison. I also answered it shortly
after receiving it. I shall use
proper discretion in regard to that
matter you cautioned me about. There
now I will venture a bet, that
I have raised all of the womanly
curiosity of Mother, that she is
so proverbial for.
You must be having fine times
in E—. this winter, so many
parties, it appears that you have
got a new installment of Young
Girls in your pleasant city
Dint you and Mary Lucky
ashamed of yourselves to both mitten
the same fellow. I should fear
to trust myself to ask you
for your Company, for fear you
might serve me the same.
Oh I expect you are both
getting to be regular flirts, how
I do pity the poor fellows that
are so [illegible] as to trust their destinies
to your keeping. You said you had
got a letter from Thene and that
she sent her love to me, when
you write to her, please present
my respects in return.
Olivia Bartlett is coming
to E— is she. I believe I did
not get to see her while I was
at home, I suppose she is
still unmarried. I wish she could
get a husband worthy of her.
She is a splendid girl. but
pshaw what am I talking of
girls for, my duty lies in a
different direction, but for all
that I guess it wont do a fellow
any harm to stand off and adore
if not permitted to enjoy their society.

The School mam is boarding at our house. is she? and it unfortunate that I cant be at home, this winter. I suppose the neg. you will make that Piano talk must be slow. I shall expect to hear some fine music when I return home.

I suppose you must have had a fine visit while at Uncle Thomas's house. I should have enjoyed myself amazingly. could I have been with you, but you know I am soldiering just now, you know, and visiting is not in our line. I had a visit from Lieut Lucky 3rd C. V. L. a few days ago, had a fine time

I intend to make them a visit in a few days. I saw George Rice Ephraim Rice & Daniel Wood, they were all well and well pleased with a soldiers life.

We have fine times here in Nashville. we have the freedom of the city, that is if we can dodge the Guards, which we can manage to do, by being what the boys call Shark

I visited the State house a few days ago, and went through the entire building, it is a fine structure. and one that the State of Tennessee ought to be proud of.

Andy Johnson holds forth at that place at present, in place of Isham Harris. Decamped

ranks of the enemy,
And I believe his command is composed of men capable of backing him up.
Mr Barns is again with us And he and I talk some of having an picture taken together, to send to you, I found my knapsack all right, and every thing safe. Capt Vantine, told me that he was glad, that G. Rice, & Dewilt, Wood, & Ephraim Rice did not come with me, as he said that they being old acquaintances of his might ask some favors of him, that he as an Officer could not grant,
Please present my respects to the School mam.

Robert

Nashville Tenn Dec 7th/62

Dear Mother

You long looked for letter arrived yesterday and I need not inform you that it met with a warm welcome, I recd one from Juliet, dated Nov 27th which I will answer in turn,
Capt Vantine, Lieuts Wood & Bumpus, were highly pleased with my success in recruiting, but, Mike & Mack, had but little to say upon the subject; All that have seen that set of Colors, pronounce them as being a little ahead of

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Dec 1862

Dear Willy

Your nice letters came to hand and I was glad to hear from you. You write good letters, better than some boys could write that are much older than you.
You spoke of your Snow Fort and how the sun melted it. I have seen some Forts that the sun would have a good time melting and the only thing that could knock them down was Cannon balls handled by the Northern Sons. I suppose you would like to see some of the big steamboats that I have seen here in Nashville Now one. The General Anderson that the Rebels used to have that they left behind when they ran away from our Soldiers

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There are a lot of cannon in Nashville that the Rebels left here, some of them are so large that you could stick your head into their mouth. Before they ran away they tumbled the cannon into the river and left them, and when the river fell our men got them. They burned a Gunboat and all of the cannon that was on it, but I guess we will soon put a stop to their burning things in that way. Mother said that you was kicking in the mire, I guess you find it cold work but never mind it will soon be warm. The peach trees are in blossom down here and some of the trees are leafing out, and the boys run barefoot, but I must close

Write soon from Robert

of our enemies, Co. I was actively employed in skirmishing with a flock of turkeys that belonged to a neighboring family. The result stood twelve turkeys and one duck for Co. I. My Mess got three turkeys and the duck and to day we just more than lived. You must excuse me for this poor writing and composition and I promise to do better in future. Well now I am one letter ahead of you and I shall look anxiously for an answer soon.

Love to all

Robt

Camp Hamilton Dec 22/62

Dear Sister

Being rather lonesome to night I thought perhaps I might pass the time a little more pleasantly by writing to you to let you know something in regard to my welfare and whereabouts at this particular time. Well then to begin, we are still in the same position that we have been occupying during the last two weeks, with but little to relieve the monotony of camp life, exceeping a slight skirmish now and then.

Yesterday our Regt was ordered out to guard a forage train, we went out in the direction of Murfreesbro

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about eight miles and
~~while~~ the forage was being loaded
the forces were so distributed
as to guard the teams ~~as they~~
~~were being loaded~~.
There were four Regts and
a Section of a Battery acting
in the capacity of Guards
the 19th Ills was in the advance
and threw out Skirmishers on
both sides of the road and advanced
in the direction of the supposed
enemy. A part of the 21st was
deployed as Skirmishers and
Co (I) with others held in reserve
presently we heard sharp firing
on our left in the direction of
Co. F. & D. and soon the news
was brought in that two of the
enemy had ~~been~~ met merited
punishment in the shape of
a few pills from Uncle Sams

boys that acted very finely upon
them and indeed I fear the dose
was too strong for their constitutions
as it brought them upon their
backs almost instanter and I
have not yet been apprised of
their restoration to health
and that was not ~~only~~ the only
result of the firing but inasmuch
as the health of the two above
mentioned persons was not in
a fair way to improve very soon
~~the~~ six of their comrades concluded
to stay and minister to the wants
of their afflicted brethren so
we brought them into camp with
us but the two first mentioned
ones were left behind and at
last accounts were sleeping very
comfortably in the arms of Mother
Earth. While the Skirmishers
were employed in taking care