Dear Father & Mother:

Your letter of the 1st ultimo was received yesterday. I will take this warm and pleasant day to answer it. The warm weather with which we have had for the last week has drawn our people out into the open air and the shade. You want to know how I am getting along. I am not working much, smoking pipe and enjoying myself very well and have since I have been in this place. But this winter just passed has been the most pleasant of any. The weather has been just about right. Neither too warm nor too cold. We have had too much frost sufficient to preserve potatoes at any time during the winter. I have just got back from a trip into the hills over part of the county for the purpose of searching whiskey. I started from home in the morning on a good horse and drew up at noon at my first stopping place a distance of fifteen miles from Camden. I stopped around there till most night and then started off to go eight miles further than night. But the roads being bad I was compelled to travel very slowly so that I became late before I reached my place of destination.

Now this country is all woods, it not being very thickly settled and the farms having
no land cleared for grass or pastures, so that riding over this country you are in the woods all the time. Furthermore there are great many creeks running in all directions being nothing more than tracts made by cutting away the trees so that a wagon can get along. As I had never been in this part of the county before I found it very difficult to get along even in the daytime but after dark I found it almost impassable. The area near the Ten Mile Runk and a great many creeks which emptied into the river. Great many of the roads were changed on account of the water being so high that it was impossible to get along. (We have no bridges)

I got lost a number of times. It became very dark so that I could hardly tell whether I was on the road or not. Once in a while I would come to a log house and would be met by 19 big dogs. I would call off the minute and get as good information as I could and push on. I crossed several creeks without that I was obliged to furnish my horse. All night I got to wandering about in the woods and could not find any road of any kind. I concluded I would have to stay in the woods all night but made out to work out at last arriving at my destination about 10 o'clock. I have taken such a good deal of room in telling of my trip but it will give you some idea of how we do things at Tenn. You ought to know that the law abiding people here thinks will fairly result of the present of affairs. The conservation
portion of the people have strong hopes that the present difficulties will be amicably adjusted. We have some men among its chiefs who are for Union in anything but few declare so.

Times are very hard here. There is hardly any money in the Country.

Please write soon to your

Aff. Son

Ed. Hale