

Nashville Tennessee

Jan. 19th 1864

My Dear Mother

I received your letter some two or three days ago but have been pretty busy since and when not busy I have not felt like writing, but I will not neglect answering it any longer, and will write to you this morning, I fear that I cannot write anything that will hardly be worth reading. I am getting along first rate here in Nashville and enjoying myself tolerable well, my time is spent mostly in the office, when I have nothing to do I pass off the time reading, we have a large library in the office and its just the thing that suits me, the weather has been warm and pleasant for several days, and it seems more like summer than winter, yesterday I went over to Edgefield myself and two others crossed the Cumberland river in a skiff as it was a beautiful day we had a splendid time, I like to get away from the noise of the city

once in awhile, it seems, like getting home
 almost to get out into the country, where
 everything is so still and quiet, & a city
 life would never do for me not at all.
 I would prefer some solitary hunters
 out in the woods to a life in any city
 that I have ever been in, yesterday the
 news of the capture of fort Fisher
 reached here, salutes were fired from
 the different ports, and it sounded much
 like a battle here, as our forces have
 taken fort Fisher, the fate of Wilmington
 will soon be decided, I think it will
 soon be ours, this war must soon
 close, the end of it is rapidly approaching
 and then we will all be coming home
 the peppiest set of fellows to be found,
 I do not know the reason that I do not
 get a letter from Susan you must
 please excuse this miserable writing
 and the many mistakes as I have not
 time to write more I must close I
 have written this in a great hurry
 my regards to all and let me hear
 from you soon. I remain
 your affectionate Son
 Henry Welch

Mrs. Phebe Welch
North Hebron
Washington County
N. Y.