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Shelbyville January 10th 1865

Dear Sister

Just received yours of the first, was glad indeed to hear from you again, not having heard from any of you so long, not since A.B.'s illness, did not know whether he had recovered or was dead, I think he has forgotten me any way, You seem to be signally blest in not being disturbed these times, I suppose your family are all with you yet as you said nothing to the contrary, John went to Nashville a short time before the Hood raid commenced clerking there but did not stay long, when Nashville was invested, he went to Louisville, was absent over

I have not had a letter from Willie since Oct, have written to him often I had come to the conclusion before I received your letter, to write to the Commandant of the Post to know what had become of him, Thee Bell was to see me a few days since said Annie would be in soon to see if she and I could not make some arrangements to go to Dickson said she would be willing to try the trip with me alone but I fear we could not make it, I had some experience on that road that is not easily forgotten, if that is all the chance you need not expect us, as much as I want to see you all I would not be willing to risk the trip that way, and there seems to be no other route ever opportunity and tell me of all the neighbors

mouth, is now at home clerking for a merchant in this place Mr Wells and wife staid with me while he was absent and are still here, we had very exciting times during the time of Hood occupation of the country sometimes the Federals would take the Town and hold it one part of the day and then the rebels would take it and occupy it for a like space of time Stores were broken open and and the contents taken private dwellings were searched but nothing of much value taken or destroyed we were not visited by either party there was several skirmishes here during the time, but not many lives lost, I thought there would be a battle one day in common in front of the house the Federals formed a line of battle, the rebels were in Town there was a good deal of firing in an other part of the Town but there was no general engagement, had there been an engagement where the line was formed I should have seen it I believe I should have stood spell bound and never thought of seeking a place of security. There was a captain killed here in a skirmish, who had been absent three years in rebel army was shot near his own house, was taken home and died, there are a great many deserters here now who have grown tired of war, Comrnet is still south is well, all well here T. M. I think has some thoughts of going into business if he can get a permit, that is doubt-