Near Knoxville July 26, 63

Dear Hines

I received your letter four or five days ago, deferred answering it immediately as I had just written letters to Tom and Father, but as you have to-day written Bollins or Ino rather that you will probably leave soon with Tom to join him I will write you a few lines at least, shall not have time just now to write more.

I presume you are jubilant at the prospect of entering the army - shouldering your musket and serving your country in the tented field. well I can only hope that fortune fate accidents or whatever you choose to call it may favor you - preserve you from wounds sickness and death as long as it has the rest of us if it does you may surely calculate upon witnessing the end of our great struggle and with it our independence. I believe we are at least half through. I don't doubt Hines but that you will endure the trials and labors of the soldiers life very cheerfully & that you will be found at your post when others older & stronger than you have failed. The spirit is half the thing anyhow. you go in with a cheerful spirit - occasionally you

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY 1963

will have to groan under your hard marches and deplore your poor legs and sleepy eyes. but when you are rested all will be over with you for a while at least. You forget your tired legs & hunger till you are summoned to another onset but if you are resolved to be cheerful little trifles like that won't disturb the course of your spirits longer than you are marching in the rain, or starving. You know a soldier has to encounter all three once in a while.

I wish to give you one piece of advice which you had better follow - that is never to start even on a march unless you are sure it is to be a very short one with a heavy knapsack - if you do before the march is over you will have to throw away all your clothing & blankets, when if you had started with a light load you would have carried it through and felt much better at the end of your journey. Every pound tells after the first mile. Some big stout men used to it, can carry large knapsacks but I have seen them fail too.

Dont take this advice after it's too late. 2 pr drawers 2 pr overshirts & 3 or 4 pr socks is all you want, & your blanket this is supposing you are a private and not a very strong one and have to carry your own baggage - 40 rounds cartridges - musket weighing 12 lbs and 5 days rations -

yrs &c Cranshaw Hall