

Trip to E. Tenn I am well satisfied with the work accomplished altho unable now to tell how many scholars were gained. The opportunity for seeing especially in Knoxville. prominent ~~legal~~ men ministers judges physicians ex. officers. &c and for interesting them in Gen. Howards plan and thus indirectly but most effectually in our general enterprise were numerous and excellent. I went up to Keokuk a legal town above Knoxville where a Presbyterian protracted meeting was being held and met there many good men I returned on the midnight train to Knoxville and the next day came to Philadelphia stopping over night there with Father Brown The next day I gathered up five scholars there Four belonged to one family which formerly lived in the Mts of North Carolina the story of this loyal man as obtained incidentally from him and confirmed by others was a most touching and thrilling one altho too long to be reproduced <sup>fully</sup> here The privations and sufferings which these brave hearted Mountainers in that region endured are beyond belief. This man sent his son the Mts to enlist in the Federal army with a band of others. The rebels vowed vengeance upon the parents making the penalty death For a long time he had to lie out in the Mts while some were killed and others imprisoned they stood it manfully? naming a new born girl Union America until 300 Tenn rebels came in to conquer them. They 60 or 70 were surrounded by the guerilla band but managed to escape. He knew then that his family would be



killed and selling his 200 acres of land at mid-  
night for oxen and cart he started away with  
wife and 10 or 11 children. When he reached Tenn  
he met his brothers family just fleeing from  
No. Georgia and found his nephew had been  
murdered by the rebels and he saw his body  
being eaten by the hogs.



His corn and whatever property he had, was robbed at once and he barely escaped death. Another son was sent through the lines to the Federals. The latter, being stationed near by, soon after got furlough to come home. While there the rebels surrounded the house, and demanded the boy. Meantime he had been hid in a closet, and the girls denied that he was there. The villains swore that they would kill them all, if he was not found, or, if any one of them should attempt to defend themselves. Twice with a candle did one of the gang look into the closet but the boy was not seen. The latter had his pistol, a "six shooter", cocked, and would have fired but for his mother standing close by. The disappointed wretches soon left, robbing the family of all they had -

This same boy with a brother, and two sisters, were admitted. Words cannot express the gratitude of this humble family in their miserable cabin as they were offered this opportunity. The father was an intelligent, tho' illiterate man, and a Christian. The boy was to sell some corn he had raised to buy him some clothes, and would be ready to come when the transportation papers arrive. These I have sent to Nashville for. Such youth as these, tho' uncouth and uncultivated, are just the ones whom Genl Howard desires to aid, and I believe just the ones of whom something can be made. We expect these 5 brothers from another point in Monroe Co this week.







(Inquirer's (date) 76

(Unofficial)

Rebels from Price's army of Missouri formed a large element here in 1864-5. Many are now in office. Several in the Legislature. I hear, confidentially of their expectations that Tilden is to be inaugurated by force - that he will appoint officers - that officers of territories will be ousted by force - and that the seizure of these arms will form part of the plan. Though no such crisis is probable, it is better to have the temptation removed. I wish them safe in Capt. Collins' armory, so that I can, if necessary, resort to them there with men to use them.

It might be well for Maj. Collins to have authority to receive temporarily, & command an additional force of volunteers.

B.

RECEIVED  
APR  
20  
1879  
O. O. M.