Kinston N.C.
Dec. 24th 1862

Dear Ellick

I would have written to you sooner, but we have been moving about so much that I have not had an opportunity to write. We left our picket post near Washington the day after I wrote my last letter for Goldsboro — got there on last Saturday evening, we left there on Sunday morning & arrived here yesterday evening, four miles below Kinston. I suppose you read of the battles about Goldsboro: we came by the battle grounds on our way here, & there was some pretty hard fighting done. Opposite Kinston on this side the river where Malletts men were taken by the Y— there was not a single tree that escaped the musket balls of our men & several pretty large trees were cut in two by our cannon balls. The Yankees were in that skirt of woods and no doubt several got killed from the frequent appearance of little mounds of dirt. We have between twenty & thirty thousand troops at Goldsboro. I suppose we will leave here this morning & go as far down towards Newberne as possible. We have understood that most of the Yankees have left N— & intend to get to Weldon by way of the Roanoke river if possible. The Yankees committed all the depredations that generally characterize their invasions in this trip to Goldsboro. We camped at the same place they did in returning night before last: they killed thirty three head of cattle for one man & 25 hogs. They piled the cows heads up in several piles over the field, & then burnt the hides. They treated nearly every man in the same way taking off all their horses & mules and destroying all other stock, including all kinds of poultry