

Camp near Culpeper Va Sept 28th 1863

My dear Wife:-

I have just received yours of the 24th. It is just the kind of letter I like to get from home, full of cheerfulness and love. I suppose I could sketch ^{down} of the scenery about here and have thought many times I would. But as I have not commenced yet, I have not accomplished any thing. As I sat in my tent after dinner to day looking at the Blue Ridge I did feel as I ought to make ^{some} ^{drawing} of the landscape beauties of this country. and if every thing is as favorable tomorrow as today I will devote a part of my time to the fine arts. I know the appearance of our thriving little village must have changed very much since I was here. The reason of our being in a line of battle is that then we cannot but be expected to have a fight. But after that, it was necessary to keep the line good as the enemy are in the same attitude and should take any advantage that might be offered to them.