Camp Garret

October 15, 1863

Dear wife,

Though I have nothing of importance to write I will write something as I have plenty of time now but may not have tomorrow or for a week to come so uncertain is war. I received your second letter yesterday for which I send you a thousand kisses. I wish I could get one everyday and cannot think of doing with less than two or three a week. The time seems as long to me as it does to you. Every night I say to myself well one more day is gone anyhow. But we must not allow ourselves to think of the length of time before we shall see each other. For if we do it will seem an age. We will move from our present camp next week. If we move any distance it will be to Lexington. I have become so weel know (sic) among the Bushwhackers that I have found it expedient to change my dress. I have worn a grey overcoat but now ware (sic) a blew (sic) one so that it will bother the best of them to pick me out. My men killed Capt. Swim (?) a few days ago and they would like to balance accounts with me if can. Capt. John F. Williams (reported) in West Liberty last week that he had killed me, but I can't see how it was done. How they missed me I cannot tell except that a kind providence protected me. They say they fired 20 shots at me, and when I take into ~~account~~ consideration that none of the men who fired at me were not more than thirty feet from me and most of them not half that far I consider my escape almost a miracle. I don't intend they shall get another such a chance at me so you need not feel uneasy about me. My health is very good and I feel confident that I will come out all right at end of the six months. We held an election in each of the two companies here. Valandingham did not get one vote every man voted the straight Union ticket. I am a little anxious to know wether (sic) Jack was elected though I have but little doubt that he was. I wish we had some of the copperheads down here. I think we could soon make the strongest kind of Union men of them. But after awhile they will be sorry for their missdeeds. (sic) I find that this miserable little sheet is full and I have written

scarscly (sic) anything so I will have to hunt up another piece or you will scold me.

I intended to write another sheet this morning, but slept to (sic) long and if it goes today it must be finished in short order. So I will send it and write another soon. You must try and enjoy yourself and just think that it will not be long till I will return and if I can possably return before my time is up I will. You are the only person I care about and if I have you I do not care what becomes of the rest of the world. Remember that I shall expect to hear from you often. I cannot help feeling disapointed (sic) when ever the mail comes without bringing a letter from you.

Your loving Steve