Camp Garret-Oct-15

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 to morrow 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 every day 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 any how. But we must-

Digital Image, Special Collections, Pelletier Library, Allegheny College, 2021

not allow ourselves to think of the lenght 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 well known among the Bushwhackers that I have found it expedient to change my dress. I have worne a grey overcoat but now wear a dark 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 G. Williams reported in Westport last week that he had killed me, but I cant see how it was done. They missed me I cannot tell except that a kind providence protected me. They say they fired to shoot at me and when I take into consideration that none of the men who fired at me were ever more than thirty feet from me and most of them not half that for I consider any escape almost a miricle I dont 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 Counties

here Valandingham did not get one vote every where voted the straight union ticket. I am a little anxious to know wether Jack was elected. though I have but little doubt that he was. I wish we had some of the copper heads down here I think we could soon make the strongest kind of union men of them. But after a while they will be sorry for their misdeeds I find that this miserable little sheet is full and I have written scarcely anything so I will have to hunt up an other piece or you will scold me

I intended to write another sheet this morning, but slept too long and if it goes the day it must be finished in short order. So I will send it and write another by soon. You must try and enjoy yourself and just think that it will not be long till I will return and if I can possibly 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 disappointed when ever the mail comes without bringing a letter from you. Your loving Steve

Digital Image, Special Collections, Pelletier Library, Allegheny College, 2021