

Hills above Elmina
Sunday May 19 - 1861

Dear Love I suppose you are
somewhat anxious to hear from
a certain merchant who can
hardly remember when he last
wrote to you though it cannot be
many days since. I am just at
present most beautifully situated
I am sitting at the foot of an an-
cient pine upon the brow of a
noble hill overlooking the pleasant
valleys where we are quartered.
~~It is said~~ I did not go to Church
today for there are so many
soldiers here that if only a few from
a company should go it would
crowd the city out of their pews.
We therefore stole away upon the
hills to read, write and "sustreat"
the country around Elmina is
truly beautiful It is com-
pletely shut in on all sides

by fine steep and somewhat
craggy hills which seem fully
loath to open and give passage
to the waters of the noble
river which flows the valley.

These hills seem like old
friends to me though I never
saw them before. You know
I have a passion for hills
and even never tired of gazing
my own them. Here too I find
my old acquaintance the
laurel, which sprawls in ungrace
by its things along the hillsides
and then hides its deficiency of
beauty in proportion as it
once hid Cassius' bulwark by
its ever verdant leaves. Every thing re-
minds me of my old Massachusetts
settlers home, - for so far as scenery
is concerned Massachusetts is my
home, - and I really enjoy looking

at Nature's beauties here. I think is
best gone and I wish to write
to C. S. Anderson and Mr. H. G. H. G.
have once for all you must have
written to, - never more.
I am just about the best
of the best of the best of the best
The were ordered to bring their
clothes and have not yet
our uniforms. I am sure
we must have some more
clothes and I am sure
that I am very glad to be
into barracks, if for no other
reason however we will then
have things of our own, sepa-
rated, and arranged. I do not
yet know what position I
shall have, but there is little doubt
about my being in the regimental
staff. I shall probably know
where I am tomorrow or the
day after. There has been an

camp, among those most destructive to his peace of mind and body are certain vexatious vermin, which are very apt to find a lodgement upon his head. You see therefore the necessity of my doing, and have done. I am pretty near sick today and do not know but I must go ^{to the hospital} tomorrow. I would almost as soon die as go there, it is so awfully filthy there. I have been quite indisposed for two or three days and have slept most of the time for the last 24 hours. I must speak to Dr Barnes tonight and have him prescribe for me. We have some exciting times here among the boys! A few evenings since as Hob and I were returning to quarters, we heard some noise and saw a crowd before the barracks. I suspected at once that something was up and so made myself numerous

at once. I soon found that some of the boys had been fighting in the street and been arrested by three policemen. They were marching them off when the boys attempted a rescue, and attacked police. Revolvers were drawn on both sides but chiefly through my exertions were not fired. Stones were thrown freely however, and the police were obliged to retreat with their prisoner through a Billiard room on Washington St. After they had passed in I took my station at the door and endeavored to prevent the boys from smashing in the doors & windows. In this I was in the main successful, though one door was broken, and there is an ugly contusion on the side of my head which shows where I

formed the acquaintance of
a stone. It knocked me down
some, but I was paying
ready to oppose their entrance
Last night there was another
bad millic. I, thank Heaven, had
no hand in it, nor had either
tomorrow morning we came
under U.S. Army Regulations,
then news will be less frequent
I don't know what you refer to
when you speak of my laughing at
one who fell down stairs. Please
lighten me. My fall was no laugh-
ing matter though I am sure it shoo-
Of course I wrote those resolutions
up in about ten minutes too. Why
did you not think they were good?

I am sorry you are at all troubled.
Dear, Please do not be any more.
I have only seen Miss Mackenzie a mo-
ment this week. They are so careful strict
with the girls now, that I cannot enjoy
a decent visit. I must write no
more now so good bye to me
Abbey