

University Camp, Tenn.
July 31st 1862

My Dear Wife:

I am on picket in just the most romantic position I ever saw. It is on the very summit of a mountain ^{one mile northwest} at the point which you will find designated as University Place. It was selected by the Committee of the University for the Southern Episcopal structure is, on paper, ^{about 600} feet from where I am now situated. I can see the top of the mountain & from my position I can see the valley. Unfortunately the mountains offer insuperable obstacles to my extending a little lower down, just beyond my line of pickets (outer pickets) there is a point from which the view of the valley is perfectly enchanting. I think it the very finest view I ever met with. From a height of about 600 feet (200 of which is gained by a very abrupt and precipitous rise) you look down on a most verdant and fertile valley, which seems to lie dreaming in the summer sunshine as peaceful as a lake in its guarded chambers. There is not a crossing the

