

Letter Number 21 written by Titus Moss on 17 November 1862

Loudon Valley Nov 17th 62

My Wife

I trust that this will be acceptable without the dear when I tell you that I was think of home so strong that I forgot it. There is no particular news from here that I know of. It is a rainy day and I am sitting on my blanket in a bush house formed by placing poles one end on the ground the other on a stick supported by two trees high enough to stand erect in the front end. We have a stone fireplace in front and thatched it with pine boughs so that it does not leak very bad. 30 of our men are on picket duty and will have a wet time to night. We were roused last night about one oclock and ordered to pack for a march. Samuel was not here and F & I packed out things the best we could. F took the can of honey rolled it in his woolen blanket and strap it on his knapsack and I did the same with

2. one of the peach cans. We ate the last of the tomatoes this morning. The cheese we divided and took each a piece. The sugar ten cloves soup we stuffed in the haversacks. S things we left in the trunk. We made these preparations by the light of the fire and as quickly as possible and then sat on a log in front of the fire until we were drowsey and then lay down and sleep till morning. I have not heard any thing since of marching. S has got through with Provost duty and says that one of the Penn. men was shot through the leg last night by a man crawling on his knees. The man that was shot cawled out halt, the other fired his gun and ran instantly. I do not know how bad the wound is. I suppose it was this that roused our brigade. Nov 20 We are well this morning but have had two very busy days. I will try to give a short sketch of them. On the 18th 30 men were sent on to Louden Heights for picket and 20 to Elk mountain to work on the fortifications. Mr. Moss can give you some idea of the rout only we went up on the west side. The road that leads

3. up the west side turns to the left at the pont?? bridge and run along the side of the canal for ½ a mile and then turns up the mountain. Mr. Moss did not go up this side but he can judge the caracter of the road. Only it is three times as muddy now as it was when he was here. There are three batteries one above the other in progress when they are finished the region of Harpers Ferry, on these heights, will be a dangerous place for an enemy with a small force of men if they do their duty. These heights command the country for miles and the guns can pass compliments the distance of 4 or 5 miles. There has been three cloudy days with some rain

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but I concluded that rainy weather and Sundays were alike in war. If there was work to do, there is small of whisky dealt out to the men that work twice a day so that some think it pays to get wet. Nov 19 Our whole reg't were ordered

up the mountain back of our camp to support a battery that has been there for a few days except a few for guard and those that were out on picket (I was one). We had toilsome march for a short one with our equipments blankets, food and water. The top of the mountain is bleak a place as I ever saw. The wood is

4. all burnt so that there is nothing but rocks and those small or looked so with the points up so that it is a craggy place for men or beast. We "slovd" for two hours in a heavy mist so thick we could not see only a few rods with a cold wind making it anything but pleasant for orders. By that time the other reg't had got away and we were permitted to go into the tents that were there for the accommodation of the men stationed there. Frank, myself, and four others chose one and relieved ourselves of our baggage and eat our dinner and took a view of the guns and horses (I think there were 76 horses) and then set to work make arrangements for the night. There were no comforts inside the tents but stones with a little dirt between them. Went to work to fix a fire place others for wood which had to be carried some distance up the hill. We had got enough for the night. The next thing was marching orders. The battery boys packed there things harness there

horses. We put our baggage on our backs took down all the tents and piled them up and came back to camp just at dark. I was very thankful to have a bush house to stay in with leaves and pine to lay on. In a rainy night we put our rubber on the outside so that our shelter was complete. I had a paper from you Monday and a letter from Sister H last night. L is writing to her while I am to you. Keep up good courage and write as often as you can. I have not had a letter from you I think I think near two weeks. I hope to get one to night. Kiss the children for me as usual and accept this from your unworthy Husband Titus Moss