

Little Sewel [sic, Sewell] Mountain
Sept.' 27. 61 [1861]

My dear Christine,

The rain which commenced yesterday evening, has continued in torrents from its commencement, and is now pouring down at a great rate, shutting me up here on this mountain, but in very comfortable quarters. Mr. Alexander & myself came up from Lewisburg yesterday & last night came up here by a most circuitous & steep road, and were kindly entertained by the proprietor at his little farm. Oh how I did wish poor Eugene were with me last night & could have partaken of our nice supper & comfortable bed. But poor fellow he was with the Army, upon the very top of the Big Sewel [Sewell], within one mile of Rosencrantz's Army, expecting an attack any hour. Poor boy, he with the rest are without tents or shelter of any kind, exposed to all the fury of the storm, & with a scarcity of provisions. Fortunately I brought up with me yesterday for him, an oil cloth covering, a new jacket of fine cassinett [sic, cassinette], a pair of strong thick soled shoes, coming up to the ankle alone, & a pair of strong Buckskin Gaiters, all of which fit him loosely & well. The Gaiters button on the outside of the leg & rise up to the calf of his leg, covering the top of his foot well. I applied to Genl. [General] Lee yesterday to grant me a pass through this crisis, so that I could be near him in the event of a battle, but he said he could not grant it, as it would be a departure from a strictly military rule, imposed by necessity. He was very polite and expressed his regret that he could not gratify me by a departure in any sake from a rule, which he regarded as a cruel one in cases like mine, but are upon the observances of which, the safety of his whole army might depend. I shall therefore have to hover around the vicinity of his signal guards & Genl. [General] Lee has consented to my being admitted to Eugene, in the event of his being wounded. I have tried to persuade Eugene to go home with me & join the Botts' Greys – but he thinks it better for him to remain with Genl. [General] Lee's army. Genl. [General] Wise left yesterday for Richmond, having been ordered to report there immediately & Genl. [General] Lee is now in command of the whole Confederate force now on the Big Sewel [sic, Sewell]. Reinforcements are coming up every day, but it is said Rosencrantz is also receiving large reinforcements. A bloody battle is expected, & heaven grant that our poor boy may be permitted to pass through it unharmed. I have seen many tough times out here, but at present, I am indeed most comfortable, & if Eugene were only out of this horrible storm, I could feel more satisfied. The Taverns are all deserted, & we are now quartered in a private family, a mile from the public road. [continued on the side of page 4] I have received my grant & most kind attention from Mr. Alexander – he is with me now. If I am riding one of his horses. [continued on the side of page 1] We are now about 25 miles West of Lewisburg & only 3 miles from our army on Big Sewel [sic, Sewell] and 4 from the Federal Army. [continued on the side of page 2] [Illegible] about 1.00 yds [yards] from Eugene's present position the tents of the enemy are visible, and the officers & men distinctly seen. [continued on the side of page 3] Eugene gave me yr. [your] letter of the 4th of Sept. yesterday. The only tidings I have had from home, since I left Winchester. My love to Maggie. Yr. aff. Husband, L.C.C. [Your affectionate husband, Levi C. Cordell]