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Lookout Valley, Tenn.  
Nov. 18, 1863

My dearest Lis,

Inclosed please find a view of our Camp and surroundings. The "Reb Flag" and Batteries prominent on Lookout Point--and Chattanooga and our headquarters flag across the river in the distance. Just below back of the "Point" you will notice a small flag with a square in the "center" that is a "reb" signal station watching our movements. This view represents about a mile distance up the Lookout Valley occupied by the camps of the Regiments making our Brigade. My friend Dr. Trexler, 73d Pa. Vol. has done pretty fair justice to the residence of the chivalry only the houses are never chinked or mudded and nearly all look in R State--are without windows just the places cut out. These cuts appear much of them and what is true of these is true of nearly all of the south. It has been my lot to see only a few decent residences of the south at all.

This "Lookout Valley" is almost 2 miles wide on an average. I understand about 50 miles long and is very fertile.

*Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop*  
The mountain just at Chattanooga and south and east from there is "Missionary Ridge" divided from the "Lookout Range" by a narrow valley and making the west boundary of "Lookout Valley". It is the foot of the "Raccoon Mt." nearly as high as the "Lookout". The Tennessee River runs nearly west of here and the Chattanooga bends up north. I don't think we can lay here long just now. We are without a fight. There is no way of dislodging the "rebs" from Lookout Mountain only by sending a force to their rear and when we do it will be another "Chickamanga fight" and I think our folks are waiting to get a quantity of supplies ahead--to recruit the animals and men then awaiting re-inforcements. General Sherman's Corps will be today from Tuscombia, Ala. and there are Regiments and small detachments arriving daily. The army are in good spirit, generally healthy and confident of success when the fight comes on. The rebel army are fearfully demoralized. It would average as many as 100 deserters a day that come into one of the 11th and 12th Corps not privates only but Captains, Lieutenants and even their Colonels. They dare not entrust one man with