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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
Chambersville Febry [February] 13th 1861  
Dearest Lou  
After having passed through the fatigues of the day, I find myself this beautiful moonlight evening, alone in my Studio-Shut in, for awile, from the cares of my daily vocation, and with a few moments to devote to silent reverie. And Oh! how pleasant it is to thus steal softly to my room, and ponder over the Scenes of the past, and, in my mind, to live them over again! But the immaginary falls far short of the reality and is therefore a very poor substitute.  

And Lou it is with feelings like these that I again take my pen in hand to intrude upon you another letter, but I feel that you will pardon me; for had I have believed when I last met you, that this evening
would have found me here; I should have asked of you the favor, which I now take without your permission.

I have not heard from Caroline but once since I left, and that was from my particular friend, R.J. Orell. He spoke of all the Ladies except you - of you he never uttered a syllable. Whether he did it on purpose, or not, I am unable to say. Judge of my surprise when I glanced eagerly over the pages for your name but did not find it. I came to the conclusion, at first, that you had left the neighborhood, but he stated that Miss Annie was still over, which convinced me otherwise. Lou I sincerely hope that you are enjoying yourself finely, and that you will occasionally think of one who once shared life's pleasures with you, but alas! is now doomed to another fate. I have had the horrors ever since I
came up here. I have about thirty Eight scholars in school and the rudest you ever saw. I have expelled one already. I have not yet visited any one and do not know when I shall. - I have met but one young lady, since I came up, and, she looks about like those we saw, at the Quarterly Meeting at Templeville so you can judge how I like NewCastle.

But I fear I am getting tedious

I suppose you have received my Degaerotype befor this as I mailed it over two weeks since. the day, was very unfavorable, that it was taken, But I guess you recognized the young man, had I though you would not, I should have enclosed his name.

Lou if I am not asking too much I will request you to answer this, give me the news of the neighborhood, in fact there is nothing connected with Central X Roads but what will interest me. Let me know
how Mollie F is getting along for you know that [underline] she [underline] is one of my best [underline] friends [underline]. Yes one of those noble hearted friends such as are not apt to forsake up when fortune frowns. But I must close as I have already written too lengthy a letter, excuse the length. write soon and believe me to remain as ever
Yours devotedly
Lou J. Seward
Tom M. Reynolds
Near Smyrna
Del

N.B. I presume I shall not get down until my school closes, which is about the middle of April
As ever
Tom M. Reynolds
NewCastle Co
Near Smyrna
Del