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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
Chambersville March 9th/61

Dearest Lou

It is with the greatest pleasure that I sit me down to address you a few lines. One long week has nearly elapsed since I bade you adieu. Yes it has been the longest apparently that I have ever experienced, I can truly say that I "fancy the minutes are hours."

I arrived in Smyrna about sunset on Sunday Evening, without any transpiring worthy of note - But Oh! it was a lonesome, cheerless, ride, and I employed the time in meditation; so much so indeed that I hardly noticed the road over which I came. I reviewed that period of my life, very minutely, which dates back to the evening that I first met you and comes down to my leaving Caroline.
the happiest period of my whole life - one which I delight to contemplate - - and one which will never, never fade from my memory. it being the period in my history in which those sentiments were developed which we truly experience but once. and which flow but in [underline] one [underline] direction - those sentiments you have heard me express.

Lou I was sadly disappointed in my visit to Caroline. for never did I anticipate more pleasure than I did at that time. But I alone am to blame; i should not have gone down when I did or at least without knowing what was going on. It however has taught me to view our brightest hopes, often, as bubbles that vanish at the touch.

I suppose the singing School passed off finely on Sunday Afternoon. I should have been [strike through] delighted [end strike through] glad to have remained
until the exercises were over, but I knew that I had to tear myself away and I thought the sooner the better.

I have no news to communicate, with the exception of my going to debate on last night. I was compelled to make a couple of speeches or two attempts at least. The house was crowded then being a great many Ladies present. But it does not appear any thing like Central Lyceum. No more than NewCastle Conty appears like Caroline. I like to have forgotten to tell you that I was to a grand party on Wednesday Evening; I would like to tell you the particulars but will not have room. However I will say that it was three O'clock when I got home, but I assure you it was not my fault, My papers warns me to close. Now Lous as this is the third time I have written, I think you are indebted about Eight pages. Which I shall be happy
to receive as soon as convenient. Let me hope that you are enjoying yourself finely that you will find leisure moments enough to grant the above request. You must excuse this letter for I have not had time to copy it. Please write soon and believe me to remain as ever
Yours devotedly
Lou J. Seward Tom M. Reynolds

N.B. If you have not an opportunity of mailing a letter endorsed to me you can address C.A. Hendrickston Near Smyrna Del and I will get it
ever yours
LJ Seward C.A. Hendrickson
Adieu to Caroline county!

1
Farewell to dear old Caroline!
Home of my heart and friends adieu.
Lingering beside some foreign strand,
How oft shall I remember you!
How often at the close of day,
Send back a sigh to those I leave,
The loving and beloved, they,
Whose fondest image round me cleave

2
We part-no matter how we part,
There are some thought we utter not,
Deep treasured in our inmost heart,
Never revealed and never forgot!
Why murmur at the common lot?
We part - I speak not of the pain,-
But when shall I each lovelty spot
And each loved face behold again?
continued on 2nd page
It must be months - it may be years,
Ere my feet these paths shall seek,
Time's remorseless hand may bear
The rosetint from some dear one's cheek.
Though humble, few, and far, yet still
Those hearts and eyes are ever dear;
Their is the love no time can chill,
'The truth no chance or change can sear!

All I have seen and all I see,
Only endears them more and more;
Friends cool, hopes fade, and hours flee-
Affection lives when all is over!
Farewell! and if we never more,
Through life's sad journey meet again,
Oh! oft recall the days of your' 
And, in accents tender, lisp my name!

Tom
chambersville
New Castle County
Delaware
March 16th 1861