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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
Camden May 3rd 1861
Dearest Lou
I am very sad this morning. Three hours ago our company left for Wilmington, consisting of about sixty men, thirty of which belonged to Camden and vicinity. And I assure you it was hard to take the parting hand of those who perhaps will never return, I felt that I ought to have been one of the "Patriotic Band". But I cannot be.

I shall go to Wilmington on next Monday morning but will return in a few days. I would have gone this morning but our Home Guards will organize, in a few days this week and I want to be present.

Lou let me hope that e'er this your Mother is fast recovering, that one great
weight of care is being removed which has caused the color to leave your cheek.

I could but mark the change that the last two weeks have wrought in your countenance, but making you none the less lively [underline] no! no! [underline] for I never, if possible, loved you as dearly as when I last met you, for I felt that care, bitter care, the portion of us all had wrought the change, I did not remain long the morning I was up to see you. I could not, but I hardly know why, I never felt more strangely in my life than when I was down in Caroline this time I felt as thought it would be some time before I should again visit the dearest spot on earth to me.

I must close our I shall be too late for the mail which leaves in a few minutes. You will therefore excuse the length [strike through] of [strike through] the letter and also the writing. May I hope that you will have an opportunity of answering this early as I am very anxious to hear from [underline] you [underline] and family. As ever yours till death Tom M Reynolds
N.B. Frank is sick, but not very bad, as she is up a part of the day. My Brothers children are a little better, and the people of Camden are generally well. Isaac Stayton has not gone with the company.
No more. As ever, Tom M Reynolds.