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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
Camp Tom Casey “N.Y. Nov. 29, 1862

My Dearest Son,

By today’s mail your letter dated on last Sunday came to hand. What shall I say were my feelings? If you could have seen me awaiting anxiously each mail for the three weeks we have been down here, you could judge. I fear I had become too impatient. I imagined you were sick or that some one had intercepted my letters or yours; in fact I had imagined everything except that you intended to torture me. The fact of course I could not charge you with, as my last letter which by this time has reached you will show. I do not know what I said in my last letter, but if I had it now before me I should surely tear it in pieces. Do not think I was angry, if you did dream I was, for I was not, but I had the horrors dreadfully, and hope I shall not again experience the same feelings. Oh! Con it seemed hard to be down in this dreary place for three weeks and not to hear from you, and also expecting daily to start for Texas, when I could not hear for months. This is my apology, I know you will accept it. But thank Heaven it is past. Your
My Dearest Lou

By to-day's mail your letter dated on last sunday came to hand. What shall I say were my feelings: if you could have seen me awaiting anxiously each mail for the three weeks we have been down here, you could judge. I fear I had become too impatient I imagined you were [underline] sick [end underline] or that some one had [underline] intercepted my [end underline] letters or [underline] yours [end underline]: in fact I had imagined everything, [underline] except [end underline] that you intended to [underline] torture [end underline] me. the last of course I couldnot charge you with, as my last letter which by this time has reached you, will show. I do not know what i said in my last letter, but if I had it now before me I should surely tear it in pieces. Do not think I was angry [underline], if you did dream I was [end underline], for I was not, but I had the horrors dreadfully and hope I shall not again experience the same feelings. Oh! Lou it seemed hard to be down in this [underline] dreary [end underline] place, for three week and not to hear from you. And also expecting daily to start for Texas, where I could not hear for months. This is my apology, I know you will accept it. But thank Heaven it is past. Your
Kind letter is before me, and we are building 

Huts for the winter. Why we did not go to Texas 

I know not, neither do I care. 

Dear you spoke of those happier days when I 

rang of Dixie, they are past, but I am glad that 

with me you look forward to their return, I must 

and dwell here though, for it is a theme that 

would occupy too much space. But let me say 

that I often recall those happy days and long 

for their return, but never sing Dixie any more. 

It is not because I repent of my course for you 

know perhaps the struggle & each one in trying to 

keep out of the Army and that finally I had to 

bid my Country's call. But it is the life of a 

bellman, a man when he enters the army forgets 

his freedom that moment, I care not what his 

position may be, and love of Country can be the 

only prompting power which will retain him if 

he has the opportunity of resigning. I expect to 

remain while there is a rebel in arms if I live 

and health permits, and I know your heart too 

cell to think you would have me do otherwise. 

I have but few relatives but what oppose me 

and the cause. I rejoice, yet I thank God there 

are a few. I have a pious Mother's prayers to 

follow me, and several I have yours. With thee 

alone I can brave everything save death, wouldst 

Heaven I were all a good Mother would have me
kind letter is before me, and we are building [underline] Huts [end underline] for the winter. Why we
did not go to Texas I know not. neither do I care. Lou you spoke of those happier days when I sang
of Dixie. they are past, but I am glad that with me, you look forward to their retur. I must not dwell here
though, for it is a theme that would occupy too much space. But let me say that I often recall those
happy days and long for their return but never sing [underline] Dixie [end underline] any more. It is not
because I repent of my course for you know perhaps the struggle it cost me in trying to keep out of
the Army and that finally I had to bid my Countrys call. But it is the life of a bondman, a man when he
enters the army forfeits his freedom that moment, I care not what his position may be, and love of
country can be the only prompting power which will return him if he has the opportunity of resigning.
I expect to remain while there is a Rebel in arms if I live and health permits. and I know [underline]
your heart [end underline] too well to think you would have me do otherwise.

I have but few relatives but what oppose me and the cause i espouse. Yet I thank God there are a
[underline] few [end underline]. I have a [underline] pious mother's [end underline] prayers to follow
me,and [underline] Dear Lou I have yours [end underline], with these [underline] alone [end underline]
I can brave everything save death, would to Heaven I were all a fond Mother would have me
believe what your own life teaches me I should be. I feel now unworthy of such affection, and ask what would one life be without it? to me it would be aimless. Virtue would be void of its charms, Vice would assume more fascinating colors, and the noble faculties of the soul sink into ruins! This view may seem considerably exaggerated, but when a man is placed as almost every soldier is to-day, and should feel he had no one to love him—none to love, he would become an easy prey to the thousands of allurements which mock him at every step. I feel glad to reflect that such is not my fate.

You remark that you think the war will end in the spring. I sincerely hope you will not be disappointed. I know that I would willingly accept my wound even one half my term had expired, if my services are needed no longer, but I must not indulge too much in such pleasing anticipations. God knows I would be but too happy to return my peaceful home again, under the protection of the emblem of an evidentiary country—"The old flag."

I had heard of the barbarous murder you spoke of. It was the most villainous act I ever knew. Language fails me to express my horror of such a tragedy. I would have been too glad of an opportunity of running him through and through. My whole turns me to hasten on. I am glad you think my photographs good for I was not pleased.
be! or what your own life teaches me I should be. I feel now unworthy of such affection, and yet what would life be without it. to me it would be aimless. Virtue would be void of its charms, vice would assume more fascinating colors. and the nobler faculties of the soul sink into ruins! This Lou may seem considerably exaggerated, but when a man is placed as almost every Soldier is to day. and should feel he had [underline] no one to love him [end underline] - none to love; he would become an easy prey to the thousands of allurements which meet him at every step. I feel glad to night that such is not my fate.

You remark that you think the war will end in the spring. I sincerely hope you will not be disappointed. I know that I would willingly sheath my sword e'er one half my term had expired. if my services are needed no longer, but I must not indulge too much in such pleasing anticipations. God knows I would be but [underline] too [end underline] happy to return my peaceful home again, under the protection of the emblem of an undivided country. - "[underline] the old flag [end underline]"

I had heard of the barborous murder you spoke of. it was the most villianous act I even knew. language fails me to express my horror of such a tragedy. I would have been too glad of an opportunity of running him through and through.

My sheet warns me to hasten on. I am glad you think my Photographs good for I was not pleased
with them myself and intend yet to send you another
taken differently. You did right in letting Mrs. Fisk
have one for I had rather her than almost anyone else.
I know. I think she is elegant. From you seldom of
circumstances being different, if they were you should
write differently. I doubt much that not being different
as you are well aware. That must the miles separate
me. Let me hope you will write confide in me as one
who cannot, will not betray your trust. I know this
hard for you to do, or it has always appeared to be.
But in the future great perfectly as I have always and
and you will never reject it. I shall be my constant
effort in the future as in the path to make myself worthy
of your entire confidence. I am happy to inform
you that my cold is much better and when I get
my book erected I imagine I shall live comfortably.
There is such a thing as comfort in a log hut by who
self. I received a letter yesterday from my friend R.J.
Odell, it was quite a shock. I assure you, I think him
one of my warmest friends. Let me hope your
Mother's health has entirely recovered and yours also.
Be sure you take good care of your self this winter
for when getting in spring I hope to see you in
good health and spirits. And while away it will
afford me pleasure to hear of you enjoying perfect
health. Without it one cannot be happy. I have
no news to communicate at this time worthy of
notice. except Regiments are daily passing us by
this way further south, which renders this lively.
I might say that the married portion of the
officers are busy trying to find places for their wives
to spend this winter. That also, for one I can take
no part in the interfering task, some of them
and two are now one and I hope that I hold
my own views now. One of them yearn the married letter and please don't forget that you owe
me at least six letters and that I attend the office
you will put Camp "Tom Case," instead of Camp Seward, a
is better as the country in the same.

Lem & Served
Browning

I remain as ever
Only the T. M. Reynolds
with them myself and intent yet to send you another taken differently. You did right in letting Mrs Golt have one, for I had rather her than almost any one else I know. I think [underline] she is elegant [end underline]. Lou you speak of circumstances being different, if they were you should write differently. I deeply regret their not being different as you are well aware, that now that miles separate us Let me hope you will wholly confide in me, as one who cannot, will not betray your trust. I know it is hard for you to do, or it has always appeared to be but in the future speak frankly as I have always done and you will never regret it. It shall be my constant effort in the future as in the past to make myself worthy of your entire confidence. I am happy to inform you that my cold is much better and when I get my Hut erected I imagine I shall live comfortably. if there is such a thing as comfort in a log hut by ones self. I received a letter yesterday from my friend R.J. Orrell, it was quite a treat I assure you. I think him one of my warmest friends. Let me hope your Mothers health has entirely recovered and your also Be sure you take good care of your self this winter for when I return [underline] in spring [end underline] I hope to see you in good health and spirits. And while away It will afford me pleasure to hear of you enjoying perfect health. without it one cannot be happy. I have no news to communicate at this time worthy of notice. except Regiments are daily passing us on their way further south, which renders things lively.

I might say that the married portion of the officers are busy trying to find places for their wives to board this winter. [underline] But alas! poor me [end underline]. I can take no part in the intersting task. Some of them doubtless pronounce me fortunate but I hold my own views nevertheless. YOu must pardon this hurried letter and please dont forget that you owe me at least six letters. and that I attend the office daily. You may addersss your letters as before except you will put Camp "Tom Casey" instead of Camp Seward, a very poor change I think. Letters will come direct addressed to either as the locality is the same.

Jou J Seward I remain as ever

Greensboro only thine

TM Reynolds