Don't forget to tell me of the compliment in your [underline] next [end underline] letter as is the best under existing circumstances.

Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point Va
May 8th 1863

My Dearest Lou

Most gladly do I seize this opportunity - of writing you. Your letter came duly to hand, but owing to the important movements taking place near us, our Mail was stopped. To-morrow I learn that the Boat will leave at the usual hour. Lou allow me to thank you for the good length of your letter. I hope you may always write long ones. You may be sure that I ered them with interest. Since I wrote you last, some of the greatest battles of the war have been fought, and that too within a few days march of this. From the present conflicting reports I am unable to judge their effects.

I fear that [underline] Hooker [end underline] has failed to accomplish all that the Country expected of him. Yet we have no doubt killed and captured over 50,000 rebels, which is something in the way of aiding the final result.

Two regiments of Cavalry belonging to Gen. Hooker's Army have come in to this Point. They were sent out to destroy the
Rail Roads between Fredericsburg and Richmond.

They fully succeeded in their mission and one Regiment of them was within one and a half miles of Richmond.

I have not time to give particulars but suppose all the movements will appear in the papers. I supposed one week since; that before this our Regiment would have been on the way to Richmond, but presume that Gen. Keys does not intend taking us from the Point or he would have done so e’er this. A great many troops have gone up this River within 3 days, but I have not learned for what purpose. I think they are to reinforce Gen. Hooker.

There is so much news and it is so conflicting that I hardly know how to judge: Some of the officers think we are defeated and assert that the war has only just commenced. Others like myself feel we cannot be defeated &c etc. If I learn anything positive I will inform you immediately. Lou I know I am wearying you about these army movements. I write as thought I was addressing some one of my own sex, that are supposed to Study these plans.

Pardon me for saying so much yet I know that the success of our cause would highly
interest you. I hope to be able to write more favorably next
time.

I am sorry that the late wedding in your neighborhood should
have been disturbed by some opposing elements. Weddings
should always be joyful if possible. I regret to hear that Em's
friends should in any way oppose. Bob R. is not one of the
[underline] peace makers [end underline] of which the Bible
says [underline] blessed [end underline], or that is my opinion.

I hope before this your parents are entirely recovered for I
not only regret their illness, but I fear you will greatly impair
your own health by such constant watching.

You have a lonely time I know. It is a painful yet a pleasing
duty to wait upon aged parents.-to be able to lighten their
steps Towards the Tomb. I hope you may be spared the
parting hour for years yet in the future. I look forward with
joyful anticipations to the hour when you and I shall finally
receive their Blessing. May we all live to realize the event.

I have a great deal to say but must defer it for the present. I
must endeavor to write a few lines home before mailclose.
Father's family no doubt think I have been in the late fights
in fact is is reported in Delaware that our whole Regiment is
captured. If nothing happens I will write again in a few days.

Direct your letters as usual for if we move they will follow on.

Write soon
As ever
Thine
Tom
L.J. Seward