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My Dearest Lou
This afternoon finds me at leisure. In front of my tent, which you would probably pronounce a [underline] Dog house [end underline]. my servant has buit an [underline] arbor [end underline] of pine brush: here I am writing, and having a good breeze it is very comfortable. Did I say comfortable, really the word sounds strangely, for honestly I sometimes think I shall forget what comfort is. The weather has been so excessively hot for the past month that it was impossible to "[underline] keep cool [end underline]" anywhere for the past week it has been much pleasanter. I am now doing duty in Camp, and will remain here for some time. Your letter of the 10th came in last mail, I need not assure you that it was most cordially welcomed. If you could see the anxious faces that I have seen around the Post office [inserted text] daily [end inserted text] since coming into
Virginia, you could form an idea of the greeting a Soldier gives to, letters from "dear ones at home." I was forcibly struck with this fact some time since. It was [inserted text] on [end inserted text] our last days march, the sun was shining so hot that it nearly blinded us - the men were so much fatigued that we halted about every mile. At one of these times while the men had [underline] unslung [end underline] their knapsacks and were lying by the roadside, I passed along the line to a shade and seated myself on a log. near by me I noticed one of the men reading a letter, I glanced at the top and saw in commenced "My Dear Husband," I watched him while he read and presently a tear slowly trickled down his sunburnt cheek. I know nothing of his family; and could but wonder whether some tale of a suffering wife and little children had started those manly tears; or perhaps she was telling him how in the silent night she had petitioned high Heaven for his safety, - how silently and prayerfully she awaited in her lonely home for his return! While I was thus meditating "[underline] Attention [end underline]" was sounded, and the poor fellow [underline] reslung his [end underline]
the whole column moving slowly along the road. I do not recollect of seeing him since, but I often think of that letter from "home". Lou I have no one to call me by that dearest of titles, yet have I not one as dear to me. Are you not as dear as though the vows I pledged you before heaven had been consumated? I know no difference. The sentiment I cherish I believe of too pure origin to need that last bond to preserve it, even amid the dark days that now surround us. Lou I am occupying much of your time in speaking of the influences of letter writing: pardon me I could not say less. Lou you ought to have told me the Lady's name that does not like Soldiers. I pity the Lady that has no friend to offer at her country's shrine! I am glad you enjoyed your fishing party. I would have been too happy to have been with you.

It is fortunate that your shower bath did not make you sick. I am used to them. I can easily lay down
on the bare ground and sleep amidst the hardest shower. So much for becoming used to a thing.

I wrote a few lines to my friend Bob Orrell more than a week since but have not yet heard from him.

Lou you spoke of looking frightful when your returned from fishing. I suppose you looked something like you did the evening I met you coming in from gathering berries (At Mr. Roe's) I have looked frightful many times since rather oftener than I then imagined. I little dreamed of it in those happy, happy, days. When I returned from the Peninsula I don't think my whole wardrobe would have sold for more than One Dollar Eighty seven cents. My sheet warns me to close.

I see no chance of getting home at present as we have 14 officers absent from the Regiment, most of them on sick leave. I suppose if this doesn't reach you until you go in Del. it will be forwarded immediately.

I was my Bro. John that was drafted, Sue Townsend's Lover was drafted so I am informed. do you corresond with him yet.

There is no news of interest in Camp. write me as often as convenient and always as lengthy as your last. I am fond of long letters. I will write you again as soon as I have an opportunity.

I am as ever


Greensboro Md.