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**Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.**

Head Quarters 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. Del. Vols.  
Fairfax Station <sup>Va</sup> Aug. 2. 1863

My Dearest Lou

Since I wrote you last I have to acknowledge the pleasure of receiving two <sup>letters</sup> from you. They both reached <sup>me</sup> at ~~the~~ same time, and not before I had become anxious very anxious to hear from you.

I must thank you for writing six pages and hope you will continue to do so.

I am sorry that I was not in Wilmington at the time my last letter was mailed; I gave it to our Chaplain the morning he started for home and I suppose he carried it home with him.

I think it a great pity I ~~was~~ am not a Chaplain for ours has been home four times since last Christmas. However I am getting along tolerably well at present. For nearly two weeks our Regiment has been guarding the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. I have been on one of the trains with a part of my company and run daily from Alexandria to Warrenton junction.

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and return, making a ride of 90 miles each day.

This Lou is why I have not written since we left the Court House. I stopped in camp however on yesterday, was on Picket last night, therefore have a few hours to-day, that I can call my own. The Rebs were popping at us occasionally during the night. I shall go on the cars again to-morrow. I ought to state that the Army of the Potomac is now lying at and beyond Warrenton Junction, and that their supplies are carried over this road. We are placed on the trains to prevent the Rebels from capturing them or tearing up the tracks.

We have been attacked but twice and then when we gave them a volley they Skedaddled.

The country around here is very hilly and Mountainous. I am now sitting upon a very high hill near camp under the shade of some pines, and have a splendid view of the Bull Run Mountains, also of the Blue Ridge beyond.

There was some fighting on yesterday up near the Rappahannock. A train of cars containing forty of our wounded, has just passed on their way to Alexandria.

I was down to see them, they presented

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3 had died since they started, and several others I think will not survive long. It makes my blood almost boil when I see our soldiers slaughtered by such villains, But from what I could learn from the wounded, our troops were victorious driving the Rebels for several miles. The Rebs came down some nights since within 3 miles of our Camp and captured about 40 wagons principally belonging to Suttles, our Cavalry captured them back again the next day including 5 prisoners.

To-day everything is quick. But no Church Bells disturb the stillness of the Sabbath. I think I would give anything to spend a Sabbath in attending church. there is something sublime in the gathering together of citizens of all grades once a week at the house of worship. I have not been in a church for more than nine months.

I Imagine Lou that I can see the Bridgetown congregation now assembling, it is just the hour, many familiar faces pass before me, among them I can see you taking your accustomed seat, nearly opposite the stow, I think I ought to be

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speculating. I am sitting on a cracker  
Box in reality. You I hope are at Church.

When you take your seat, if it is not  
sinful I would ask that you look to  
where I used to sit, and remember that  
though subject to a harder fate now, yet by  
the blessing of God you shall see me there  
again. Do those Secesh pray for the  
Soldiers now. I know that Mr. Straight  
and Powell, do. I am glad your health  
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perhaps. I must get back to Camp  
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for Alexandria. I will write again  
to-morrow if nothing happens.

Please write often.

Yours till death

Lou J. Seward

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[underline]Tom [end underline]

[underline]Lou J. Seward [end underline]