



**MSS295 Thomas M. Reynolds letters to Louisa J. Seward, American Civil War Digital Collections: Letters, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.**

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

Tom M Key nald



Dover Del June 26. 1862

My Dearest Lou

I arrived safely in Dover, about 1 1/2 O'clock, on Sunday night, and should have arrived earlier, but shortly after I left Hazletville I fell asleep and my horse taken the wrong road: when I awoke I was somewhere near Kenton in the middle of a large woods.

The horse run me into a small ditch + aroused me, or I guess I should have been somewhere in Newcastle County by morning.

It was the most lonely ride I ever experienced. You can partially imagine my reflections, after the events of the day, and my very abrupt departure. And Lou the peculiar circumstances in which I am placed, always renders my leaving you very coolly indeed; those word that can find utterance alone in the parting moments, are forever locked within my own bosom. and nothing but the pressure of the hand - the gentle "Good bye", can be given to evince the pain of parting. One moment alone, at the hour of parting with those we love, is more highly when miles intervene, than hours spent in the social circle. The last fond word can never be forgotten - it cannot, cannot perish. My visit

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in many respects, was extremely pleasant. I have never spent more time with you, on so short a visit, than this time. yet when I look back it appears as but a moment. The circumstances under which we met were never so painful. There never was a period in my life before, when I felt as strangely as I did Sunday-never were there so many thoughts rushing upon my mind that I could not possibly give utterance to.

But one thought - Lou, around which they all cluster, I expressed to you. Whether I urged it too far, or not, I am unable to say. If I did I can assure you, I did it with the purest motives. Heaven knows I would not wrong you!

If I did not love you, I could rush into the field, or even the "thickest of the fight" without even consulting you. But often have I vowed before Heaven to love you, even to my latest breath. Then to leave you without any claims upon me except those registered in Heaven, will be painful indeed! It was for you, and not myself, that I made the proposal.

I am strong and can make any sacrifice, you are not; I can endure the privations, and toils, of the soldier's life; yea anything that my country imposes! only let me feel, ere I go, that towards you I have discharged my duty, and I go willingly!

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In the midst of times like these, we must expect that social relations are to be severed. ties of the most sacred character must temporarily be torn asunder. even the brightest hopes of our lives for a time darkened or perhaps blighted forever. Then our duty is to ameliorate as far as possible this sad calamity. Thoughts like these are painful. yet Lou I must indulge in them. for I have as much to sacrifice as any one who today is placing himself upon the side of his glorious Country. for it to live, and if needs be for it to die. Pardon this long letter for I feel as if I could write all day, but my time warns me I must shortly close.

I must speak of our meeting on Tuesday which was grand in the extreme. if you ~~ex~~ could have heard the speech of N B Smithers you would have wondered why any loyal man could stay peaceably at home. while traitors in fiendish form were so ignobly assailing our glorious nationality. there were many wet-eyes in that large assembly. I am not excepted. But I must close. you will please write to me immediately if possible. for I shall anxiously await your letter.

Believe me to remain

Lou J Seward

Unchangeably yours T M Reynolds

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Lou J Seward [end underline]