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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.

Fairfax Court House Va.
Feb 22nd 1864

My Dearest Lou

After more than a week of extreme suffering from Neuralgia, I am again feeling very well. To-day (the anniversary of the great and illustrious Washington) has passed off very quietly here, but doubtless with you it has been properly celebrated. To-night the scenery beggars description. I wish I could have you here to witness our moonlight evenings, for I fear I shall tire you speaking of them. Pardon me this time and I will tell you why this evening has made such impressions upon me. Lt. Cullen of my Company has just returned from home bringing his bride of a week with him. Of course the Brass band has been playing, ~~then~~ and the Bride appeared on the Portico of the Hotel where he is stopping making a splendid appearance by moonlight. But I confess that, had the scene been changed, and with you as a Bride I could have stood where he did. This hour would not find me with the Blues and penning I fear an uninteresting letter. My Second Lieutenant is at home now and I heard today that he also is Married.

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But enough of matrimony at present as I shall hope to be at home e'er long and then we can determine whether they be foolish or wise.

I received a letter on yesterday from my sister Mollie. She told me to ask you for a photograph for her. She seems very anxious for one. I hope that you will gratify her if you think proper and have any pictures remaining. I have been expecting to hear from you for several days and hope I shall not have to wait long. I think every letter I write that the next one will make a long one, but really there is so little transpiring that I fear they would prove dull. But why I reason thus I can't tell for your letters would be welcome every day were they only a line. Lt Jeffers thinks it perfectly awful if his Lady does not write him three times a week and I suppose I should too if you were to humor ^{me} thus for a while but I know you cannot, therefore I am content to hear from you as often as you can conveniently write. I hope to hear that your Mother has entirely recovered her illness and you enjoying excellent health. I expect to go to Alexandria on to-morrow and have all my decayed teeth extracted so that when you hear from me again I shall doubtless be enjoying life as well as is the lot of an exile. In regard to my coming home, I cannot honestly say that it will be so. My application has been forwarded some time but there are a great many away so that I cannot get it yet. And the Army might possibly move and I may not get it at all. Let us hope for the best. It is now midnight. I will close. I would wish you happy dreams. Good night
ever yours

L. J. S.

Tom

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