



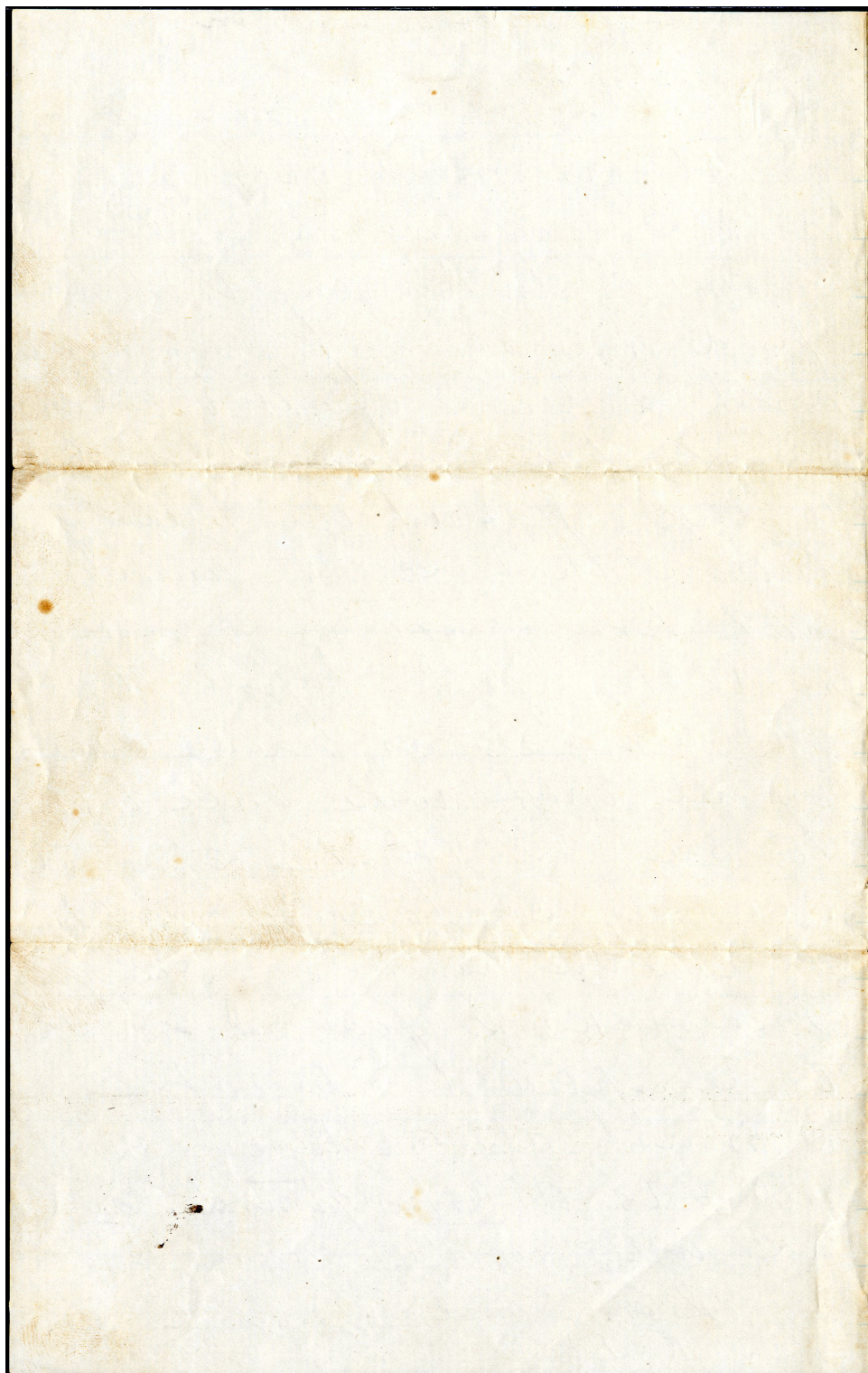
**MSS295 Thomas M. Reynolds letters to Louisa J. Seward, American Civil War Digital Collections: Letters, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.**

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





Capital Hill  
 Washington D.C.  
 July 15<sup>th</sup>/63

My Dearest Lou

How very uncertain and the "fortunes of war," - A few days since I wrote you from Gloucester Point stating that I should probably remain there for some time. The letter had scarcely left camp, when orders came to report at Washington.

We reached here on yesterday morning and are now in splendid barracks within 200 yards of the Capital, I assure you it is quite a treat to be again among civilized creatures.

I will attempt to say how long we will remain here.

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I think however that if we do not remain on duty here we will go to Frederic Maryland. I had the extreme pleasure of again seeing the shores of Maryland as we came up the Potomac - a pleasure I thought a week ago was scarcely probable.

We are now quartered in the finest Barracks in the United States and with a chance of dining on something better than "Hard Tack"

I wish I could describe to you what hard-tack is but I have not time now suffice it that I lived on it for one month and have scarce any teeth left me.

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Lou the news from every  
quarter is most glorious  
and I begin again to look  
forward to the day that will  
find me on my way home  
with a leave of two weeks.

I have a great deal  
to tell you in the pleasing  
future that I am anticipating.

Oh how anxious I am  
to look again upon those  
familiar scenes made dear  
by all that was once joyous  
to me. I think I could  
scarcely contain myself  
were we to move to  
Frederick. I fear I should  
be tempted to desert.  
I must close. Direct your  
letters to Washington D.C.

I will write again shortly.  
I am as ever your  
Lou J. Seward

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tempted to desert. I must close. Direct your letter  
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Lou J. Seward Tom