



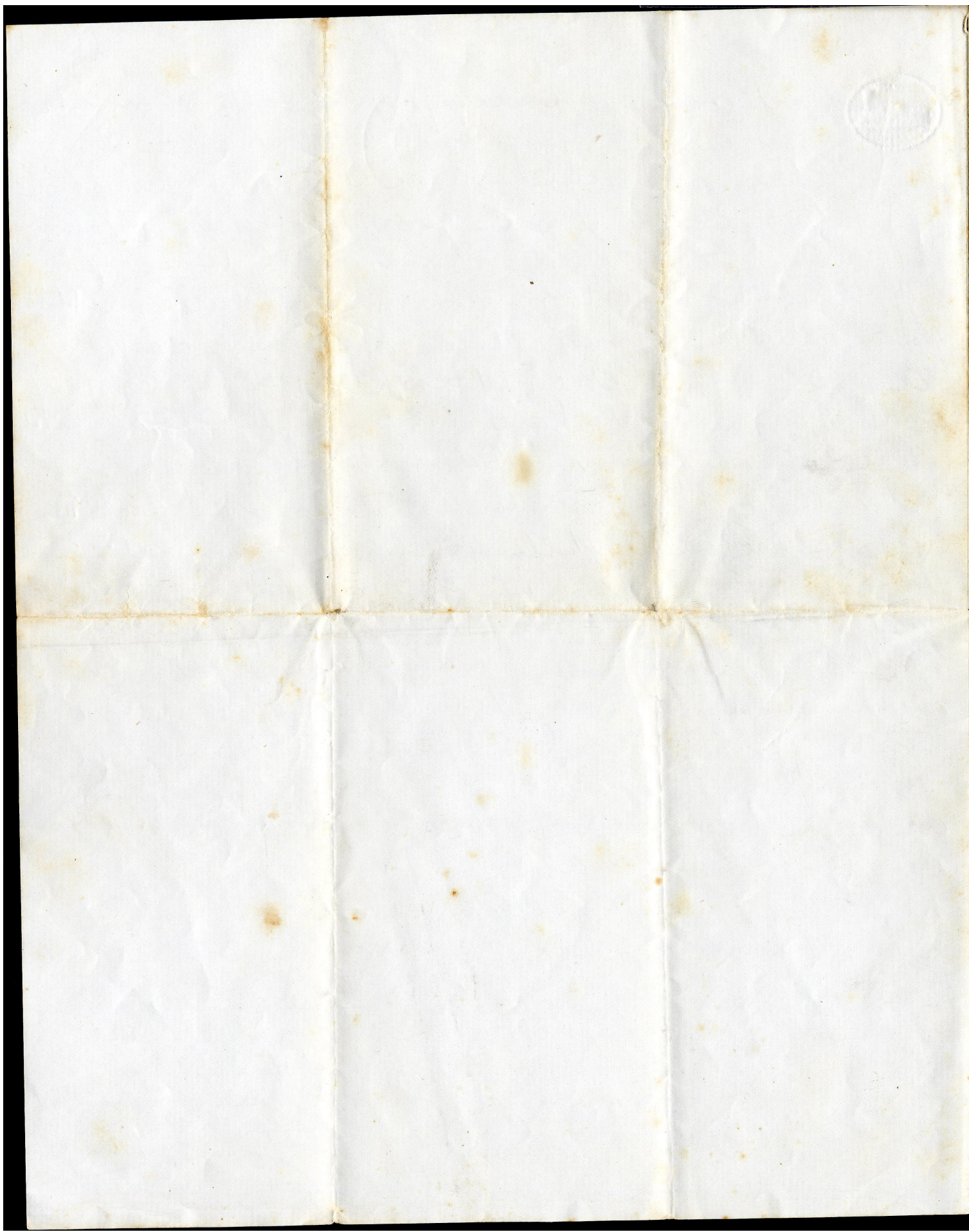
MSS295 Thomas M. Reynolds letters to Louisa J. Seward, American Civil War Digital Collections: Letters, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.



Dover July 14. 1862

My Dearest Lou,

When I wrote you on last-Thursday I promised to write again on Saturday. I had not time on Thursday to write a long letter and concluded to write again the reason I did not write for Saturday's mail was this, I was away down in Sussex. on Friday and stopped at Milton to write you and was informed that my letter could not reach Greensboro before Tuesday, from the fact that their mail had just left. I therefore waited until I came home. I was very sorry to hear of the death of Henry Onell yet I was not surprised.

Your very kind letter was read with the greatest pleasure, would that I could have been with you the night you spoke of. for the happiest moment of my life will be, when you can fully disclose to me the secret of your life. When those barriers which now intervene can be removed, and you appear to me the confiding one I believe you to be. How long shall I await the hour? Shall it be soon? or not until the tide of battle shall have swept treason from

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this land of ours and peace again hovering
over this vast Republic? I can only wait;

Lou there is a "destiny that shapes our ends"
So that no matter how mysterious and the way
of life, no matter how diversified with sunshine
and darkness, no matter how boisterous, or rough
the way, yet when pure motives alone prompt us
the close must be a peaceful one, Our association
together, you may well say, has been mysterious,

There are many incidents connected with it,
that we might prefer were otherwise, yet I
would not blot one word from memory's page;

I would not recall one moment of the past.
I will only look to the future, hoping and
knowing that there is happiness in store
for those who sincerely love.

You remark in reference to my entering
the Army, that you cannot tell me to go.
Oh; that there were no necessity of my going.
God knows that it is duty alone that urges me.
If I could fold my arms, and conscientiously
say, to my bleeding Country, I will not
go to your rescue: I should be happier this hour,
But I cannot; And for the future I intend
to link my fate with that of my Country.

If I did not, I should prove recreant
to my duty as an American citizen, I should
feel unworthy of the proud title of a freeman;

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title of a freeman:

But - I must not weary you with so much
in reference to myself and the cause I
have espoused. Neither have I time to write
much longer, as I am going in this Evening's train
to Wilmington, and it is now nearly time,

You will have to pardon my jumbled up letters
for really I am busy almost night and day.

Thank fortune I expect soon to fill my Company
and then I will have more time to write, at least
while we remain in Delaware.

I will request you to write this day week
if possible, as I shall be in Dover about that
time, and would like to hear from you
before I move to another Quarter. I will
get it if mailed any day next week or
even next Saturday, but would prefer the
first of the week. I have not time to
write longer. I am coming down as soon
as my Company is full,
I am

Lou J Seward
Greensboro

As ever

Yours unchangeably

T M Reynolds

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