

A to L May 8th  
1864

now received

Dayton O. May 8th 1864

Dearest One,

With all the horrors of this terrible battle, in view, how can I write? Yet the old habit is fixed upon me and it would not seem like Sunday if I did not write to you!

I will hope that all is well with you, yet the thought that you may lie wounded, dying or even dead, comes over me at times and makes me sick with terror! We may hear of a great victory at any moment, but of the safety of friends we cannot know till long after, so that our patriotic rejoicings are stilled by our apprehensions for our loved ones.

I am almost constrained not to write till I know that you are safe

This will at least let you know that my wife and children are well my dearest, May it find you well and happy. - This love August

but should you return from battle, weary  
and worn; thinking of home, and no letters  
awaiting you to cheer your anxious longings  
to hear from us, it would be, as you have  
said, a keen disappointment.

If my efforts are poor, remember the  
anxiety and excitement under which I  
write.

Your letter of the 1st. inst. came last eve-  
ning, you seemed cheerful and well;  
but you evidently did not expect to be  
engaged in fierce battle so soon.

I trust the suddenness of the attack  
may be in our favor; I certainly feel  
more hopeful as to the Nation's gain this  
time than ever before, though fears for  
you will be uppermost, selfish as it  
may be.

Uncle John told me to tell you that  
he has United States Grant and <sup>Crazy</sup> ~~Frank~~  
Sherman, who were born on the day that  
you were said to have crossed the Rapidan

a colt and a calf rejoice in these  
great names, the idea is peculiarly  
uncle Johnish!

The heat of summer came upon us  
suddenly, and we are sitting with  
open doors and windows. Dear little  
Mary has become acquainted with out-  
of-door life, and is spoiled for staying  
indoors. — Her color is good and she  
looks quite well; but she is going to  
be a restless little soul to nurse.

However, by the aid of rocks I make  
her take one or two good naps every  
day. The sight of her brothers sets  
her to jumping and laughing, and  
Frank often waits till I go down stairs  
in the morning, for the sake of follow-  
ing and seeing her full of fun and excite-  
ment.

Our community has, or is about to  
suffer a great loss! Judge Morse has  
sold his farm and is going to Canada!!

Our paper announces the fact very quietly  
~~and~~ adds that several of his friends have  
also determined to leave for the same  
locality! I have not heard who they are.

Robert called on Friday to tell me about  
the payroll which he had not yet cashed  
but said he was going to Cincinnati  
on Tuesday. He means to give it to  
me entire, as he said Luther refused  
him \$15. saying he would settle with you  
sometime. He said the saddle bags were  
paid for and should stand <sup>over</sup> also.

Eliza was here yesterday. She is going  
with Robert on Tuesday. They seem to feel  
that they pay too little attention to you  
and yours, and are always apologizing.  
C. said yesterday that she felt sorry that  
she had never written to you, but perhaps  
you knew how it was with her.

Robert has bought his share of the widow's house  
for \$2300. Mr. Brady said he had not  
the ready money and wouldn't cheer his part