

A to L May 12th

1864

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Dayton O. May 12th.

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Dear Luther,

Robert and Eliza have been
here this evening, and although, they could
bring me no tidings of you, I yet feel
cheered up by their visit. - Robert has
telegraphed to Mr. Moore, his nephew, in
Washington, to find out whether Luther
and Mr. Matten have gone to the front
and whether anything has been heard from
you. - Such terrific fighting I never
heard of, and the 5th Corps seems to
be in every encounter; Ayres' Regulars too
are frequently mentioned, Oh! it is terrible
to know that you are in the midst of
such horrors, day after day it still goes
on, yet nothing is known of you; do not
even know whether you escaped the first day.
If Luther Brady has done as he promised it

it seems as if ~~the~~^{it} ought to hear something
by this time; yet the communication
must be much interrupted, and as
the army is advancing instead of retreat-
ing as formerly, that may account for
the difference in time in which we used
to get the particulars. — I hope and
will hope till certain news shall decide
the matter for me.

We get up in the morning and first read
the Journal, then to the office for letters
from either you or Howard; then get the
Cincinnati papers; — Extra at noon
one again at four — Post-Office at 6 o'
clock, and wait till ten or eleven for
wheeler to come in with the latest
despatches. — This is the excitement
in which we have lived for the past
week. — There is Mary, and besides it
is near 12 o'clock. — Good night Decemr.

Morning — We had one of the members
of the Board of Public Works with us last

night, he lost his left hand at
Hesper's Ferry just before ~~or~~ during the
Battle at Antietam.

Our boys and girls are well; little
Mary is on the floor by me as I write,
she is a great mimic, at this early
age, and makes us laugh in spite
of our troubles; Mother said the other
day that if was not for Baby, there
would be no sunshine in the house.

Yesterday and the day before I
drove out with Mother and the
children, she having lent us
'Blind Charley', and taken 'Lohm'
who has been kept up too long to
be quite safe for women of little
practice to drive. — It is better
for us all to be in the open
air as much as possible; anxiety
about you and Howard is too much
for us in the house. — Mrs. Fenner
came in last evening to say that she

had had a letter from her husband dated May 6th. when the regiment was at Chattanooga, which is our latest news from Howard.

From you my last was dated the 3rd. a precious letter, distressing as it was to me; if you should fall, it would be doubly precious, as being your last dear words! So many brave officers have fallen, and you seem to be in the thickest of the fight. That my fears are great, almost too great to bear at times. if this had come upon me in the beginning of the war, I don't believe I could have lived through it, but I have learned by sad experience to endure more than I once thought possible.

God grant that you may pass through the whole of these wonderful battles! a whole week of fighting! You are having your full share, if you did go to the field late. Mary sends love; and love unutterable, deep and abiding from your wife.
Annette