

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
be 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
I am well and happy.
— I am ever,
your affectionate
friend,
Augusta

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 ^{Crazy}~~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 rocking 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 ^{one} 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 close his part