

Parkersburg, Sta. Aug 21, 1862

My Dearest Friend,

As a person now adays scarcely knows what an hour will bring forth. So you will see by head of my letter that I am not at Lime as I expected to be when I last wrote you. On the 18<sup>th</sup> at about 10 1/2 oclock AM we rec'd a dispatch from our friends in the 86<sup>th</sup> Reg't. to start immediately for this place for they would be here. That night so overjoyed with the thought of meeting my Bro. Mathew. I started to had started the day prior for Meadow Bluff expecting to still find them here but as fortune would have it he came by way of Marietta and on his arrival here learned that the 36 had orders to march and would be here at said time. So to our joy we happened to be on some train of cars and came on to Belfrey where we crossed in a boat. without any other change of conveyance. They were delayed and the Reg. did not all get in until yesterday morning. But believe me we had a happy meeting. Last night we (our family spent together) at the Richmond House almost 18 months since we have had a family meeting. They went into Camp Union, a camp which they occupied shortly after they went into service but Brother stayed at our room and we had a good time. I need not try to tell you how happy we were but please imagine will you since you have been separated from your parents & home friends about some time. I told my brother all about you and he expressed a desire to see you- I only wished you were with us and then I should have been truly happy, but tonight I must tell you there are many many sad hearts. About 30 came from our place to meet their friends and we spent most of the day in camp with them but we have parted . A beautiful one it is too. Already 7 reg'ts. In camp here and while I am writing sitting in our room on 4<sup>th</sup> Street by a window I see another reg. Come in. Have not yet learned the name but it is getting dark and I must ring the bell for a light. There I come again. Have been to tea and feel somewhat refreshed since and will write you a few more lines. I believe I told you we had met with and parted with our friends. The first gave us joy- the second sorrow. They were ordered today about noon to take the cars this evening at 6 for Washington so they are on their way I suppose. We saw 2 reg'ts march down to the cars viz 86 I believe and 30 (Regiments?) and then bade farewell to our friends of the 36<sup>th</sup> . At their request came down to the hotel before they started. They dreaded the parting some and so do we. Hundreds of ladies were on the ground besides ofl gentlemen to take a last look- perhaps final separation of their brave sons. It was a pitiful sight the stronghearted wept like a child to see father and son in a final embrace. Brothers and sisters parting- husbands and wives was a sight too affecting to witness. I hope I may never see another such or one much harder than first parting for we expect them to be in a battle soon. I would love to speak more of these things but cannot now. In my next will promise to do so and tell you how I get home and if I get another letter from you- hope so. Hark! Another regiment is coming in but it is dark and I cannot see them. One more to come in and then I believe all from Cox's Brigade will be here that are coming. Well I must stop for this time for it is time to retire as we have had a good many acquaintances call which interrupted my routine as we leave in the morning at 5. I must tell you I commenced a letter to Jennie – had it about half done writing when we got the dispatch so of course had to drop it but will finish it as soon as I go home. My kindest regards to your brother and my entire Love to you. (Cannot read the rest around the margin of the letter.)