

Aug 14th 1862

My Dear Ann

I have been trying to find a better excuse than not weather for my not writing to you before, having been so kindly cared for ^{by} you in these stormy times, but had better confess the simple truth that the last fortnight has been one of no ordinary excitement ~~to me~~. ^{to me} Sarah Ingh had written to me that she & her little boys were ordered to go to the Sea Shore by her physician having she was in need of change, and I have been waiting impatiently to the end of their visit at Long Branch for my long anticipated pleasure of having them here, well that they arrived on Monday at mid day and departed this morning giving me only two days. I could not urge her to keep her little children in the City during this month, and would not consent to her husband's going home without them, as there were too many precious souls to be left for

long journey in his sole charge, so
it is all over, and I feel to drag as
if I could do nothing, but turn my
thoughts to my dear Brother, & invoke
Heaven's protection on his brave
and precious ones, in any coming
danger of this wicked war. I met
Mrs Lathrop yesterday who told me
her brother was not well and she had
been sorely disappointed that he was
not to be here this summer, as he did
intend to do. Howard was a short
time in town, & came to see me. I say
he sees in NY many Western people
who tell him, of his Father. I cannot
bear to think of Lexington transformed
from the peaceful enjoyment of all
domestic luxuries into the turmoil
of military camp - and the academy to
be the scene of strife, one people
are stirred up too, and are doing.
Charles sitting with the title of 2nd
Lieutenant, is recruiting with much
zeal. He was so hopelessly dis-
appointed at his want of success in
West Point, that he felt he must
be a Soldier, and got a commission