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1862
Aug. 1

PERSONAL LETTER from Mary L. Benham in Cincinnati, Ohio
to her friend, Paul Declouet in prison.

Cincinnati, Ohio August 1, 1862

Dear Friend,

I wrote to you on the 24th of July and have not had an answer, but I want Lieut. Hawes to hear what I have just heard as I closed his letter. Tell him that his cousin Ada, who is on a visit to her husband's mother, two miles from Washington, was arrested together with Charles' mother, sister, servants, etc., under the charge that Rebel Cavalry had been in the fields in the night. Ada, was refused permission to dress herself save in the presence of men; made to walk to Fort Slocum with a file of soldiers, and the negroes, grossly insulted - but they have appealed to Gen. Hallick, and when the letter was written, a court of 4 officers were sitting on the case of this arrest. Tell Sam Hawes that I am also losing my amiability. His cousin is dreadfully excited. You will pardon all this, I have just closed my letter to Sam about the case and thought this the only way to tell him of the arrest of Ada.

Mary L. Benham