

Belle Island Va Oct 23<sup>d</sup> 1863

Dear Mother Sisters and

Brothers

It was with great joy  
and pleasure that I received and  
read your letter of Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. It  
makes me feel a great deal better  
to hear from <sup>home</sup> once more and to hear  
that you are all alive and well and  
well getting along so well with the  
work you see I am still a prisoner  
but my hopes are strong yet and  
my health is good so I don't borrow  
any trouble about it. Those that have  
been here the longest are the first to  
go and we have been here as long as any  
into about a week and the next boat  
load of well men that go we shall  
probably go but don't know when that  
will be. A boat comes up every week  
or two after the sick and brings