

Belle Island Va Nov 20th 1863

Dear Mother

Your letter of Nov 3^d
came to hand yesterday It came
rather unexpected but I was as glad
to receive it as though I had been
expecting it I am glad to hear th
at you are all well and getting along
I think your letter came through very
quick I wrote to you a few days ago
probably you have not received it yet
When we are exchanged I shall come
home if I can but dont expect to eat
apples and drink cider with you
till about a year more That land
you are about to buy is a good piece
of pasturing and I believe it
takes in a number of apple trees
does it not I think you got a good
price for the steers Give my love to
Carter and tell him I hope he will
not have the misfortune to be taken
(and now little black thread)