Camp Stone wall 13th
Nov 10th /63

Dear Sister,

You have no doubt before this heard of our retreat from the Rapidan across the Rapidan. Just as I had finished my last letter I mailed it, the cannon commenced booming & we were soon ordered to reinforce Gen. Rhodes at Kelly's Island, distant 16 miles, so we started at dusk marched very fast to Kelly's farm, formed our line of battle, & were all ready for the evening but a courier came galloping up & ordered us back, so we again broke up the line of march & continued to march until day light, reaching Culpepper's Corn just as day was breaking, we again formed a line & protified. The enemy soon made their appearance on our left & right. They immediately advanced on Gen. Hill on the left charging his breast works, but were hand-handily repulsed, with considerable loss. Right evening on we started again, continuing with shining from the enemies front & marched until nearly day when we lay down to get a few hours sleep, as soon as it was day we forded the Rapidan & reached our headquarters late evening.
There were only two brigades engaged on the right, Hooker’s 2nd Corps, who were posted across the Rappahannock. The greater part of these brigades were captured, though the enemy lost very heavily, as they were compelled to advance across or plant about as wide a front before reaching the works, I was exposed to the fire of our batteries all the time, which moved greatarrasses through their line but they were soon reinforced and continued to advance until they got within 1/2 rods of the works when our men rose and fired, the first column staggered and it is reported surrendered, but another line coming up with the ammunition of our batteries being out, our men were compelled to surrender.

Whether heard with continue to advance or not I cannot say, but if he does we be prepared for him I will give him a warm reception, but I hardly think he will advance as we are well fortified. I have a splendid position. I think though that active operations are not over, but do not know what the next move will be.

We are now at our old camp on the Rapidan, some of the men are again putting up huts, but I will wait awhile to see if we will move. Give my best respects to the Mrs. Corney’s, if you have condescended to go to see them. Good bye, Mrs.