Head Quarters Camp Parole Va Oct. 3d, 1863

My Dear Mother

I thought I would pen a few lines to you this saturday eve. We have had a very pleasant day and I am happy to state that I am in good health and spirits

The order has come at last to break up camp and in a few days nothing preventing I shall be on my way brave companions in arms. It would have been a very great pleasure for me to come home and visit you before I take my departure for Tenn. but not now is it to be permitted me but I hope soon to see the star spangled Banner triumphantly waving over the whole of the deluded inhabitants of the Southern states.

To day Maj Genl Sickles visited Convalescent Camp and he looks very natural the boys were very enthusiastic about him

It seems to me as if there was soon to be some of the hardest fighting of the war & I hope the People of the north will appeal earnestly to that God who rules our destinies that he may give signal victories to our arms and that this thing may be over for we have suffered much from this war and the state of Va is but little less than one vast <u>Grave yard</u>

The next time I write home It will in all probabilty be from some other quarter but I thought I would just pen you a few lines to give you a knowledge where I was and how I get along

The other day I saw a Philanthropist in the person of a young girl of about 18 or 20 years she visits the hospitals I am told and has a good knowledge of the trade (Physician)

Please excuse me for I have no news but tomorrow I shall expect to hear one or two good Sermons which I hope to proffit by

Remember me & I shall ever remain

Yours Truly Charley

give my love to all