Fort Fisher
August 25. 1863

My Dear Sister

As I have a good chance to send you a letter. I will not let it pass without writing. I am enjoying very good health at this time and I truly hope this will find you and family the same. I have nothing very interesting to write so my letter will be short. The news from Charleston is not very cheering to us. Still it is not very bad though the Yankees have shot Ft. Sumter to pieces and Report says they were going to commence shelling the city of Charlston to day. If the place is taken I expect the Yanks will be here in a short time afterwards as this is the only place on the Sea Coast left. There was a steamer beached about nine miles from here on the 17th inst. and the Yankees boarded her and set fire to her. but Col Lamb was there in time

to kill two, and capture the balance before they could get back to their Steamers. We saved a great deal of the Cargo, and have got it here, but there was a large quantity of blankets and Grey cloth at the Steamers, on Sunday last. When the Banks with seven Steamers went close in, and commenced shelling furiously, at one time they threw thirty Shells a Minute. We only had one Company there guarding the Steamers, and the Banks soon drove them off, and landed about five hundred men, but we sent reinforcements there before they could do much and drove them on their Steamers again. There was one of our men killed and three wounded one Lieut. one Corpl and one private. our Co. was not engaged in this scrape only one detachment with a parrott Gun. It was so dark we could be ordered off. I made all the men fall in, and give them a full Supply of Cartridges and caps, and told them to be ready at a minutes warning, but we were not ordered off at all. though I saw all the Shooting better than if I had been there, and I tell you it was a beautiful scene, to see the Shells bursting and hear the reports as fast or faster than you could count.

If I go home this fall as I expect to, I will tell you more about it. nothing more at present give my love to Harriet and all other true secessionists. I want you to plainly understand that I am not for Conservative neither am I in favor of reconstruction. but I am in favor of having our independence if it takes five Years to gain them, which I have no doubt it will. Farewell Your affectionate brother

Thomas A. E. Sutton