May 3, 1864

My dear, dear wife:

Your sweet letter of the 26th ult. reached me here today, and you may be well assured that it is a great comfort to me. I wrote you the day before yesterday, but am not certain that the letter was sent away from the camp. If it shall be sent by a private hand you may get it before the other reaches you.

The long-expected movement has commenced. We shall probably march about mid-night and cross the Rapid Run at Germansia Ford, the one we crossed on our return from the Nine Mile campaign. Our Corps leads the advance, our Division leads the Corps, and our brigade leads the Division. My regiment will be preceded by two teams of regulars. You see my position will be a most important one, if the rebels have a force at the ford and attempt to resist our crossing, and it is likely to be a severe one. All these things command us shall always be in the advance.
May God bless you my dear wife and give you strength to bear any affliction which may fall upon you. If the worst should happen to me, try for our dear children's sake, to overcome your grief, so that it shall not prevent you from providing your children with what is best for them. I have no doubt, I shall try to do my duty in the campaign, let what may happen, and come alone or dead with all my beloved names, of which you and our children will never be ashamed.

May God bless you my dear one and all your little ones. May God shield and protect you through all the storms of life.

Give my love to Mother and Mary and Elizabeth. I thank your father for his many kindness to me and my family.

New Year be bright for the last time. My loving husband L. E.