

Charlestown Va Aug 20th 1864

Dear Mother

I did not write last Sunday for we were on the march. I recd two letters from you this morning one of the 7th & one of the 14th & one of them had the Photographs in. I think that Libbie looks better than she used too, but the little one dont look as well. Since I wrote you last we have had quite a tramp. Went down to Front Royall & from there up to Strausburg & Staid one day & then came back to Winchester in the night to prevent a flank movement which the rebs were trying to come on us & finally we had to come back here to save another flank movement. We are now within 10 miles of Harpers Ferry ready to go Either way, up the Vally or into Maryland. I do not think that Genl Sheridan intends to fight if he can get along without it. But if it does come to a fight I think our men will do the best they can for they are tired of racing & want to get some rest. I see that you speak quite often of McClellan in your letters. I do not think he would do any better than Grant is doing nor not quite as well for he is pretty much played out with the army. The Newspapers have had so much to do with him that they have spoiled him entirely. I hear that Charley Buchanan has been made Sergt Major of the S.S. I hope he will do well. I wrote to Foote awhile ago but have not heard from him. Our Surgeon came up from N.O. a short time since & he says that Foote is Coming up here but I dont think he will if he can help it. Ask Gust if he is not going to send me a Photograph of his Betsy Jane. Please remember me to all the people & if you see Harrington I wish you would tell him that he owes me a letter

Your Affectionate Son  
CJ Hardaway