

Near Fredericksburg Dec 21st 1862

Dear Mother

It is once more Sunday and everything seems very quiet for this place. It is too cold for inspections so there is not much drumming going on. I shall be glad if I can ever get away from the noise of these cursed drums. They are the last thing heard at night and the first thing in the morning and they very seldom stop two minutes during the day. What is said at home in regard to the late Brilliant defeat do the people like it. There is a great deal of bitter feeling here against the government or in other words the president and Genl. Hallick. If they could hear the remarks that are made about them I think they would want to give up business right away. I think they might as well stop now as to try to do any thing more this last defeat is the best thing that ever happened for the Southern Confederacy. I guess tho I am getting a little off the track I did not intend to write a speech when I began so I will not say any more about it. I wish you could have been here to see the battle field last Saturday afternoon just after the fog cleared off. We were on the high hill where we could see the whole length of the lines and see the batteries fire on both sides it was the most splendid sight I ever saw. I will not except Malvern Hill and we were out of danger with the exception of a few stray shot and shell which did not harm anyone. The firing was the heaviest that I have ever heard. The condition that the air was in made it sound a great deal heavier than it really was. The river opposite the city was full of tobacco and as soon as our men crossed they went to hauling it out and in a very short time the whole army was well supplied. I have got enough on hand now to last me a month so you will not have to send any more right away. I got some by mail last night that Albert sent me. I guess I shall not get so much on hand but what it will keep. We are all back in our old quarters just as comfortable as ever. Now if they will let us alone the rest of the winter I will be satisfied. I hope Hallick won't try to get us to Richmond on crutches for I think he will fail if he does. I hope you will get the box started as soon as possible for I do not get any too much to eat. The rations never have been so short before. I think there must be a nigger in the fence somewhere. We have just got the papers telling of the removal of Genl Hallick if he could hear the cheers I think he would be well pleased. We have just been paid four months pay and I send you twenty five dollars. Would send more but don't know how to spare it very well, as long as grub is so scarce. I mean to have enough to eat if it takes all that I earn. I can stand most anything but hunger. I wish you to make Sommers a nice present from me.

Your Aff Son

Cyrus J Hardaway

Benajah is going to send forty dollars to Mr. White.