

Near Fredericksburg Dec 7th 1862

Dear Mother

Old Winter is at last upon us, today is the first freezing day that we have had it has been freezing hard all day and the wind blows hard enough to take the hair off from a dog. My hair is pretty much all out so the wind can't make much out of me. I would like to have you send me a small bottle of Hair Oil such as you use I think it would be good for my head my hair has been coming out for the last two months and I have not got any left. I have been thinking for the last few days that we should not get much farther this winter and you might as well put up a box of things now and start them along. Smith Haight and Buck want some things too. I want about 8 or 10 pounds of butter some dried fruit or apples some ground black pepper in an old pepper box a few good mince pies. I must have some mince pies anyway can't get along without them, a little mess of black berries would go very well a roast chicken or a piece of dried beef just as you please about that. Put in a lot of Sausages. I came very near forgetting that. Now look out mother and not forget them. I think they would keep pretty good packed in lard. I would like one of your cotton comforters and some buck wheat flour. I guess I will stop telling what I want for I could sit here a half a day and name things over but I guess you could not send them all so I will not name anything else. Charley Buck and I went up to the station the other day to find his box but there has been no express office established here yet so we could not find out any thing about it I presume it will come along by and by. We walked along by the river for nearly a mile The reb pickets were on the opposite side I could hear them talk and laugh quite plain. I did not see an over coat among the whole lot I guess they will think of home to day. I wish you could see the log house that I have built this last week. I have got a fire place in it and a chimney built of sticks and mud. It is quite comfortable to day. If you could see it I think you would say that I am good for a little something yet, have got some beans cooking for supper. I guess they will be pretty good. We are drawing a few more rations than we did at first but do not get near as much as we want to eat. The money you sent is a great help. Hooker's grand division was ordered out for a review by Burnside yesterday morning so we got ready and got out on the color line in the snow about three inches deep when the order for review was countermanded. I think that was the most sensible thing that Burnside has done yet. We called him a bully boy and came back to camp a great deal better satisfied than we should if we had been reviewed. Din't ferget to put up the box right away direct the same as you do letters

Your Aff Son

CJ Hardaway

Put in a little soda and cream tartar