

Franklin La February 14th 1864

Dear Mother

When I wrote you in N. Orleans, I thot I would have time to write again while I was there, but did not get a chance. I wrote you that I was going to some of the fancy dress Balls & I did go to one as a looker on & it was the most ridiculous thing that I ever saw. But Mardi Gras is a big thing in N. Orleans & nearly all the inhabitants celebrate it in masks & fancy dresses. I hope I shall not have to go to the City again in six months for it costs too much to live there. The first time I was down I sent \$100 to Utica & I hope you have got it all right by this time. Please let me know as soon as you receive it. I got a letter from Sommers awhile ago & I am sorry that he is such a bad speller. He makes poor work with the most simple words. The Country here is looking verry fine & the grass is coming on finely. The peach & cherry trees are in full bloom & all the planters that are going to raise any thing have got their corn & Sugar Cane all planted. The most of the plantations between Brashear & N. Orleans are being cultivated this year. Last year there was but verry few of them under cultivation. The most of the people down that way appear to be loyal but I guess they are secesh at the bottom.

I bought a book the other day but do not like it and will send it to you for it is a womans book. I had a letter the other day from one of the boys of my old company. He writes that only four of the company have reenlisted and none of them are from N. Berlin. Frank Field came back to the regiment the other day from the Hospital at Baton Rouge. He is looking strong & healthy. Capt Fitts has gone home on leave of absence & also a Lt. Allis from Leonardsville. Perhaps they will both call on you they promised too. Please remember me to all the good people at home

Your Affectionate Son

C.J. Hardaway