

Near Fredericksburg March 15th 1863

Dear Mother

It is Sunday once more and a dark lonesome day. The most of the boys have gone on picket again to day but I was lucky enough to escape this time again for I have been on duty two or three days during the past week. I have had charge of twenty men to cut wood. We have to go about two miles after wood now and it is about as hard work as I ever did to keep those twenty at work and get something done. Each man tries as hard as he can to do less than his neighbor so you see by that, that some of them do some pretty tall shirking. The can of currents that I got were very nice and have lasted all the week. I got the towel and handkerchief last night dont hardly know how to use them it is so long since I have had any. Jo Pixly was over to see me this morning and was quite smutty when he heard that Gust had been here and did not come to see him. It is rather dull bussiness writing to day so I guess I wont write much more. I hope things will come around so that I can come home and see you one of these days. Please remember me to all the good folks.

Your Aff Son Cyrus J Hardaway

If you can read this letter you can do better than I can