

Near Fredericksburg March 21st 1863

Dear Mother

I have just got your last letter and also the package that Gaskell brought. I am verry glad to get everything that you sent. I guess tho if you had known how much soap we have here you would not have sent any. Soap is so plenty here that we throw it at one another around the streets. I am not verry much disappointed at the news from Foote for I know just how it is with every Colonel. There is so many suckers around them that they dont know which to serve first, but I do hope that father will succeed in getting a position for me some where away from here, for I feel as tho I was big enough to hold a better position than I have got here. I got a letter from Harrington to day. He is a little fearful that he may have to come back to the army again if they put the Conscription Act in force. What has become of Mary Nelson is she in New Berlin now. Ed has not heard from her in more than three months and wants to know where she is. Gaskell says that Henry Haight came down with him and will be here tomorrow. You cannot collect anything of the Express Co on that box becaus it was opened after it had left their hands tthe boxes are all opened by order of the Genl Commanding. Benajah Church met with quite an accident the other day. One of his mules jumped on him and sprained his ankle and he will probably get home on a furlough for a spell. If he does get home I want you to send me a pair of gray wolen shirts by him (providing you dont get any commission in for me) if you do you need not send them. Make them the same style of my old Hickory shirts. Remember me to Miss Anna and tell her that I am verry glad that her sympathies are with the soldiers for they are the ones that need it most instead of the officers. The Irish regiments had great times here St Patricks Day, (but I did not join in with them). I wish you would send me a few postage stamps. Cant write any more now.

Your Aff Son CJ Hardaway