

Near Fredericksburg March 28th 1863

Dear Mother

I received yours of the 20th yesterday after coming in from picket. The news you wrote this time was the best I have had lately and if my papers get along before we move from here I shall be very much pleased. I suppose you have heard before this that the army will move very soon. They are getting everything ready for a grand movement somewhere, can't tell which way. We had considerable excitement went on picket the last time out. The enemy crossed over in force and established a very strong picket line just in front of us. So you see we had to keep on the look out all the time. We were called up nine times one night, but it is not very hard work to get up when a person hears a few shots fired a little ways in front our alarms all proved to be false ones so we did not have any shooting to do. The news in the papers is a little more cheering than it has been of late (if it is true). We had a very heavy thunder storm last night and it has rained hard all day so far. The army will probably move from here in the course of a week. I hope I shall not be here to go with them. The officers have had orders to cut their baggage down to twenty pounds so their priviledges are not much better than the private soldiers for they can carry all they have a mind to on their backs. Please remember me to all the family.

Your Aff Son Cyrus J. Hardaway