

May 23rd 1863

Brother Gust

I received your letter a long time ago and have neglected answering for some reason or other. I cant tell what. The army is still in the old place and I think it will lay there a good while yet. They have commenced granting furloughs again and they would not do that if they were going to move right off. Our Orderly Sergeant has deserted and that leaves me in his tracks. He deserted from a hospital in Washington. We have been fixing up our camp for Summer. We have filled up the cellars and built on top of the ground and set out evergreens in the streets so we have got a very handsome Camp. I suppose that Chas Beardslee has got home by this time he will probably tell some pretty big yarns. You will have to make an allowance of 75 percent on what he says. I have not heard from New Orleans yet but expect to every day it has been nearly five weeks since I wrote down there. I see Jo Pixley once in a while he is look first rate. We have got five new recruits in our company so now we have got 22 men, quite a company. The weather is hot enough here now to make a nigger squeal right out. All we have to do is to keep as cool as we can. It is so hot that I cant write any more now because there aint any thing to write about.

Yours &c Cy Hardaway