

Near Vermillionville La November 15th 1863

Dear Mother

I got your letter of the 25th Oct last night & also one from Harrington & I am sorry to say that there was no news at all in them, but I suppose that you had no news to write. We are still staying here on old Governor Moutons plantation. The old man was president of the Convention that voted Louisiana out of the union. When we came here he had about two thousand acres of Sugar cane & that has all been stomped down to the ground to give range to the guns. His corn has all been taken & every one of his niggers have gone old & young. So that he has to go around & pick up corn & shell it by hand & then pound it into hominy himself. I guess he did not think of that when he voted for secession if he had hed stopped a bit. His son the General lives about three miles from here & they have begun to clean him out. He had about 1000 hogsheads of suggar & they are drawing it away evry day. Besides that they are getting great quantities of corn and cattle. There is nothing going on here now except a little skirmish once in a while & that does not amount to any thing. I almost wish some times that I was back again with the old army. I never knew how much I thought of that army untill I left it. The discipline of this army is not verry good & of course things will not work well, but they manage to get along some way. I was in Utica with you last night & had a first rate time, but when I woke up I was a little mad. Tell Gust to send me a photograph of his intended.

Your Affectionate Son  
CJ Hardaway