

Near Iberia La November 29th 1863

Dear Mother

I got two letters from you the last mail dated the 8th & 11th. I got them Thanksgiving day just after a good dinner. I often think of my Thanksgiving last year up in Virginnia when I only had two miserable hard tack for all day. I have not eaten a hard tack since I have been in this country. We have flour all the time and Aunt Lucy makes first rate biscuits. Franklin has stopped all forageing for chickens so we dont get a great many now but we have verry nice beef so that does verry well. I have been a little off the hooks for a couple of weeks had a couple of chills &c but I am all right again. Now I think that these chills are verry disagreeable things to have around & I think I shant have any more if I have my way about it. I have got me a good house built now so that I am living verry comfortable. The weather here is pretty cold now, so that a fellow has to get around pretty lively to keep warm. I have got a lot of brick and shall put up a chimny tomorrow. I do not see much of Foote nowadays, but I guess he is getting along all right. Austin White has got his discharge & started for home the fore part of the week. I have got into the largest nest of Black Republicans here that I ever saw. I can not find the first man thats on my side & they all call me a copper head. You ask me about pay. The officers of this regiment had their pay suspended before I joined it & of cours I have to come in with the rest. There is no prospect of getting any pay for some time to come yet. I have got along very well so far, & can hold out a spell longer. I am glad that you like your new relations from Marshall so well. Just ask Gust for me when he is going to marry, & tell him to send me a card. I guess I cant write any more now Will try & write more next time.

Your Affectionate Son

C.J. Hardaway