

Near Oppelousas La October 25 1863

Dear Mother

I have just received your letter of the 1st to night & I see that Foote has one from you too. I have not got much to write about for we have not marched but one day in about fifteen. I got a letter to night from one of the boys of my old company. It did me as much good as a letter from home almost. They write me that Hetherington the Lt. is sick in Hospital and is not likely to get back to them again. Col Berdan is too smart to get dismissed from the service dishonorably. He will work around them some way & come around all right. You think that my horse would ride just as easy if he was paid for. We do not have to pay for horses in this country. We only give notes for them to the division QuarterMaster & when we get through with them turn them over to him again. There are thousands of horses on every plantation & some verry nice ones too. So you need not worry about me for I shall not run in debt for a horse. I probably shall not get any pay in three or four months yet & perhaps longer, but I shall not starve for all that for there is plenty to eat in this country and I have got a couple of good niggers to get it for me. "Aunt Lucy" says that my mother must be a "mighty" handsome woman. I am getting along with my bussiness first rate. And above all I have got the right side of the Colonel. He paid me quite a Compliment to Foote the other day, & Foote was "highly ticeled." We had a hard rain here the other night & since then the weather has been cold. I have wished that I had brought some of my old under shirts with me. We are a good way from any where now and our communication is not verry good. I think they have pretty much made up their minds that they can not go to Texas this way for the army can not be supplied very well. There is not as many rebels ahead of us now as there were when we started from Brashear. They drop out & we see them as Citizens as we pass along. Can't write any more now Send me some stamps

Your Affectionate Son
CJ Hardaway