

Winchester Va Oct 3rd 1864

Dear Mother

As it is a cool rainy night & just the time to think & write. I don't know of any better way to busy myself than by writing a few lines to my good mother. Even if it dose not amount to much. I got your letter yesterday of the 25th saying that you had got rid of all of your help. I hope you will not be alone long for you have done work enough & are getting to old to do anything more. If there was any way to send you a woman I think that I could find an American lady of African decent that would suit you. When we came down from Harrisonburg last week with the train we brought down about 200 of the ladies above mentioned & I think that most any of them would be glad to get a good home. You had better send Gust to Harpers Ferry & I can easily get one as far as that for you & then he could take her right home without any trouble whatever & perhaps he would like to get one for his Mary Ann. I am having rather gay times in Winchester just at present. There is the handsomest lot of young ladies here that I have ever seen in any place of its size & I was fortunate to get an introduction to a couple of them the other day. "two Misses Haynes." Since then I have met a number of other ones & I have invitations out to tea & whist parties nearly every evening. They are all good secesh & it is some fun to hear them talk. We do not get any papers here now for the country is so full of Guerillas that the news boys can not get thro only when there is a heavy guard with them. There has been about a dozen captured within a week. It is not safe for a person to get out of sight of the pickets for they are shure to be taken & robbed or shot. What has ever become of that cousin of mine that was up here with Milrory is he in the service yet. Please let me know what you think about the woman & if you want one I will hunt one up as soon as possible. I expect to have to take a train to Martinsburg tomorrow, & I will have to stop writing & go to bed. Let me hear from you often

Your Affectionate Son  
CJ Hardaway