Near Franklin La Sept 29th 1863

Dear Mother

To day being a rainy day and not having much to do it has given me a chance to think of home and also to think that I have not heard from there since I have been down here. I have not had but one letter since I have been here and that was from one of the boys in my old Company. I am glad that I am not forgotten by them. I hope you will try and write often if you have to stop bussiness sometimes to do so. I dont believe you know how much good it does a fellow down here to get a letter once in a while. I was considerable home sick after I got to N.Orleans, but now that I have got fairly to work I am all right and nevr felt better in my life. We live on the top shelf all the time and have a woman to cook for us and she is a verry good cook too "for a nigger." She has been with Foote about Eight months. I never saw Foote look as well as he does now he is verry fleshy for him. Aunt Lucy the Cook takes great pride in getting us fat and says she likes to se the belly stick out. I am getting along with the bussiness now verry well and do not have much trouble but I have a good deal to do the most of the time. Foote is about three months behind on his papers and I have been at work for him for the last week. I went out yesterday to a sugar house and got a hogshead of beautiful sugar. There was about three hundred hogsheads of it in the house. I would like to send some of it home if I could. We give the men just what they want and they use up a hogshead in about three days. Sweet potatoes are very plenty here I send men out every day to get them for the regt. I have got a nigger that never goes out without he brings in a lot of chickens or some other kind of poultry and this morning he brought in two dozen of Eggs and two large geese. I guess you will think from what I say that I dont do anything but eat, but I do work pretty hard the most of the time. I guess I wont write any more now as it has stopped raining. Let me hear from you often

Your Affectionate Son
Cyrus J Hardaway