

✓
 Hood's Quarters 8th Regt. W. Inf.
 Prashai City Tex. Dec. 28th 1862

Dear Father

Some time has passed since I have written you, but I have tried to make up for this in some measure by sending you the New Orleans papers every few days - from which you could gather every thing of interest that was going on about here - and you will also know, as long as you get papers from me that I am at least alive. The place where I now am is 80 miles west of St. O. - on the bank of, what I should call a river - but what is here called Ferricks Bay. There are about 150 houses in the place, and a few inhabitants - most of them, as well as those of the surrounding country. Having taken Negro^s - mules, horses, carts &c & fled into Texas on our approach - Once in a while we find a good Union man - at home, minding his own business - but this is rare - The men, (as I have written before) are too old for military duty, or ^{else} are crippled or cowards. vast fields of cane are going to destruction, and the loss of property is almost past