

Oct 11 – 1862

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Yellow envelope with a 3-cent stamp is postmarked Nashville, Tenn. Oct. 13. Letter is on two sheets of lined stationery folded in half and is written on eight sides, in ink.)*

Decherd, Tenn.  
Oct. 11th, 1863

My Dear Wife -

Yesterday soon after we arrived here I mailed you a letter written last Monday with a brief note up to date – At the time we expected to ship again in a few moments & go on – But for some reason the program was changed & we are still here – As soon as we became sure of stopping long enough the mail was overhauled & distributed – It came up on the same train that brought us from Elk River – You never saw greater eagerness to obtain each his own missives – I recd four from you, one from Capt. W. & half a dozen more on company business from various quarters – Yours of the 28th Sep was the latest, though, others had answers to notes they had put in at different places on the route – I suppose you must have kept writing & that the next bag will bring me much better tidings - James Atwater (**Pg. 2**) had a letter from his people which says you had recd. mine dropped at Annapolis – We are expecting to move from here at any moment but as yet have no orders – The common rumor is that our location will be Cowan or Tunnelton the two next stations East of this – At the later there was a rebel clash two nights since but they did not accomplish much damage – It is up among the Mountains & I should rather enjoy stopping in such a region – But my anticipations of any permanent abiding place are very few – We are birds of passage, here tonight. Tomorrow elsewhere, & so on from day to day – We have not stopped two nights in one place since leaving the Rapid Ann – And what an extended range of travel! Ever since coming to Bridgeport we must have traveled over 150 miles – This spot is rather pleasant – There are only a few houses, but the country around is a kind of plateau & extended plain – On the North East & so round to the South East we see the mountain (**Pg. 3**) range which are spurs of the Cumberland Elevation – The soil just here is not so rich as in Rutherford Co & the North part of the state – Yesterday we came through Tullahoma by day light – Had passed it twice before but in the night – Bragg's Hd. Qrs. used to be there when Rosecrans was at Murfreesboro - It is in a level region & the soil very thin – The Earthworks there were not formidable at all – The place does not admit of such – It is a miserable looking place – In fact none of these stations amount to much when you see them – Towns have names down here & that is by far the biggest thing about them – Shelbyville has been a rich place & contains many fine residences – But this side of Murfreesboro along the line of this road as far as we have traveled there is not a spot of apparently more consequences than Plantsville – Southern villages are mostly mere neighborhoods - The houses if framed are (**Pg. 4**) of only one story & seldom painted – Still we did see several new homes built with some taste & neatly kept – In one respect Tennessee contrasts

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remarkably with Virginia – While marching hither & thither in the latter state we never saw the people come out to welcome us – But often on our late tramp to Shelbyville a family would turn out & by their words & looks showed plainly that they are union people – Several times the Stars & Stripes were shook from doorway or window & a few brought forth apples or water or provisions – I tell you it made me feel compensated for just a little of our hardship when I saw this – The women appeared better dressed & the children more awake & intelligent – Still generally the common people in all these slave states are quite different from our own – Their dress & manners show entirely other influences from those which operate all through the free states – But there is a heartiness about these Tennesseans that leads me to like them better the reserved & stoical Virginians – I verily think I should be willing to make a home in Tennessee –

**(Pg. 5)** It is noon & we still have no orders – The Chaplain held services at 10 ½ & we had a very pleasant time – The clouds are gradually spreading over the sky as we often see them at this season & I guess a storm is not far away – Last Wednesday we had quite a rain during the forenoon – We were on the march, but I had my rubber coat & of course was not wet at all – Generally the men keep dry unless the storm lasts too long – But when it comes night & we are on the march with cold rains the comfort is scares unless wood is plenty – For the greater part we encamp in groves or forests, which here as in Va. abound in dry wood – You never saw such trees as grow here – They are truly monarchs & tower up like massive pillars. Strait & round set up ages ago – The oaks & tulip trees grow to a monstrous size – You would admire the beechen groves through we passed when going & returning from Shelbyville – They are very **(Pg. 6)** tall & strait with perfectly symmetrical shapes & sprinkled through the growth of oak & hickory & tulip & ash they help to give a sylvan loveliness to the region – One thing is noticeable, there is very seldom any underbrush or trash or small trees thickening the forest – The soil seems to despise such products - & is content only with grand & sky reaching specimens of vegetative power – It was a continual joy to me to mark the size & height & beauty visible on all sides as we passed along – The country rolls enough in most respects to give a varying landscape & I do admire the native excellencies so fit to be made conducive to rural happiness – No tree planting could be more impressively done than we witness on many of these slopes & ridges – But it is the mammoth size which excites feelings of awe & completes the picture of sublime thoughts which each grove & forest seems to represent – Vines are not common - guess grapes do not **(Pg. 7)** thrive – But what culture would do I can not say – On the banks of the Tennessee I have no doubt vines would do well.

Several of the regt. recd. Hartford papers up to Sept. 30th, the journals of which date contain a list of promotions in our regt. in which I have been shown my name – All seem to consider the announcement a fact – I have no evidence that it is such & say nothing until the Gov. sends on the proof that he has taken one out of Co. E – Probably the paper has not made a mistake in men because there is no ones name so like mine as to be

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mistook for it – I shall wait for the commission - When that comes, if ever, you shall be informed - However I guess the new pants & vest will be timely & if the hat could only reach me too I should inaugurate my advent into the new capacity by putting them to practical use – I wish you would see what it will cost to send freight to Nashville by Express – also what the postage would be on a shirt sent in the (*Pg. 8*) mail – If the latter is cheapest do up that shirt in strong, thin paper & send it along to my address just as you do a letter – I suppose Capt. W. will return them to you if he is not soon coming on – I also shall need another pair of straps & some bars such as you know I bought in Washington for my blouse – If you send me a box, them as well as the hat might be put in – But no matter about this until I write further – I am too far from home for such operations & shall have to do as well as I can in this region – Still the shirt is very much needed and probably all things considered the cost of yours will be no more than one bought of the sutler which would not suit me near as well – I mean if sent by mail such bundles very often come and even vest & stockings & books are thus obtained – It is 1 o'clock and we still have no orders to move - The sky is overcast & the air is chilly – Jacob our cook is getting some dinner and I will close up – I must write those children soon. Than too there is lots of business to be looked after - You have got more than your share of inked paper lately, don't you think it? But you are welcome and here is the same old wish.

Love –  
A. Upson