

Oct. 16, 1862
No. 17

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Banks Division with a 3cent stamp. Two letters in one envelope are on two sheets of lined stationery; one is folded in half and they are written on six sides in ink)

Camp near Md. Heights
Oct. 16th, 1862

My Dear Wife -

I have recd. nothing from you since the letter Mr. Jones brought written a week ago last Monday – Suppose there must be some on the way – I sent to you by him concerning a pair of boots & rubber over coat – Wish you would hurry them up & send by express to Harpers Ferry – Have nothing new to write – Several of our company report sick this morning – Diarrhea seems to be increasing – I am entirely well & find myself gaining in weight – stepped on the scales yesterday & pulled down 123 ½ - Nights are cool but I sleep warm & **(Pg. 2)** in fact suffer far less from chilling than when at home – I see the stoves are crowded night & morning by the men – Have not yet been near them myself to warm – One other thing – If you can stuff a pair of good cotton or wool gloves into these boots do so - I have buckskins but want the others for wet weather – Since I commenced writing big guns have begun to roar the other side of Harpers Ferry – We can hear the explosion of shells & the reports of cannon every second – An action has evidently begun & we may get jumbled in it – The Col. has just ordered up an **(Pg. 3)** extra lot of ammunition & holds himself ready for orders – We have had a good breakfast & if called on shall start feeling strong – There is some prospect of rain – the morning is one of those foggy ones so unpleasant everywhere – But the men all feel glad of anything stirring – I meant to write a letter to Ida & will do so soon – We all feel disgraced by the late exploits of rebel cavalry into Pa. – If our generals in high command can rest easy under such doings close at their backs they must be lost to shame – Hope you will **(Pg. 4)** keep up a lively & noble spirit of true devotion to country & put the welfare of mankind & the cause of right above all other interests – We live not for ourselves if we die doing our duty nobly & truly how much better than to live uselessly – I can not shake off the conviction that my end is far from being accomplished – It has always seemed as though a long line of effort was before me it seems so now – My ideas are no wise changed by the experience of this service – I see a great work to be done & feel more & more attracted to it – God fit us for his will & prepare us to serve him here & here after – I remember you all there & often –

Truly yours
A. Upson

(Letter 2, that evening)

Camp near Md. Heights
Oct. 16th, 1862

My Dear Wife,

I wrote you this morning speaking of our hearing the booming cannon beyond Harpers Ferry – The day has passed by we have had our usual drills, heard from the fight, which was only a skirmish & tonight's mail brought me your letter of Sunday evening – Also one from W. O. Clark, one from Mr. Burritt & the papers – I have replied to Mr. B.s & in his enclose this to yourself – Was glad to hear from you again & wondered why you did not write last week – I have sent you something twice a week & If I had not you ought some of you to write me – We don't get the papers xc. xc. sit down to good clean tables with plenty of palatable food & have at our command the comforts of civilized life – Just think there that a letter (**Pg. 2**) from home or some friend goes a vast ways in making up for our wants in other respects. Good intelligence is bread & sauce, butter & tea, table chat & general light heartedness – You can't realize how much we are disappointed when the mail only tells us our friends are forgetful or remiss – It rains tonight smartly as they say down here – Derby Co. is on the heights - & a sweet time they have for picket duty – We are comfortable in our tents - I have not slept cold & it seems rather strange that you should – But I remember how it used to be - You must get more little bed fellows around you – Hurry up those boots & coat & gloves – It looks some as though we might move soon – Once in a while I think there are indications of our staying – Can't tell anything about the next hour or minute – Glad you have help & also that your friends remember you & you them – Must write to Sarah & a great many others – Glad the report came safe - Tell me how it (**written upside down between lines**) was received – What were it's faults xc. – Shall prepare the next one soon – But it is 11 & I must curl down upon Va. Clay –

(Written upside down on 1st page on 2nd letter in upper margin.)

I also want a cheap pen holder so as to go in vest pocket – that shirts up into a short compass - Got one at Judds in New Haven for 8 cents but it is lost now – If not convenient don't mind it – Have a good supply of pens & paper – The luggage of officers is reduced to a small compact indeed - Friday morning – foggy but a calm day ahead – Boys got along well through the night.