

Oct. 20, 1862  
No.19

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked Banks Division, Oct 20 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)*

Camp Md. Heights  
Oct. 20th, 1862

My dear Wife,

Yours of the 16th came tonight – I wrote you this morning & also last Thursday or Friday – requesting you to hurry up the boots. This morning things took a new turn – Men were detailed to cut wood or timber for huts & now the expectation is that we shall remain here through the winter – At all events we shall stay some time – Capt. Parker, Lieut. Bassett & myself were given 100 men from the various companies & sent back to the side of the mountain to cut the sticks & have them transported to the camp – We have slain a fine lot of chestnut & before the week is out the regt. will be in new quarters – I hardly think we should be put to this work if it was not the intention to keep us here – I suppose you will consider it fortunate – Our chances for a fight are not good unless the rebels do as they have done twice during the last year – retake the Heights – The 12th Army (**Pg. 2**) corps & some say the 2d also are to be stationed here – Under these circumstances I don't feel in such a hurry about my things as I did last week – Then everything looked like a speedy move for us all – The other forces will go & we can patrol the Heights & mountain passes – no desirable business for the winter – Still we can fix up & have many conveniences. Now then I want you to hold on to those things if they are not sent before this arrives & prepare me a whole barrel – I am going in for a decent living with some of the comforts – In the first place if the corn raised this year will furnish good seed you may take that saved up garret & have half a bushel of good meal ground & put in a bag for me – I shall prize that exceedingly – Meal is not be had here – flour we can buy reasonably – Next I want some soda or what will best answer for yeast. You understand the kind & amount necessary – 3d. - one peck of new white beans – 4th I guess one of my wife's own cheesed – 5th a good allowance of my wife's own butter – 6th some black (**Pg.3**) tea, some dried apples or what you think best & maybe a few of your good pickles – That reminds our cucumbers didn't look promising & in fact the whole garden was a poor one – but when the war is over I expect to have a tip top good one – I want also one of Peck Smith Cos. medium sized frying pans – two sets of soldiers knives & forks – two or three spoons – two tin cup pint & half pint – a tea pot holding about a quart & a molasses can, say a quart, corked tight & filled with the best you can get – I don't think of much more that it is best to have – With tea, meal & molasses I expect mainly to compose my eating – You can return that soldiers companion for the sake of it's recipes – if any room remains fill it up with what I shall most want – Apples – a whole lot of them by & by – perhaps Miles being in the trade will make enough to

(10-20-1862)

express me that many – As to boots – You had better get a pair made unless those for sale are of good quality – I want leather that will be soft & at the same time substantial – Double uppers – long - broad heels (**Pg. 4**) thick soles & sowed rather than pegged – At the same time I don't want clumsy ill shapen old scows, but a decent & easy going pair as befits a "Gentleman & an officer" – The general way is to wear the pants inside, but many times the tops are so large that the rain runs down in unless they lace up at the top – This is a good plan & my legs being small it might be well to have them made so the tops would answer when the bottoms are worn out - I am willing to leave them with you – But about the rubber coat don't buy anything cheap – neither the havelock - A great deal sold for rubber is miserable stuff – nothing but cloth coated over very thinly & soon flakes off – I want them such as will last my term through – I think you may send me two pair of good gloves & one pair of mittens – Those oxford shoes, a blacking brush & blacking may also be put in – Should not have sent back the trunk if we had known this – My bible & collars may be returned – I send you the last \$20 note – want you to beak it & return me 5 dollars in treasury currency – The rest may come along as I want it – Whatever you send me should come by express & if you can prepay – direct to me at Harpers Ferry, Co E. 20th Regt. C. V. I suppose it will look like a big bill I have made out – But I don't intend to be extravagant – Some rice & nutmegs & sugar may be added if you have room – My fingers are stiff but my (*written upside down on 1st page in upper margin*) heart is warm – It is not true that I have yet been homesick or that I am wearing myself out. I don't feel the wear of this service near as hard as farming in summer time – I want you to tell me very particularly whether that report was faulty or acceptable – I wish to hit the taste of people & meet their expectations – You must find out & advise me in this matter – But I am writing too much –

As ever  
A. Upson