

January 11, 1863

*(Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides  
in ink to his friend, Mrs. Bingham.)*

Fairfax Station, Va.  
Jan. 11th, 1863

My Dear Mrs. Bingham –

Yours of some time since I recd & perused with much satisfaction I seize this, to you still hour, for is Saturday night & nearly 10 o'clock, to answer as well as may be what it was my intention to respond to at leisure & in a proper manner – We are to leave here tomorrow morning at 6 – The noise of preparation I hear from the camps on either side of ours – It will be a sleepless night to most of this Corps - We had notice that we might be called on to march as early as Tuesday night – But the decisive word was not spoken until this evening – We go with 3 days rations in our haversacks & one in the wagons; but for what place you can guess as well as myself – The regt. leaves very comfortable quarters, & especially us officers of Co. E. – But our enjoyment of them has been very short – only ten days, & the fine bunk that I & my chum had fixed (**Pg. 2**) up 4 ft. above ground we have slept in but once – The next day we took in two sick men who did not like to go to the hospital & they still occupy the snug nest – We have got used to rough & hard beds so that it matters little – Still I feel now half sorry we gave them up – However if the fellows recover fully perhaps they will be thankful – This locality is not a healthy one it would seem – A large number are troubled with sore backs & head ache – Pneumonia also prevails & today the orderly of Co. D has died of Typhoid fever – The water is not so good as we had at Loudon Valley - My health has continued good & tomorrow I expect to tramp off with a good load upon my back – Our company is somewhat depleted by sickness & details upon other duty – It surprised me to see how fast a regt. becomes diminished – The wear upon men by exposure & hard service, saying nothing of loss by battle, is such as uses them up rapidly – I see that only a fraction of those passed as sound & healthy prove capable of much (**Pg. 3**) fatigue – Local diseases, imprudence & want of general care over self in a years time will cause our ranks to look very short –

I observe by the papers speak of Lieut. Stanley – wounded at Fredericksburg – Think he must be the young man who called upon me when we were recruiting in Southington – The 16<sup>th</sup> has suffered terribly – Wife says she considers it a remarkable providence that we were kept out of that regt. Ours has been fortunate in some respects, but most of the boys think they have had rough times – One thing is certain; Kane has kept us busy over something – picketing, or guarding, or marching, or drilling – Today, although expecting every moment to be ordered off, he got out the brigade & gave us a long lesson in the wind – By the way this has been a wintry day, just such as we experience in Connecticut – Our fingers would get cold in spite of gloves & lively exercise – Tonight the stars sparkle, & I guess you at the north will have need (**Pg. 4**) of your best comfortables – I

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shall turn in & try to sleep a little before Reveille disturbs us – Am cooking some ham for our food – the rest of our crew, including Jim, my contraband, are stretched out around, & one of them is moving lustily – One hour & I intend to oust him & he can go on with the preparations for departure – Tried my hand this afternoon at darning stockings – Fixed up two pair in good shape – But shall not compete with Grandmother in that line when the close of the war enables me to return to peaceful pursuits – Hope you will go over frequently & see my wife – She will get on a hypochondriac fit occasionally & write me a letter too blue for any day but washing – However she has exceeded my expectations & I feel disposed to give her credit for some patriotic grit – The tone of feeling in the army is that of sadness & doubt – A great many talk as if discouraged – My hope is strong & I have no disposition whatever to give over – We ought to succeed in crushing this rebellion & we must – There is no such thing as honorable or permanent peace but in wiping out the traitors & I say let us fight till we do it – Don't you?

Very Kindly Yours,  
A. Upson

*(Written sideways on the first page in upper margin.)*

Perhaps you had better let Mr. B. read this letter first, as he may not like to have his wife corresponding with army men – This caution is much like Pats, who informing a friend of a relatives death, requested in a postscript that he would not open the letter for several days in order to be prepared for the sad intelligence –

Give my regards to all your family & the friends in Southington –

Wish you or Mr. Bingham could find time to write me oftener – It is a joy to hear from old friends.