

Oct. 18, 1863
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Nashville, Ten with 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of unlined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Cowan, Tenn.
Oct. 18th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

I hope you are more favored in respect to letters than myself – We are yet without a second mail – What can be the trouble we are not positive, but the common opinion is that our guards are at fault & of course the curses upon them are loud & frequent – I did not send you anything yesterday or the day previous, hoping the afternoon would bring late intelligence from you all & I could give precise directions concerning those shirts & other things – I feel in as much doubt as ever & guess it is not best to add to the complication by any new suggestions – Yesterday we got the log work for our quarters up & feel ourselves fortunate – for last night it set in raining & this morning everything is wet – We put up bunks & so slept above ground – The weather is mild, quite so or it would be a gloomy time – In truth faces are rather long – (**Pg. 2**) Soldiers are up & down just like other people – They have some occasion at times for indulging in despondency – Sent off the letters & at one blow you destroy half the real comforts which relieve the hard lot through which the months are taking us – If to this deprivation you add short rations & limited variety not much more in wanting to develop all the ill feelings that can lie hid beneath a blue coat – I think most of us expected greater hardships than was common to the run of our experience in Va. – I am not disappointed in any respect save the loss of postal conveniencies – Never anticipated high living here & my anticipations are sure of realization – Our darky is about as good as a shadow to provide tempting dishes out of such elements as the commissariat affords – I tell you if I am ever permitted to get at your table again you can set on anything with out stirring my spleen – But it will be a joy once more to partake of wholesome (**Pg. 3**) fare prepared as only the people of the free states can prepare what civilized men wish to eat – I never appreciated so highly as of late the extent of happiness which is to be found in domestic life, when there is a thorough & competent wife at the helm & husband & children assemble regularly to attest the value of her services – My home now seems to have been a very paradise – God grant that we may all rejoice at some future day in those rich blessings & comforts that filled up our hours & whole life before this cruel war broke forth – There is no particular news here – We hear from the Potomac army of reverses – Things seem to be dragging rather badly all over the wide field of strife – I begin to think that only Gods aid & interposition can restore peace to the land – The disappointment which our laud, loyal friends at the North have loaded upon us when we expected their help – I mean the conscript & substitute business – accompanied with the many instances of wickedness &

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immortality found all through the army, & especially in high officers – compels me more than ever (*Pg. 4*) to sound the notes of sadness & foreboding – Alas for our cause if the sincere purpose of men is no better than most of their conduct allows us to put to their credit –

Capt. Smith has finally reached the verdict in his case – It was loss of rank & pay for 15 days with a reprimand, all of which except the reprimand, was remitted – He went on duty yesterday – I am almost out money & have already borrowed 5 dollars – If you have any to spare I wish you would send a little – Got my two blue shirts washed yesterday – They will last me with others I have for some time yet – I have put on a new pair of pants, common – Hear nothing from my new ones yet that Charley Clark has – Don't know where he is - On the whole I am pretty comfortable – My health continues excellent – Have I told you to alter the direction of letters – Leave out Washington – Try the following –

Lieut. Andrew Upson
Co. E. 20th Regt. Conn. Vols.
via Nashville, Tenn.
12 Army Corps
1st Div. 1st Brig.

(Written on first page upside down in upper margin.)

I am almost out of stamps – It is two months today since I resumed duty with the regt. Pay for that time is due which is something if I never get the other –

Yours ever
A. Upson