

Oct. 22, 1863  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked Nashville, Ten. Oct. 24 with a 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. 22d, 1863

My Dear Wife –

No mail yet, though C. Hotchkiss yesterday recd. a stray letter from home dated the 9<sup>th</sup> directed by the way of Nashville – But it was again no items of news – Said the soldiers wives were well from which I draw the broad inference that you are alive, whatever may be true the family & friends – Charley Clark also came down from Nashville, where they are located now, on the evening train – He returns this morning – Things are moving on with him very pleasantly – Capt. Steiner the corps Q. M. first located at Murfreesboro & afterwards returned to Nashville, where they will be likely to remain – I have recd. at last the pants, vest & drawers – Have not yet put them on or examined them closely – Notice that the cloth is fine – One fact rather surprised me – I meant sky blue & never suspected you was getting me anything else – Don't you (**Pg. 2**) remember the pair I got last year of Friedman were the army sky blue – That is the kind nearly all were & vests the same – I shall be a black sheep among the blue ones – But never mind – Guess the Col. won't turn me out even though his favorite color is flung aside – I have been so long without a vest that it will seem odd to wear one – Have not got inside such a garment since about the 1<sup>st</sup> of August – Now if that hat could get here my suit would be complete – My old one has become so bad that I have told Charley to buy me a cap in Nashville, also some small bars, such as I have written to you about – You need not purchase any straps until further advices from here, because it will be better to get them through him –

Gen. Grant passed through here last evening, a little before dark – I had a good view of the hero – The news that he was aboard the train gathered a large crowd speedily & the boys called him out – He came to the rear platform of the car, walking with a cane, for he is a little lame, & said, "I am glad to see you: but I can't make a speech, I never talk" – We had (**Pg. 3**) already given him rousing cheers & now they rose again – He lifted his hat & a flush ran over his features, showing him a bashful, modest man – His cigar was returned to its place & as the train moved away he stood quietly looking either way upon the men who lined the sides of the track – He is square built, close knit & firm – His appearance is not imposing but there is evidently a composition of sturdy elements – The papers say Rosy is relieved & ordered to Cincinnati while Grant assumes control over a large field, including the Cumberland Army – We do not as yet understand the significance of these changes – But it is apparent as I have told you that the govt. intends to confirm its hold of East Tenn. & probably from that direction make new advances upon the enemy – We are near the scene of future great operations & on most accounts I

(10-22-1863)

rejoice at the transfer – This long deprivation of letters is a pressing hardship, but we are mostly philosophical over the severe chastisement - Some of the officers though do curse the star shoulders terribly & all sorts of threats break forth against those (*Pg. 4*) whose negligence or indifference is supposed to be the cause of the delay – We had another surprise yesterday – Soft bread unexpectedly came to our table – We shall be able to obtain it in future provided the money can be raised – You must forward me some as soon as possible –

Another leaky day & much thunder made the walking nasty, but this morning there is a prospect the sun will get through the dense fog that envelopes everything – We see long flocks of ducks flying about & last night I heard them quacking on the creek near by – Pigeons are plenty & squirrels – This minute I hear a blue bird chirping those sweet notes that have probably ceased for the season in your climate – The hunting here must be capital & I wish we might have a chance – The company houses of which I have already written are nearly complete & attract much attention – They are so good the boys think we shall certainly be compelled to leave them – They do not place much reliance upon permanent arrangements – It is almost a month since we left Va. & as yet but one mail! How would your patience hold out if such a fortune afflicts the other end of the postsonte? The brigade is to be inspected as soon as good weather comes – Engines are whistling & steaming – the noise of these monsters is almost constant – both night & day – It is quite another experience than that at Kelly's Ford – But here is another full letter – I guess you owe me at least fifty – But I throw in the love once more.

A. Upson