

Oct. 25, 1863
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is stained and postmarked Nashville, Ten Oct. 29 with a 3-cent stamp. It contains two letters, one of Oct. 25th, 1863, which is on two sheets of stationery, with one sheet folded in half. It is written in pencil on six sides. The 2nd letter is dated Oct. 27th, 1863 and is written on six sides in ink on two sheets of stationery, one folded in half.)

Stevenson, Ala.
Oct. 25th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

We arrived here about an hour since – It is now one P.M. Left Cowan at daylight Friday Morning – The Col was ordered to leave the day previous, but the storm was so bad he delayed until noon & then concluded to risk remaining till early next day – I wrote you from Decherd, where I went to get mustered to my new rank – Returned on the passenger train at 4 P.M. & found the regt. as stated above still at Cowan – As soon as the line was formed an order was read officially notifying the regt. of my promotion & that of the others; I left Co. E & took command of K – The company saluted with present arms & I acknowledged the compliment with a wave of the right hand & a bow – Had no time for more ceremony, for the Col. forthwith gave the order to move & we fell into column – It was cloudy & chilly, but (**Pg. 2**) did not rain – Roads were muddy & small streams high – We soon reached the mountains & had a rather tedious march over into the valley beyond the tunnel – Sometimes this valley is very narrow & a mountain creek had to be crossed often - This we did as well as possible – occasionally on dead trees, more often by throwing in stones until we raised it wall high enough to step on & not go over shoe – Very few of the soldiers wear boots & there were many wet feet – At other times the road ran along on the mountain side with precipices just at the right or left – Where the road was most impassable we met a long supply train & it was necessary for us to clamber over rocks & among trees for two miles – I enjoyed the march much, for it is always a pleasure to me to be in forests & grand heights & roaring waterfalls – But the boys thought the journey a tough one – I pitied the poor mules – Many a team was unable to draw its load – Great rocks & deep (**Pg. 3**) holes obstructed their progress & frequently there was a break down - By two o'clock we got down on the track of the RR & have followed it to this place – But you know [how] hard it is to walk over the ties, especially when they are not earthed up – They pack in stone, small ones, & these render foot travel more difficult – But I am all right - Upson never breaks down on a march – We encamped last night beside Crow Creek near the station called Henderson – I & the new 2d Lieutenant of my company (he was a sergeant in Co. B. name is Royse) set up one shelter tent near the brink with an old cedar stump just before the front against which a fire was built & there we slept. Jacob, the darky caught a stray mule at Cowan & loaded

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our mess kit & provisions upon him – He got along well until we met the train crossing the mountain but was delayed by that & crossing the creek so that I had only bread & cheese, with sugarless tea for my supper – He got (**Pg. 4**) late in the night, but wet Capt. Smiths blanket in the fording the creek – I carried mine & so had them dry – It has not yet fully cleared off, but the sun has broke forth & the air is sufficiently warm – I left my overcoat with David for he felt bad & had none – He will be up in a day or two – The Col. Expects to remain here a short time & get some clothing – I am half a mind to buy a new cavalry overcoat – They cost 11 dollars – The one David has looks pretty rusty & has no buttons – Still it is the one I picked up at Chancellorsville & carried to Richmond & I had to cast it away on that account – A report prevails here that Ross is to take command of this post – Whether true or not we are all suspicious & indifferent – This is the base of supplies & a heavy business is done – Long trains of wagons are coming & going out & the whole neighborhood is crowded with men & stores & animals – It is a dirty hole – In fact every place where great operations in the army are carried on is certain to be nasty – There are a few buildings here & being the point of junction of the Nashville & Chattanooga & Memphis & Charleston RR it may some day be an important spot – I remember Jeff Davis made a speech here about a year since – (**Pg. 5**) We have just got another mail, but it proves not so late as the former – I have 3 letters form you dated the 2d, 4th & 10th – In the latter you again speak of Lieut. Lewis' wife having the latest & most frequent news – I don't know how this happens – but I do know he writes far fewer letters than I do & those to you too – Charley Hotchkiss too is commanded in order to help me - Gracious Heavens! Did you never get a letter when the others had none? What is the use of forgetting everything in the little disappointment that must in the nature of things happen – I remember Charley Hotchkiss himself recd. a letter from his wife several days before our 2d mail arrived – But I did not find fault with you on that account – As the case now stands with us we have had but three mails since leaving Va. & our news comes down only to the 15th – Don't write me any more about your worrying – Especially lest I may be sick – Another thing – C. Hotchkiss has not much real bottom - he tires out easily – Yet he hangs on & gets up after a while – But when he writes that all are worn out you must make (**Pg. 6**) allowance for his own feelings – The men were weary with their ride & needed rest – But they did not have much – I do not acknowledge myself to have been at all exhausted by the journey – One night put me all right & certainly none slept less than I did on the way – I do not think my years service has hurt me a bit – The boys say my gray hairs are increasing, but for aught I am able to discover my health & vigor are in no respect impaired – I won't give you a particle of sympathy for any more sleepless nights over evil imaginings about my welfare – That is plain & I mean it – We have a great many sleepless nights; but I don't lie awake because the thought comes over me that you or the children may be ill or dead – Not a bit of it – But I am not angry – Enjoyed your letters much, except the part alluded to – Willie has pluck – that suits me – As for an injunction on thee bounty, why don't you lay it ? Come go ahead & teach those tanie loyalist a lesson – I am willing – But enough – I have written hastily -

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

One quire of paper & a pack of envelopes cost 50cts here – Send me some by mail –

Yours in love
A. Upson