

Nov. 1st, 1863
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope postmarked Indianapolis, Ind. Nov. 1863 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Stevenson, Ala.
Nov. 1st, 1863

My Dear Wife –

I arrived back here from Nashville at 9 last night, having been all day on the route – The ride was very chilly for the storm cleared off cold – Found awaiting me letters from you bearing date Oct. 19th, 20th & 23d - It was cheering enough to bring up a late Saturday night after a tedious trip like the one we had with encouraging tidings from wife & babies – I guess by this things have become a little more systematized & we may reasonably expect one mail a week – I am particularly glad you keep so cheerful – It is the best way – There is no change in our position yet – Stevenson is muddy & nasty – Enough so for nauseating everything & body but mules & the military – They are supposed to possess olfactories & stomachs proof against the hardest fare – The rankest odors (**Pg. 2**) & the worst sights – Matters are progressing some at the front – The boats have commenced running from Bridgeport to within 2 miles of Chattanooga & they will soon be on full rations there – Hooker has been operating at Lookout Mountain, but only the 2d Division of our corps was engaged – The 1st is scattered along the RR – I hear the fight was pretty severe but the advantage decidedly ours though the rebs still hold the top – The first report was they had been entirely dislodged which proved premature – With us everything is rather confused & uncertain – I think the Col. expects to stay, but he is quite likely to be disappointed – He has good quarters in a house – Great numbers of refugees pass through here – They come from around & beyond Chattanooga – poor people whose all has been destroyed by the war & now they have to retire within our lines or starve – They come in by families in which children predominate – Your heart would be touched (**Pg. 3**) to see their wan & tattered appearance – They are mostly well meaning people without much education, but accustomed to work for their living – A great many of the men find employment in the government service – They are entirely different from most of the poor Virginians – These at once kindle some respect & sympathy in our breast – The Virginians mostly excited our contempt – These refugees are sent on to Nashville & from there I understand many of them are sent into Indiana, Illinois –

One of your letters brought me some postage stamps but nary green back – I was glad to see the red pictures with which to adorn future envelopes sent forward to my hearthstone but the sight of some evidences of Uncle Sams handy craft in the currency line would have been most reviving – We are all dead broke & without credit – Do for loves sake, the stomach & all other considerations remit me as soon as you get this – Send me five dollars a letter right along – I must have it & if you are not in funds borrow –

(11-1-1863)

– A man (*Pg. 4*) might as well be dead as without money here –

I wrote you about a box & things by express – Since then it is said Gen. Grant has ordered all express matter stopped – But I am determined to risk the danger of losing & you may forward at once as previously directed if you have not done so already – You have seen these small flasks covered with willow & holding a pint or more – Put in one of them full of some good cider or wine – I would give much for a glass of good cider – We have nothing here of the liquor kind but whisky & that I don't use – Don't forget the codfish either – I am hoping Capt. W. will be ordered back & so my things may get along by him – I wrote father from Cowan a week last Friday night but fear he may never see it – From your account he is most gone – Poor man, my heart aches on account of his pains & troubles – I am glad you are frequent & kindly in your attentions – The Lord give him a peaceful end – Now then you must not be discouraged because I am calling for so many things lately – Some day the money will come again & there will be a handsome sum over & above these expenses – I wish from the fullness of my heart this war may soon terminate – But the Lord reigns & I believe much as ever that our cause is just, though many of our people & leaders act very unjustly. My love to the little ones & hearts full & overflowing to you for your kind letters & deeds –

Truly Your husband

A. Upson