

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1863  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked Nashville, Ten. Nov. 19 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one large sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)*

Stevenson, Ala.  
Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife –

It is Saturday night, 15 minutes past 6 – Royce & myself have just finished supper, cleaned away the dishes & as I can not draw up the old cane seated armchair & set down in the corner you find me doing the next best thing – Vig - I have pulled the bench near the desk & proceed to pen you what would afford for more pleasure to deliver by word of mouth – Guess you first wonder what we had for our evening meal – Well the bill of fare is quite considerable – 1<sup>st</sup> sweet potatoes – 2d chicken with bread in the broth – 3d cheese – 4<sup>th</sup> dried peaches – Yesterday I was lucky – Going up to Stevenson in the forenoon I found an ox wagon & three butter nut clothed men, every way rustic having a load of potatoes, both Irish & Carolina, & dried peaches – Discovering the crowd around I pushed in & found them offering their produce for salt bushel for bushel – Would not sell for money – They had come 20 miles & wished to take back the whole value in salt – They told me several families had an interest in the load – The soldiers who had salt on hand enjoyed a fine chance for trade – I at once made my way to the Commissary & bought 20 lbs of salt – For that much he was willing to give me 3 pecks of yams & 4 qts. of dried peaches – Of course I did not chaffer with the man – The salt cost me 40cts. & the peaches alone were (**Pg. 2**) worth more – The chicken was obtained of another man by exchanging salt – I begin now to understand what a calamity it is for these people to be cut off from this article - They can not lay up their meat – to say nothing of other uses in the common course of living to which it is put – The case has been told me for a fact of a woman offering 3 quarters of nice beef for salt enough to preserve the remaining one – In several instances women have come with butter for which they ask 50 or 60cts. in money or one pound of salt – the latter costing 2cts. – You see the government alone has salt - & it is held only for army use – But I tell you wife northern people have no conception of the hardships & sufferings which this war has brought upon this region – Fugitives from Ala. Geo. & East Tennessee come in every day – Old men & old grey headed women, middle aged & young, clear down to the sucking child, exhibiting every sign of poverty & hunger by hundreds & thousands have left their homes & gone to Nashville, Louisville & beyond – When they come within our lives the govt. issues rations to them if they take the oath of allegiance & carries them free if they wish to the above places – Uncle Sam does all he can to alleviate the sufferings brought upon them by this wicked rebellion – The whole South is feeling as never before the tightening grip of our power – They are reduced to a very great extent & I do not believe it is possible for

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them to prolong this contest beyond another year even if we gain no new victories (*Pg. 3*)

Yesterday a band of 19 men came in from the mountains – They had been secreting themselves for over a year – They were all armed with rifles & shot guns, many of each kind being old flint locks – They are going to enlist under Uncle Sam – Today I stood talking with them when a squad of rebel prisoners was brought in – They were in high glee to see the rebs in that fix – called them copperheads – These poor loyalists are terribly severe upon the rebels – Those who have been in the service show no quarter & seldom take any prisoners – They have felt the persecution too deeply & go in for extermination. Evidently matters are ripening fast & the southern bauble must ere long burst into nothingness – Black recruiting too is going on lively – When we first came here negroes swarmed – Now one can not be found unemployed – Every woolly who can not show his pass or that he is regularly occupied is taken right along – A darky squad of soldiers patrols the streets & thus recruits are gathered up – It is the right way & better far than to let them run at large in idleness – Besides they are sure of support, good clothes & will be made useful – I have been thinking whether I better not apply for the Colonelship of a darky regt. How does it strike you? Don't know as I could get it but guess it would be a good stroke every way – Think if once in command I could make the enterprise a good success (*Pg. 4*)

The paymaster has visited the regt yesterday & today – You will be surprised when I tell you that I have only drawn the amount due me since I took command of Co. K – 7 days – that is from the 23d Oct. to the 31<sup>st</sup> to which date the regt was paid – I might have recd. all due me from the 18<sup>th</sup> of Aug. that is since I rejoined the regt. But Col. Ross & Col. Wooster both advised me if I could get along, not to touch that due me in connexion with Co. E. until the whole period was set right – They assure me there can be no doubt or very little of getting the whole – I suspect Ross has never forwarded the statement I drew up at Kelly's Ford – He is habitually lax in such matters & the movements that followed soon after may have let him to defer it – This is surmise with me, but Col. W. surmises the same thing – I consider Col Wooster disinterestedly honest particularly in this matter; nor have I any reason to suspect Ross of any double dealing, aside from his habit of letting business run – I shall ply him in a day or two & crowd him to immediate action or else take the whole business out of his hands & appeal to Dixon & the Members of Congress – But my preference is to accomplish the end through military channels alone – I recd. today \$30.80 – Pay is due me for 12 days of Aug., 30 of Sep. & 22 of Oct. all of which I had command of Co. E. The amt. as I figure is \$252.25, after deducting the tax – You can if you wish put this down – this amt. is to be collected on my muster out roll, which I recd. of Lt. Pattison on the 23d of Oct. at Decherd – I hope you will not be badly frustrated in any plans you may have formed – It is a long while since I have remitted anything & you will need money – I hesitated a while on your account, but finally thought best to wait two months more – Now give me your mind of this matter & if you can not live without some money from me I shall borrow – You have inquired about the pay of Capt. – It is \$120.50 per month, or \$10 more per month than that of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. – The Col. of a colored regt. gets \$222 per month – The day has been very pleasant –

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Things are being moved from here to Bridgeport – Yesterday & today Sherman's corps has been passing through here – They are a part of Grants army at Vicksburg & are proceeding to the front – Express matter for the regt. arrives now every day – I shall look for my box soon – Recd. yours written after going to Hartford – Glad you bought boots & gloves.

*(Written upside down on first page in top margin)*

The Col. wife arrived here last night – It really look refreshing to see a well dressed woman – She was out today with him on horseback – The Col. has had a trial with the paymaster – They could not agree at all – Enough – I am comfortable & in good spirits –

Here is the love – its true-

Yours,  
A. Upson