

November 16, 1863

(Letter is on one large sheet of lined stationery and is written on two sides in ink.)

Stevenson, Ala.
Nov. 16th, 1863

My Dear Mr. Bingham –

Frequently allusions to the “New Gospel of Peace” have fallen under my notice & I have felt a strong desire to get hold of the paper – Yesterday some circumstance brought it to mind anew & I made inquiry for a copy, but in vain – Last evenings mail most agreeably surprised me by bringing the very publication – You will thus see how largely my comfort was increased by your kindness – I sat down & read it through immediately – Several others who came in accidentally thought the fun should be common & so I read aloud – Today the pamphlet has been in demand & not a few officers & men have perused or listened to the satire with exceeding delight – It is a capital thing – We soldiers enjoy those thrusts at copperheadism beyond expression – Fernando is set forth in masterly style – In fact it is difficult to say which character is not most finely developed – All the “great guns of peace” are drawn in person & nothing can save them the ridicule which they deserve – I hope the artist who printed so aptly will continue & that his volumes may be read until the scorn of all is turned against that perverse faction which has so perseveringly fostered the rebellion – Would to Heaven we had done of those devoted admirers of Southern Institutions down here now – We should like to set them before an audience of refugees, such as come in from East Tennessee, Northern Georgia & Alabama & have them attempt to justify the course the southern nobles have pursued – We should like them to read to these people the editorials published by such sheets as the Times (Hartford) & Register – But enough of this – The rebellion is fast going under – We have daily increasing evidence that the South is suffering beyond long (*Pg. 2*) endurance – They are feeling as never before the tightening grip of Uncle Sam – I am quite sanguine lately that one year more will result in the complete overthrow of the rebel military power – You probably have noticed the tones of grief in which they lament the loss of East Tennessee – Our hold of this region has until recently been very precarious – The greatest difficulty has been experienced in getting supplies through from Stevenson to Chattanooga – Everything had to be hauled by wagons over almost impassable mountain roads – A portion of the route was exposed to rebel raids & attacks – But when Hooker & others got possession of Lookout Valley, enabling boats to ascend the river & the railway to be put in repair we gained an immense advantage – Grant is concentrating a heavy force along the front & evidently intends to hold his own position & do something more – During the last four days Sherman’s Corps. from Memphis, has been passing through here – I have seen some of the 30 pound parrots that did such peeping at Vicksburg – F. P. Blair & his command went by today – They left Memphis last Sep. & have come across the country – Blair had 4 horses with him; one of them a

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beautiful black that is said to have been the rebel Van Dorn's – Of our own prospects I can say very little that is certain. Just now we are stationed here & Ross commands this post – It has been the base of supplies until since the boats began to run from Bridgeport – That will hereafter be the depot – We may be ordered there or further: possibly we may remain – Our division, the 1st of the 12th Corps, is scattered along the R.R. from Murfreesboro to Bridgeport – The 2d Gen Geary's is with Hooker in Lookout Valley – Negro recruiting is proceeding rapidly – A great many of the refugees also enlist in Uncle Sam's service – A band of 19 came in from the mountains, where they have been secreted for months, last Friday – They were armed with old flint locks mostly – But you will be weary – Accept my thanks for the pamphlet – My regards to each of your family –

Very Truly Yours,
A. Upson