

Nov. 24, 1863
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Nashville, Ten. Nov. 27, 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. 24th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Yours of the 18th came tonight – I am much surprised to read that you have nothing from me later than the 6th while others get letters almost daily – I have frequently three or four a week right along – But I have usually given them directly to the mail agent instead of putting into the office – That I have done more or less ever since we came to this country – It is unaccountable to me why mine should fail – Probably before this they have got all together as sometimes they do here & we communications for a week at once – But last week I sent along a special missive intending it should get home by Thanksgiving – If that meets the fate of previous letters I shall be grievously disappointed – It troubles me to have you disquieted unnecessarily – For I am perfectly well & enjoying myself greatly over your butter & pears – to say nothing of cod fish & currants – Really (*Pg. 2*) how provoking when one has done his best to be subjected to such unlooked for misapprehension – But I hope a day or two more will tell me you are reassured & rejoicing – Thanksgiving is now near at hand – Some of the boys have provided themselves with fowls – Fortunately they were sent out on a foraging expedition Sunday morning – Were gone over night & returned last evening with thirty wagon loads of corn & quite a number of geese – The quacking or cackling sounds very domestic – I have been on the look out for something of the kind but none so far appear in our market – But even if poultry is wanting I shall feel myself at a feast so long as the butter holds out – To write the word kindles my appetite & I am tempted to draw the box out & spread a good slice of bread – But the habit of night eating or between meals we are seldom guilty of in the army – At least my habits are very regular in that respect – For two days I have been alone & quite to my comfort – Lt. Royce has gone to Chattanooga – Expect *him* (*Pg. 3*) back tomorrow – Some of the officers are sent away in one direction or another every day – From the front we have rumors of fighting & success – I don't know how reliable, but guess Grant intends to busy Bragg a little lest Burnside is too much troubled – Last evening I saw a Lieut. just from Lookout Valley – He represents affairs in a prosperous condition & the army my sanguine – Says reb deserters come across the picket line every night – There must be some truth in these stories, for even here we have arrivals of from 10 to a 100 everyday or two – These all represent Braggs army as disheartened – In fact the common opinion here now is that rebellious will soon smash – Hunger is doing a mighty work – Then there seems to be a growing conviction among the common people that the “cause is done gone” & there is no further use in fighting – If

(11-24-1863)

Grants address, which I have seen, could be put into the hands of Braggs & Lees soldiers I verily think they would desert in heavy squads until either (*Pg. 4*) army should become totally demoralized – It may be that we shall yet witness just these results –

Morse of Co. E. died last night – He has always suffered much from diarrhea – He was a good soldier & has performed faithful duty when not really able – Elbert Frisbie is much down – I understand Col. Ross declined to approve a sick leave for him – I shall see the Col. in the morning & put in a plea for the lad – But his is arbitrary – All regulars are – We have had an overcast half misty – half rainy day - Tonight the winds come cool from the north – Have you a good wood pile yet? Letter from Sarah Brigham this morning – She speaks of visiting you – What has become of Joseph & John? Do I owe them letters? I don't remember about it myself – Now if this does not get through I suppose I may soon expect to receive none myself – It is not fair to stop writing because you are disappointed – I did not do that when nearly a month went by without news from you – But I hope before this some of the stray travelers have got through – Well here is love & perhaps you will give me one more wish – please –

Yours
A. Upson