

March 23, 1863
No. 67

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Washington D.C. March 25, 1863 with a three cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Stafford Co. House, Va.
March 23rd, 1863

My Dear Wife,

Yours of the 17th arrived last night – We have a very pleasant Sunday – The morning was thick with fog & the ground mostly covered with snow – But at 10 the sun appeared, & now at 3 the ground is bare & smoking – The temperature mild & the prospect invites one to walk out – We had service at 2, our Chaplain basing his discourse on 3 Prov. 5 & 6 – Perhaps you have no idea of the way worship is conducted – In the 1st place notice is given a short time previous that “Divine Service” will take place at a given hour – When the hour comes, the drum is tapped & all disposed assemble – 3 small drums supporting the large base upon end answer for a desk behind which the parson places himself & his auditors range themselves in a semicircle fronting him – He begins by reading a hymn which is sung by 15 or 20. Then follows prayer from the book (**Pg. 2**) succeeded by another hymn & then the sermon, closed by singing the doxology & pronouncing the benediction – More attended today than for some time – In fact it is sometime since the opportunity has been afforded to hear a sermon – I could not help feeling that there was a brooding sentiment of disgust on the minds of most standing around which prevented the truthful words from having their due effect – I never hear anybody speak commandingly of Mr. Sandford – There will be no tears shed when his shadow disappears from the vision of the 20th – Things are every quiet today – Save such little stir as is common to camp there is nothing to break the semblance of Sunday – There is always more or less work going on – The better portion do as little as possible – Inspection necessarily imposes some – That except in stormy weather comes off every Sunday at 9 or 10 - Today at 4 P.M. - You may wonder how we pass off the time – There is no trouble on that score (**Pg. 3**) Something always is on hand either requiring labor or attention – If no little job, at least conversation, discussion, news of camp – Such a thing as quiet, where no interruption occurs for 15 minutes can not be found till after lights are out at night – I don't see how anybody can feel ennui in the army – at least in active campaigning – The matter of greatest interest, aside from the proper concerns of our present calling, is the Election canvass going on in Conn. The soldiers are deeply stirred over the subject – We have a few who sympathize with “Democracy;” but only a few – The vast majority – of the 20th hate the “Copperheads” & would be glad to attest their feelings in some emphatic way –

(3-23-1863)

Capt. Woodruff's letter published in the Press was recd. by post last night & it has been through the company – It is considered a good thing – Shouldn't wonder if it proved advantageous to him at head quarters – Hope it will do good at home – He was very (**Pg. 4**) much surprised to find himself in print – The best news today is that Gen. Kane is transferred to another division, taking with him the 2 Penn. Regt. – Our new brigadier is said to be a Jackson, lately Colonel of the 5th Maine – Don't know anything about him nor whether the change will be advantageous to us – Still all seem to be glad that Kane is taken away – I can't say that I am sorry – He is a soft head, too full of talk & not famous for good sense in practical matters –

Col. Ross has just returned – What new changes, or whether any will take place remains to be seen – No furloughs to men – The absent sergt. major preventing – He will soon be classed as a deserter – I shall have to make this shorter than usual – It is necessary to carry it down to the Co. Ho. & no one seems to be hurt that way tonight – Capt. proposes to invite those disposed to our tent to-night & have a little meeting – The sun is about setting & I shall like to enjoy the coming evening with my family – But why say so when it is impossible – Dear one do you know my heart is full to overflowing?

Ever Yours,
A. U.