

March 27, 1863

(Letter with no envelope is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written in ink on four sides.)

Stafford Co. House, Va.
March 27th, 1863

Mr. Bingham –

My Dear Sir:

Yours of recent date arrived in due time & its perusal offered me much satisfaction – We are pursuing our calling as usual for the last two months – Camp duty & picketing constitute the burden of our labor – But we are expecting to receive soon the orders preparatory to a beginning of the next campaign - The impression with us is general that many days can not elapse before “Onward” is the word – The army has wonderfully improved since fighting Joe assumed command – Abundant rations & the terse sensible orders from head quarters have wrought an amazing change in the temper & hopefulness of the soldiers – Grumbling has ceased & all begin to understand that whatever is enjoined must be performed – (**Pg. 2**) Hooker pleased us much by the business way in which he reviewed our division a short time since – My confidence in the progress of our arms on this field is daily increasing – The weather is against us every other day – In fact the roads are now in such a condition that transportation of forage is by packing on mules backs – Long trains of these animals are seen in every direction carrying bags of grain, bales of hay & hard tack boxes – Once in a while you will see one sink into the mud almost belly deep & the load must be taken off before the mule can get out – But this soil dries with astonishing rapidity – Whenever the sun can shine two or three days in succession – A March wind works wonders in a few hours – When we once start I imagine there will be no delay – Mud or no mud, rain or shine – there’s “go-a-head” in the commander & his men will catch the inspiration – The genuine grit is in the soldiers composing this army & if we once get a (**Pg. 3**) fair lick at the rebels they will realize as never before what northerners aroused can do – During the winter a kind of sifting process has been going on: we have got rid of many who would be only a burden to us – I mean the sneaks – This class has played sick & not a few are home now or in the hospitals & convalescent camps – Of course I do not include in this disgraceful list all who are inmates of the hospital – We are about as much interested in Election matters just now as in army movements – It would not be safe, I assure you, for some of the Copperheads to visit the army – We Com. soldiers are almost unanimous now – Many who left home democrats & always have supported that ticket express themselves in the strongest terms of hostility to the position of Seymour, Eaton & Co. Our expectation is that you will flax the rebels severely – As the time draws nigh I feel a little of the enthusiasm awakened by such a contest & should like to pitch (**Pg. 4**) in with you & rout these allies of Jeff Davis.

(3-27-1863)

Of one thing the people of Conn. should be correctly informed – The enrollment bill or “Conscript Law” as the opposers are pleased to call it, will be enforced – Every bayonet in the field is ready to help to carry it out – If the folks of Conn. want to see a collision with the general government let them Elect Tom Seymour & try to resist – I tell you short work would be made with them – It is quite time that we had a government capable of enforcing its laws of self protection – If we prove unable to call out any force necessary to suppress such a rebellion as this present one we are done for – But I have no fears on this point – The govt. will stand & the traitor be put down – Let those at home beware in time – Give my regards to Mrs. Bingham, Thomas & each member of your family –

Believe me,
Yours with much respect
A. Upson