

Apr. 17, 1863  
No. 75

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked Washington D.C. Apr 19, with a 3-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.  
Apr. 17th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

I have just eat my breakfast, two hard tack & a cup of tea – Did not feel very hungry but it tasted good – Slept well when I could – We are always stirred up several times during the night when on picket – The officer is held responsible for his part of the time & I do not allow myself to curl in for over two hours – Took one nap between 8 & 10 – one between 10 & 11 – a short snooze till 12 ½ - When the grand rounds passed & I kept up till the officer returned – The stars were shining brightly, though cloudy & threatening rain at 10 – I thought how you were sweetly passing away the still hours – At 2 I lay down again & rested till 6 – Have got more real repose the last two nights than for some time – My bunk last night was oak poles, rather uneven, on which my blanket was laid, **(Pg. 2)** then myself on one edge & the other turned up over me – Haversack & rubber coat furnished pillow – Now, Wife I tell you only truth in saying that I feel better this morning, notwithstanding all the interruptions, than I did any morning at home – When waking up there was a kind of stupid, lazy feeling which we know nothing about here – It is owing to the breathing pure air – I think we act very foolish in using such confined bed rooms – It occurs to me that possibly Willies peevishness may be owing to this cause – Any how I am satisfied children can not attain real physical vigor & enjoy real health when half their time is spent perspiring on impure atmosphere – If ever I get back to peaceful life the conveniences of my house will be overhauled & if I can not secure more satisfactory sleeping arrangements I shall certainly do my resting out of doors – Probably you feel unable to distribute the children **(Pg. 3)** so as to give them better opportunities but do not allow them to be cooped up in that little narrow north apartment - I am satisfied nearly all the colds & much of the disease so common is owing to living in tight, hot houses – As for feathers I would banish them entirely – Take the straw cot or the hard mattress – Our northern children grow up enervated & weakly because our notions on this matter are foolishly wrong – I sent you yesterday by mail an army draft on the U.S. Treasurer, payable in N.Y. for Four Hundred Dollars to your order – I presume it will be necessary to attach your signature across the back ordering it to be paid to someone. Whoever you entrust with it – Wm. J. will inform you all about the forms & I presume do the business – Should he not be going to N.Y. immediately somebody else may accommodate you – Mr. Plant or Mr. Stow - Possibly Mr. Plant will cash it himself – **(Pg. 4)** You can act your own judgment about paying Mr. Atwater now – What Miles owes for the hogs & the amount due for hay will help you cancel his claim – I wish as you do yourself, to pull down the debts as much as possible – Guess you better finish up

(4-17-1863)

Albert, let Sophia have 75 & use your own discretion about the rest – Keep all you wish for yourself – Enos furnished a man to help load his hay & has a little bill for fixing the pistol – I do not know how much his load weighted – The weigh bill also must come out – Write all about business affairs & the troubles you have with milking, foddering, xc. xc. – I hope you will take as much pleasure in receiving my remittance as it gave me to send it – One & a half months hay is earned besides, so that I am helping you more here than I possibly could at home – Keep up good spirits wife, be thankful for our many blessings & trust the future to a wise & merciful Providence – Accept renewed assurances of my love – We had 10 happy days despite bad ventilation & Widow Frisbies desire to hear from Martin by word of mouth –

Yours Ever  
A. Upson