

Apr. 22, 1863
No. 77

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Washington, D.C. Apr 24 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on three sides in ink.)

Stafford Co. House, Va.
April 22nd, 1863

My Dear Wife,

Our mail failed last night – Monday night we had one but nothing for me – Yours of the 16th is all that I have recd. thus far – The sad intelligence of Dea. Twichell's death came Monday night – All had felt a deep solicitude in his case since the news of his severe illness – Now that the dreaded result has fallen all hearts are penetrated with sorrow – That a great weight of grief must press upon the community at home we know to be true – It is one of the few occasions when there is genuine public mourning – The church has been bereaved & society at large feels that Death has dealt a heavy blow – We are all stricken – The dealings of Providence seem strange at times – We stand amazed at the overturning & apparent calamities which are permitted – Can it be that our welfare – our highest good, requires that we should give up (**Pg. 2**) the very comfort & support upon which most reliance is placed! If we had been called upon to select the victim for sacrifice could we have thought of him! – Alas, alas, we are broken & despoiled – Whatever we do or where ever we go everything links itself with the deep felt consciousness of the loss that has been sustained – What otherwise would be joy now fails to please & into all our experience there is infused a strain of suffering – How often I thought of him on my return: & since being back until informed of the fatal termination hardly 10 minutes have passed without interest & anxiety in his condition – From the 1st I think there was foreboding in the minds of all – Yet we felt it could not be that God was going to strike so hard – He stood so related to every wise purpose & in himself represented the best thoughts of the community that we regarded him as the gift of Heaven to us – How then should we expect to be deprived of his living example! – How could (**Pg. 3**) think that he would suddenly disappear from our midst! –

I had written here when the sound of drums arrested my attention Geary's Division in part have just come up from Dumfries & gone on to Brookes Station – We have no further orders than when I wrote last – the impression prevails that we shall not move for several days – it is reported that Lincoln, Hooker & Slocum had an interview on Sunday & that the two former have gone down to fortress Monroe – When Hooker returns probably we shall move – But there is no certainty – A red star has been given to every officer & soldier with orders to fasten it upon the top & center of the cap – I send one to Frank & Willie & you can fix them off in the same way – Drill – Drill –

Hastily Yours,
A. Upson