

Apr 26, 1863  
No - 79

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked Washington, D.C. 1863 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of unlined stationery folded in half and written on three sides in ink.)*

Stafford Co. House, Va.  
Apr 26th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

The mail is in but no letter for me – I have written from the time of leaving N.Y. 5 or 6 or more times & yet but two have reached me – Was in hopes one would come sure to night, it being the last mail we shall receive for some days – Have been very busy all day, no time for reading or reflection – We expect to move tomorrow morning at sunrise – Reveille will beat at 3 o'clock, tents struck & all preparations not complete now must be finished up short order then - It looks like enough to a rainy start – But we are used to all sorts of weather – The boys are feeling some anxiety over the non arrival of their money at last accounts – I tell them to keep easy: still it is not to be wondered at that they are desirous to be at rest on this matter – (**Pg. 2**) Glad that mine went through so quickly – But it would have been some satisfaction to set out with late news from home – We are all well loaded – I shall carry overcoat, woolen & rubber blanket, rubber overcoat & havelock, a carpet bag with hard tack, dried beef, some ham, bottle of cabbage from home, haversack filled with sugar, tea, hard bread xc. Also canteen & axe – Don't know what the weight is – Enough any how for warm weather – But I expect to go through come what may – I inclined to think there will be some breaking down among officers if they undertake to carry what is prescribed – It will do me some good to see certain fellows putting their shoulders to service in this way –

There is no further news of operations in front – We shall know less of actual transactions right here than you – The Washington papers for several days have said just nothing about Hookers Army – Either news is scarce or a close surveillance (**Pg. 3**) is maintained – I suppose you will try to keep yourself uneasy – It is not necessary to worry, for we shall be as safe in one place as another – Very likely we shall be shoved off one side somewhere to guard a certain point & never see a reb. Nobody seems to feel much anxiety – any way – we have learned to take things quite cool – That is the best way – In fact here it is the only chance for rest or ease – We should eat our meals & sleep even if a fight was imminent – I intend to have my tea & hard tack three times a day & black some lines in the note book besides doing full duty – But the boy is about to shut up - I must stop – Once more I send love to Grandma, Ida, Frank, Willie & Mary – Once more I write my vows to you – May Heaven bless you all & bring daily peace & comfort to your hearts -

Truly A. Upson