

May 16, 1863  
from Richmond on his way to Annapolis  
No. 81

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked, but is unclear, OLD PO.... FORT, VA., May15, with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on three sides in pencil. A second letter is included and dated the same day. It is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and one lined half sheet. They are written on six sides in ink.)*

James River  
May 16th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

I fear you have had no word from me since the Sunday before we marched – What a season of anxiety it must have been for you – Thank God I am fine & once more in the hands of Uncle Sam – Was taken prisoner at Chancellors Ville on Sunday about 3 P.M. – We, that is those who like my self were captured were started that night for Richmond – But we did not get there till the next Friday about 6 P.M. – Left Richmond Wednesday at 3 ½ & yesterday noon we got aboard the flag of truce boat at City Point. Are now on the way to Annapolis where we shall have to stay until regularly exchanged – You can write me there directing to my name, Camp Parole, Annapolis, Md. I will write you (**Pg. 2**) full particulars as soon as I can after landing – For the present I can only say that my journey to Richmond & thence until once more beneath the Stars & Stripes was a period of my life that will not be forgotten –

Yesterday I was the happiest man that A. Upson ever saw – So were we all - Only one thing was wanting to make our condition heavenly – That was a chance to communicate with our friends – How much I longed to send you a message – Sometimes it has seemed as though you were dead – But I hope to hear that you are well & all the family too – What happened to the company after they left the entrenchments – I know not – How many were killed or wounded we have yet to learn – Jas. Atwater, Peck, Spence, the elder Griffin & Wightman were taken – They are well & now on the way down – but not by this boat – All are paroled – Aug. Hitchcock was wounded in the wrist & fell into their hands, but I have learned nothing of him since Sunday the day of the battle – A surgeon was taken & carried to Richmond contrary to the rules of warfare – He expected to be returned the next day – I sent a letter by him (**Pg. 3**) but am unable to learn that he was gratified as he expected – That we all have suffered is to be supposed – That I have grown slightly poor under the stain is quite true – But my health is good & two or three weeks will rest on me now that I am again in civilized life – But don't I hate the Southern Confederacy – My determination to help put down the abominable thing is stronger than ever – I could curse if from morning till night if that would do any good –

(5-16-1863)

But you shall know & all my experience with the rebs – I fought them till left alone & then evaded capture for 4 hours – But at last they got me – That I was not killed is owing entirely to Gods protecting mercy – How any one could escape is a miracle – Let us be thankful that we have thus been preserved – We are nearly to the Fortress & the mail is to be sent ashore –

Yours with a full heart –

A. Upson