

May 20, 1863
No. 84

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Annapolis, May 1863 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written in ink on four sides.)

Annapolis, Md.
May 20th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

I rather expected to get a letter from you today – But the mail was unmerciful – However while I was at tea a dispatch was recd. by telegraph today saying you “had recd my telegram, were all well & had sent a letter – That was some consolation I assure you – Really it was good to know you still lived xc. Now then we shall get things under way & once more rejoice in correspondence – You have a big lot of news to give me – I wrote Capt. W. to forward all the letters in his possession – But doubtless you had sent none for some time – I feel quite a curiosity to know whether they had me killed or wounded – What strange stories came to your ears & how you all bore the perplexity – Did friends console you, & did you get philosophic & rise above all dependence (*Pg. 2*) upon the world? For my own part no misgiving at any time depressed me – From first to last I felt that my fate was to turn up right – Besides, you know my way is to take things cool & see how the wheel rolls on – When that rebel called on me to surrender the thought of becoming a prisoner had not entered my mind – Nor did I believe such was like to be my fate until I ran afoul of the Regt. of which I told you about in a former letter - Rather than be taken I submitted to be robbed – But when at last they had me sure I was as indifferent & independent as though master of the guard – Excepting one, gruff, surly ignorant villain, who had as soon shoot a Yankee as kill a snake, they talked freely & we were on good terms very soon – No where & under no circumstances did I cringe or succumb – At all the places through which we passed & whenever we fell in with southern people I took (*Pg. 3*) pains to converse with as many as possible – At Guinea Station where we struck the RR leading to Richmond I had many a discussion with rebel officers & citizens – They inquired if I voted for Lincoln “Yes & did my best to help elect him – I was a wide awake” – That made some staring – Finally one inquired if I would do the same again – “Certainly & more too” – “Would you enlist to fight us again?” “Yes, fight you till you get sick of rebellion” – They allowed I was sincere & seemed rather to like plain strait out declarations - I poked their ribs wherever a chance offered – That is contrasted their own general condition with ours – When hard pressed they fell back upon their victory & tried to glorify that – I told them the fortunes of war were uncertain & they had best not be to boastful – Yankees would fight – here was one that didn’t run any how – At Richmond a great crowd welcomed our arrival – We put on a (*Pg. 4*) stern look & heeded not the gibes & taunts that some were ready to bestow – But more of this hereafter – We are not yet exchanged & may not be for two months – We report every morning to an officer & that ends our duty for the day - I hate to ly here in idleness,

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but can not see how to avoid it – Today we were all ordered out to the Parole camp 1 ½ miles from the city & assigned to companies – But tonight the officers are all in the city at their hotels & boarding places – I shall change quarters to-morrow –

The pay master came round today & lo we officers were furnished with green backs – I recd. two months pay & shall send you \$150 tomorrow by express – You can stop a debt with it – Really I am better off than I had the remotest expectation of being – But then being taken prisoner is not desirable – Living in Richmond was too costly, to say nothing of losses incurred – However it is not worth while to pine over the past – Glad enough I am not to be shut up in Libby – I am going to bed –

Yours Ever,
A. Upson