

(Letter with no envelope is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Annapolis, Md. –
May 26th, 1863 –

My Dear Wife –

Yours of the 22d is just recd – I ought to have got it yesterday – It was carried out to the camp, arriving there about noon – We all report every morning at 8 or 9 o'clock & then come back to our boarding places – So you see I had no letter until this morning – It contained \$5 making 15 you have sent me – My remittance of \$150 ought to reach you today or tomorrow – I see you complain about letters – Really I wrote every day I think – By this time you must be in receipt of several – So you still find something to disquiet yourself about – Me sick! Not a bit of it – I am entirely well – Didn't eat much down at Richmond – Unfortunately got into an inferior hotel – about as poor a table as landlord ever set (**Pg. 2**) before Christians – You see the drink was execrable – James River water as compared with my well stands a long ways down the list – But some fat bacon that I swallowed soon after we entered the building sickened my stomach & I never liked the sight of that fodder while we stayed – Twice we had some beans that tasted very good, but the coffee was execrable & without palatable drink the bread went down hard – Than was the time when I thought of a cup of tea – But for the eggs I should have had little to march upon when they started us for City Point – I succeeded in obtaining two pounds of crackers, 50 cts a pound, two days before we left – Have most of them yet & some of what they call coffee – Will keep them until an opportunity offers to send them home – Just outside of Petersburg we met colored women with cooked fish pudding, pies, bread, cakes xc. (**Pg. 3**) Capt Smith, Beardsley & myself were together & you may believe we went in for trade – “What do you ask”? “One dollar a snack” – “How much is a snack.” “So much is a snack” taking up a piece of bread & a fish – two pies made a snack also – Equal about to one of yours in size but not in quality – A good sized slice of pudding (it was baked hard) made a snack, which we found to be an indefinite term meaning more or less – We each went for a snack – Smith took bread & fish – Beardsley pudding & Upson pie – Then we tasted around & voted the cooking quite good & traveled on into the city just as you have seen boys, gaping around & eating like green yankees – Beardsley & myself in our peculiarly rakish garb excited suspicion – You see the rest were all ahead of us at this time – One man charged us with coming down to ravish southern women xc. xc. at which we (**Pg. 4**) laughed in derision – But he appeared so serious that we finally told him the southern women were perfectly safe unless they contrived to look more attractive than most we had seen – We bothered these men very much – They did not like to have us stop – One officious fellow took hold of my arm & wanted to show me the road, hinting that we should be late for the boat – I told him we felt in no hurry – Yankees were not apt to get lost – Then he tried Beardsley & then Smith – A train of wounded was there going down to the point & we asked to ride too there being plenty of empty cars – They refused – But finding we were not to be frightened & evidently fearing to have us around & seeing we manifested no disposition to push on – They finally came to us & said we might ride – That little piece of impudence on our part saved us seven

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miles walking & we were the first officers that reached the boat – Even Gen Hays had to hoof it until he tired himself carried privately – We have laughed a sight over our experience at Petersburg – There are many pleasing incidents scattered along from (written sideways along right side of margin on this page) first to last which I shall recall from time to time – Heard from my carpet bag (written on first page sideways along left margin) this morning – It is safe – Have the new shirt with me & wrapper - (written sideways on first page in upper margin) Bought shirt since here so as to get the blue washed – Most of the officers have thrown away all there under clothes since reaching here – Thirty of forty are ordered to Alexandria this afternoon – I am not one of the number they go to the other camp – Griffin will probably get home today. Was sergt. G. in the battle? I think not - H. C. Clark has no right to be home I think – Tell me all the news.

Yours ever

A. Upson