

June 15, 1863  
No. 103  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope is postmarked Alexandria, Va. June 18 with a three cent stamp.  
Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Convalescent Camp  
June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife –

It is 8 o'clock P.M.; I am safely located in a room by myself & you in all probability are fast making distance homewards – Many a mile now separates us & we have to console ourselves upon recollections of the sweet past – The happy days have flown – happy to us two at least, for pretty much everything else was ignored by us except so far as it contributed to our comfort – My quarters are in one of those little houses you may have noticed just north of the house where Co. McKelvey entered when he came from dinner – It is shaded by trees, furnished with a table & seats – I have no tin ware except the one plate – Must get a wash basin & pail – Have (Pg. 2) engaged board at \$5 per week – A lady has a tent & accommodates officers – Went there for tea tonight – The fare was rather coarse, but as good as can be expected here – Large squads of men from Falmouth, lame & sick, have been coming in here since my arrival – By the way no trouble is likely to come of my absence – The Capt. is gracious & as long as he does not complain the Col. will know nothing – There is a rumor prevailing that we prisoners paroled will be returned to Annapolis – probably to make room for the influx from Aquia & vicinity – How much credence to attach to it I can not inform you – It would not be more strange than many other things – If we are to be kept 6 or 8 weeks longer for my part I had rather return to the city on the Chesapeake – Of course my first desire is to return to the 20<sup>th</sup> & share with them the (Pg. 3) struggles of these very days – Now that you are gone I can hardly keep myself easy – The rumors flying concerning Hookers movements do not help to make me contented – And certainly, as he needs men, it is most unfortunate that so many of us must idle away our time here – I found a letter in the office for you from Ida – It was directed to me & of course I examined its contents – It was dated the 11<sup>th</sup> – Nothing for myself – This camp is the most gay evenings of any I have ever seen – Parties of Ladies & Gent.. on horseback are seen riding around or listening to a band which has been playing for half an hour right out in front of my room – I understand this is the practice every fair evening – Violins are heard & also singing. But I don't believe any of these things will make me contented with this home –

The Pres. has called for 100000 militia – Would they were on the ground where (Pg. 4) their services could be made available – These are trying days, but maybe God will give our arms the victory this time – It looks as though Bull Run is to be the scene of conflict again – I bought two books before leaving Alexandria & expect some comfort in their perusal – They treat of war you see my interest is in my proper business – One is

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Kings Lake Invasion of the Crimea – the other a criticism of the campaigns of '62 & part of '63 by Emil Schalk - I have dipped into the latter, & find he handles us northerners pretty severe – I hope you will call upon Father frequently – at least once a week & when you can take over someone of the children to see him, that is if you think the later course is not displeasing – But at all events do you call frequently & do the kindness that I should glad to show myself - And now dear wife, god night – no kisses – no caresses can I send but here is once more my plight to you –

A. Upson