

June 17th, 1863
No. 100
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 17th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

The mail is in but I am still unnoticed – Not entirely either yesterday Wm. J. called & spent two or three hours – Not as much as I wanted with him for several of our company have arrived & he called upon them all & of course that diminished my chance – He staid with Millard Monday night & I suppose last night also – Bill is a good fellow despite his egotism – I never saw a man of his cheek & hearing his account of things in Washington satisfied me that he could pull pretty hard when he undertook – Told him to inquire in N.Y. the price of a sword & belt. Such a sword as I want, steel scabbard, plain, costs in Washington or Alexandria \$18 – A substantial calf skin belt, handsomely (Pg. 2) sowed \$5 – I should suppose they might be had some considerable less north – Still the call for more troops will not tend to diminish the price of such things – He may forget all about it & I wish you to jog his memory a little – He brought \$30 – which I thought best to keep – Tell me about your journey & reception – You will be at no loss for incidents – Those children I venture rejoiced when mothers eyes beamed upon them again – Guess Grandma too said welcome!

I am surprised to see so many of Co. E. here – Besides the prisoners we have Bunnell, Adkins, Jones, Stevens, Hale Smith, Henry Bishop & Ames – Lourey is at the Seminary – Except the last they all left the regimental camp last Saturday. The 20th started that night for Dumfries & yesterday I heard the corp was at Fairfax – They are having warm (Pg. 3) walking & not a few will break down – Stragglers have been dropping into this camp every day from Hookers army direct – It surprised me to see how many fail – I doubt not there are hundreds of real invalids, but at the rate they accumulate here it seems to me the corps so called will soon be the largest by far – A good part of all action is the result of resolution – If every body who feels bad or indifferent for that reason ceased effort how little would be done – I am in favor of offering a premium to those who keep their health & go through – Did it strike you ever that systematic benevolence is about half misapplied – In other words these very institutions become a kind of inducement to some characters to play off, feign sickness – try any game that will gain them gratuitous living & shield them from (Pg. 4) the work they never liked – I always see much that leads me to suspect the heads of benevolent men – To be sure our hospitals are doing a great work – but all their influences are not favorable to character – It is dangerous for any one to receive support without rendering some equivalent – I fear through the agency of this camp & many of the good hearted officials that obtain place in similar institutions not a few rascals fleece U. S. & do him no good in return -

(6-17-1863)

My carpet bag arrived yesterday from Washington – Capt. W. sent it by Pastor Smith who has been discharge & started for home – The boys tell me that Capt. W. is not very well – I fear this hot weather will overcome him, particularly on the march – If he breaks down Co. E. is pretty much under – The talk among officers today is that we 10 will be kept here – You can imagine it does not please me – I dislike to be hanging round here – But my lot has brought me to this spot & I see no chance but to await orders – Have you any? The weather is hot –

Lovingly Yours

A. U.