

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

Convalescent Camp
June 20th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Yours of the 17th I recd. yesterday – Mail gets in about 11 ½ & leaves at 9 A.M. Nothing has come from any one else – Wrote to Annapolis by last post for any matter there – Was glad to hear of your safe arrival home & that you found things in favorable condition – Guess you never saw ten days of opportunities like those which flew away between our meeting at Baltimore & the parting at Alexandria – The thought comes up here that our three separations have occurred away from home & also the two greetings thus far allowed us since I became the servant of the U.S. You know we dealt our parting kisses first at New Haven & there after months of absence (Pg. 2) our lips met again – There at the end of my furlough we exchanged farewell, glances, standing on the cars, & our next interview begins upon the cars at Baltimore to be terminated at Alexandria on a steamboat – Where we shall rejoice over another renewal of such bliss only the decrees of Heaven, to be unfolded as the days move on, will decide – There is something a little bit romantic in our late past; & it would not surprise me if the story began when “we enlisted,” for I think the going to war was about as much yours as mine, kept on about as it has run – Perhaps I am mistaken, but looking back over the shifting scenes through which the Company has passed a greater variety seems in some way to have come to me – Our journeying & trials up to this point really form a curious tale – Suppose you had previously (Pg. 3) by a prophetic vision, seen only the route by which I must travel to reach here – What wonderings & tormenting conjurings of imagination would have risen up at every stage! What interest would have clustered about each locality & camp – What anxieties would have attended each march & detail for particular service – Chancellorsville, Richmond, Libby, Annapolis! Why in retrospect do not all these scenes & spots awaken floods of emotions! But what would you not have experienced at the prospect outlined months ago – Life runs how strangely! It is not necessary to stimulate the fancy by drugs & enchantments that we may conceive wonderful events – The plain tale of one year out of almost anybody’s experience shows many epochs in which the curious hitch of facts betokens so many contingencies that human wisdom would be (Pg. 4) quite at fault in defining the result beforehand – But when the finale is revealed it bears such a relation to causes as we see them that the whole thing looks miraculous – The most unexpected event to me is my connection with this camp – I had no idea of going to Richmond; but once safely there it seemed more natural than my stay here – I have an easy kind of itching – mental not physical – of course soft scratching would not cure it – about what will be the next turn in fortune’s wheel & where it will land me – You

(6-20-1863)

know it is not my habit to go begging for trouble – so I take things with an equable temper & the world rolls round – Don't hear much from the Army – Hooker will fetch Lee this time – That is if I get out there in time – However my chance to rejoin the 20th is not bright – Here is love to all the babies – I will write them a letter soon –

Yours entirely

A. Upson

(Written upside down on 1st page)

No interest in that report – Time enough, but hate the thought of finishing it – Guess the people have got quiet & nobody will care.