

June 28, 1863
No. 109
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope is postmarked Alexandria, Va. June 29, 1863. Letter is on one large piece of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Alexandria, Va.
June 28th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

As you see I write from Mr. Millard's – Came down last night & shall stay till tomorrow morning – Occupied the room we had two weeks ago but it seemed very lonely – Millard's people are well - Mr. & Mrs. Kirby & Mr. & Mrs. Moon & the Doctor are here & some new ones – The rest are gone – Part of the time the house is full; but people come & go so suddenly that no one knows what a day will bring forth – There is some excitement over the state of affairs – The rebels are said to be in force at Fairfax Co. House & have been scouting within 8 miles of Alexandria – A party from this city numbering 12, went out there yesterday & only one has returned – The rest are taken – Everything has been run in on the R.R.'s & nothing is going on outside our picket lines - How far they extend beyond the fortifications I have no information – Really this is a strange turn of affairs – Instead of threatening Richmond the rebs. are bearding us in our own capitol – The audacity of their movements is amazing – Would I could see corresponding spirit on the part of our folks – I confess to much astonishment at the tameness shown by Pennsylvanians upon the (Pg. 2) border – If they will run like sheep at the approach of the enemy, leaving their homes to be pillaged I have little pity – Every man of that invading force ought before this to have been captured, & by citizen soldiery too – What use are the meetings & proclamations, the bounties & fulsome speeches when such raids can be made into populous sections of the country – There is something greatly wrong or else I have quite misunderstood the temper of the North – If Lee can sustain himself as we have done on the enemy's county – Seems to me there is reason that we hide our faces in very shame – I don't feel disposed to blame the Govt. more than the people – A great many things are done by officials contrary to prudence & reason – a great deal is left undone for want of energy & capacity – but when allowance is made for these faults there is a mighty – responsibility – to be handed over to the men & women of the whole land – Perhaps the north will find out by & by that this war means something more than a strife between political parties – When they see Harrisburg in ruins & Philadelphia captured – Jeff Davis installed in Washington & our President & Cabinet flying for their lives the light will break through the stupid eyes of the fogger's – O. the perversity of men – I hear the copperheads stick up their ears & manifest signs of (Pg. 3) satisfaction at the extremity to which the country is reduced – Who could have believed such a mind existed in the free States! For my part if we don't whip out these rebels I will leave the country – I will not live under a govt. dictated by Southern aristocrats & traitors.

(6-28-1863)

Went to church this morning – Heard a good sermon from the same clergy man as preached before – Enjoyed some part of the service, but my mind was a good deal distracted – Thoughts of the war & the present state of affairs would steal in & ere I was aware the course of the sermon would be broken off – This afternoon I have walked out with Millard & the lawyer Rupel to the depot – A large force is at work barricading the buildings belonging to the R.R. Govt. has much property there & several acres are being enclosed – It looks to me like folly – If we can not hold the line of fortifications in heavens name let those who are in command get out of the way – I would not give a dead rabbits leg for generals who have to be ever fortifying, particularly on occasions like this – The fact is, half our post commanders are arrant cowards or weak minded lazy fellows not fit to be in the service at all – Instead of infusing confidence & inspiring courage they seem to do just what is necessary to excite timidity & create a panic – (Pg. 4) What this week will bring forth I can not tell - But seems to me some important events are at hand – God help us & fit us for his will! We have been & still are a very wicked people – I hear men swear as though there existed no danger of judgments – from heaven – Few very few, I fear, feel the necessity of help & guidance from above – Admiral Foote is dead – He was a God fearing man – But where is his like in the Army – There may be a Major or a Brigadier who bows the knee to Jehovah; but who knows of him? Colonels, Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants, Corporals, Privates – But a fraction of them all can be called upright Christian men –

I had a letter from the Capt of Co. E. dated at Leesburg the 25th – All were well – Found two from him in this office this morning – One from Fairfax Co. House dated the 16th & one from Leesburg of the 20th – He speaks in the latter of witnessing the execution of three deserters belonging to our corps – I should rather see a battle than such a sight – Yet deserters ought to be shot & sometimes I think sneaks too –

Millard recd. a letter from Uncle Lancelot's last week – At that time the 3 corps was encamped upon the farm – I presume ours also passed that way – They were well & driving a good trade with the soldiers – but fences & crops must have been somewhat injured – Things look dark but I have great hopes that Hooker will yet punish Lee severely – His purpose is evidently to get in his rear & drive him on – I like that idea – The weather is cloudy –

(Written upside down on first page in upper margin)

Monday Alexandria is safe – It amused me to see the trepidation of some yesterday – They talked as though the rebs. would have them on the way to Richmond in a few hours – It is ridiculous – Unless men intend to run like timid deer – The enemy can not get in here – Officers are exchanged – I can fight – But don't get uneasy – I have no expectation of an opportunity – Have read (continued on last page upside down in upper margin and down side of page in left side.) your letter to this family – I suppose it is legal to write Love in a corner. But you know a corner can't hold it –

Ever Yours,
A. Upson