

July 25, 1863

No 121

Mrs. Andrew Upson

Plantsville, Conn.

*[Yellow envelope with a three cent stamp is postmarked Georgetown D.C. Jul 25 1863. Letter is on one sheet of unlined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.]*

Union Battalion

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Yours of the 22d came today & brought me much comfort – Sorry you had so much trouble yourself over the harvest, particularly while I was at my ease – As I look on these fine days & think how hard the farmers are working it hardly seems right for me to be as much unemployed – Yet likely enough few of those same farmers would exchange situations with me – Still it is a pity I could not have dropped down unseen & took the part you so spiritly undertook – After all I am not entirely regretful such a test came – You were equal to it & nobly met the responsibility – I remember you frequently came into the hay field when a storm threatened or work drove & lent a helping hand – Thinking of then things at this distance my heart grows full & gladly would I break its gushings at your ear – Really a wife who is true to her duty [Pg. 2] & her destiny is a noble creature – It shows that great emotions are not confined to the stranger sex & heroism may come from soft handed woman as often as from him who is styled the lord of creation – It is a fact, wife, I esteem you all the men of your pluck – Never could help despising a tame disposition & the experience of the last year has only intensified my feeling on this point – But you have come up to the mark in many respects & so have good claim to my admiration – You have no idea how much good it does me to find you inspired by noble impulses – Were you ever pining & gloomy I could not bring myself to respect you very much – The course of many wives whose husbands are in the service & also the conduct of many whose husbands never intend to help the country is such that one can barely restrain indignation & contempt – The consciousness of honorable doing in these times is worth more than a fortune – Where the ideal of character is high & pure it is no light achievement to retain self respect – The temptations to selfishness on one side & to [Pg. 3] looseness in the other are very great – But if we surmount them & live up to the elevated standard our reward is sure – at least so far as the internal satisfaction goes we are paid right down – The outside world may not for a long while acknowledge the debt – But sooner or later justice recognizes the claim & renders due acknowledgment – I guess, wife, the last year has been a great advantage to us both – I am thankful for you & your character – You stand up straight in that picture – Honest people have a right to be perpendicular – genuine nobility is in the soul & when it vivifies the form & posture & carriage of the person its influence is felt – Go ahead, My Queen, assert your royalty, command the respect of others by your bearing – Women of true worth & force of character are as much needed as men – The welfare of the country rests with them in no

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trivial sense – They ought to take large views & acquaint themselves so far with public affairs as to be furnished for the popular errors so mischievous – I imagine hardly a woman in Southington is sufficiently armed for [Pg. 4] an encounter with many forms of deception by which the superstitions & ignorant are deluded – I know how much family cares demand your attention – But when the haying is over you will not have so much trouble with the farm – That is in a condition to be let alone – I hope you will take a share of the time for yourself – Guess we could carry on some course of study or reading if we were together & enjoy it exceedingly – But as we can not do quite that we can come as near to it as possible – Let me tell you, wife, you write better letters than you used to – I showed Lieut. Smith yours of today – He said, She is a noble woman! Of course I assented – Well, perhaps this is flattery in your sight – If you think that just aspire to make it truth not that I want further demonstration on that point, but hope you will feel satisfied with nothing short – The moon is beautiful – We take a bath nearly every day & keep clean as soap & water can make us. I hope you indulge the luxury of a daily wash & also the children – Somehow every thing I do lately is associated with you – It seems rather curious – But your image will get into my mind & I imagine numberless happy scenes – Hope we may yet have a ten days visit & find ourselves mutually blessed in each others society – You can lay up lots of sweet thoughts, for they are as full freighted with joy from your lips as the kisses which of late I have learned how to take – Now, wife, you must not think this soft sodden – I mean it - & were we eying each other, you should see the proof –

But I am  
A.U.