

July 8th, 1863

No. 111

Mrs. Andrew Upson

Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope is postmarked Washington, DC July 9, 1863 with a 3 cent stamp. Letter is on two sheets of lined stationery and is written in ink on eight sides.)

July 8th, 3 P.M.

My Dear Wife –

I wrote you yesterday but did not mail it here this morning. Expecting to go to Washington today & drop it in there – My pass did not come from Hd. Qrs. until 9 & then it was raining so hard I concluded to wait & go tomorrow – This P.M. yours of the 7th has come & I put in another note – Guess I pay my debts to you as far as respects letters better than I do those owed to others in business – You know I did not like the notion of having that report made public & by this time I guess you wish my views had been regarded – But it is too late to save the mortifications that may come from it – You need not get uneasy because the popular breeze is fickle – He is a fool who expects no squalls & head winds – We must take storms & breakers no less than sunshine & favoring gales on this voyage of life – Guess you were expecting too much (Pg. 2) Didn't you forget yourself in Southington? I am glad that Bagley recd. attention – But I hope to be spared the extravagant panegyric of my friends – My enemies, how strangely it seems to use that word, can howl to their entire satisfaction – We all understand Mr. B. & his vagaries & hyperbolic laudations must not be taken literally – Pity the man can not graduate his praises & also his criticisms on the scale of justice & good judgment –

Probably I have done with the Association in the capacity of literature - You need not tell them so; but they may learn by lacking what they have not by possessing – Let us see whether they will remember me if I forget them – Co E. I have done carrying – Neither may you tell of that – Let them find out by the society & services of others whether they estimated rightly the extent to which they were indebted to me – But there are some royal spirits left & for them (Pg. 3) I shall always entertain only the highest esteem – I do hope Alonzo Hough & Jo Hitchcock will come out all right – They are princes in character – Perkins is a lovely boy & David Hart – There are others for whom I would do anything – But taken all in all my desire is to be connected with another company – This one now under me I could like better than E were it like to be permanent – You sell out things in Southington & we will find a home elsewhere – I am pretty much weaned from it & you would not be long in acquiring the same resigned condition – But we can't tell what is best yet – Let us see whether Meade bags Lee & how the rebs get along without Vicksburg – I have been down to the Potomac this afternoon & sat two hours by the gorge watching the tumbling waters – While there the stream rose more than three feet – The effect of rains above – We have no news of moment from the army today – The Chronicle publishes (Pg. 4) only what it can get out of the Phila. & New York Journals of the day previous – Intend to go to the city tomorrow – Want a pair of boots – Shall have to get a sword & belt soon – We may be called on for parade & I am in no fix for that – Two others are in the same state of destitution & no money more than I -

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Could capture what I need if upon the front – But that chance here is not to be had – Send me your picture – Why should you suppose I would not like it? – Neither do short letters exactly pay for my long ones – But I know you have much to do –

Thursday morn – We have a beautiful day – Am going to Washington – News not so good as we expect – Lee will escape I fear with his trains, though another fight may fix out his army – Suppose you are about harvesting the rye – Guess the rains are over for a while - Let me know all about affairs – Love to all the family – Much to yourself –

As ever,
A. Upson

(Pg. 5) You have two or three times spoken of the harrow – Mr. H. may have it for \$6 – The teeth are right except straightening which can easily be done – The horse rake I guess is worth \$4 – If you can get 15 or 20 for the buggy or the old wagon don't hold on – Guess they ought to bring that each – Take \$40 for the cart – That horse plow you may sell for \$3 & the horse hoe for \$6 – I don't think of anything else – Hope you will get rid of the grass without much trouble – Have you mowed any but what grew about the yard, or all the home lot? – Keep me informed on these things –

I wrote Ida, Frank & Willie each by Saturdays mail & you on Monday – Had also sent you a missive the day after coming here – Wrote Wm. I. the morning after I was in Washington but had hardly time to finish before I was ordered up here & of course came right along – Sent it by another officer to post & perhaps he forgot to mail it – Ask him if he recd. it – Wrote father again – Miles seems to have lost the faculty (Pg. 6) of using the pen in correspondence - I would not be such a slave to farm work & the petty cares of his situation – We write letters under greater disadvantages than he knows anything about – It has begun to rain again & there is every appearance of a wet night – Is this a providence in our favor! If the rebel fails to get away because the river is impassable we can consider it nothing less – I tell you Jeff Davis will have the heart ache when he hears of all these disasters – But our people must not go into extravagant ecstasies too soon – We may yet have to drink deeply of disappointment & defeat – One of my fellow officers from the 17th Ct. was fancying the war ended if Lee should loose his army – I do not expect to serve less than three years in any case – The govt. will need to keep up a large force for a long while even if active operations cease. & it is not wise to indulge in too (Pg. 7) elation – I wish as a people we were not so easily swayed from the extremes of hope & despair – A defeat knocks us flat – A success elevates us to the mountain tops - We are not balanced aright – I see it all through the army – When reverse & retreat comes too many are ready to give over all effort & surrender the cause – I never shall forget how our company surprised me after the Fredericksburg affair – Those are the times that test men – The spirit of those who are true rises higher in proportion as difficulties & dangers thicken – Just so now, the more flighty sail in the clouds when they had far better make sure of their foundations - It is a great thing to have our enemies by the hip but we had best throw them & get on the bracelets (such as the sheriffs use) before kicking our heels to high – Looking over to Washington a moment since I observe rockets going up –

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They are signals & in that information is communicated from (Pg. 8) point to point until it reaches Meade – Have as yet seen no losses in our corps – Notice the loss of some officers in the 11th who were at Richmond – It was evidently a hard fight – The fifth corps seems to have done nobly – I guess also the old 12th was not wanting, but perhaps it escaped the hardest of the contest – Lt. Col. Merwin of 27th was a prisoner with us – He was a noble fellow – There time is out in a few days – The 27th has seen more service than any 9 months regt. from our state – But the 17th & 20th is bound to take the palm yet – It will be singular if ours escapes with as little loss as at Chancellorsville –

I recd. a Press from you last night – It came up from C.E. – Guess you will have to send me some money – I can not get my pay at present & must pay board bills – But here is the 8th page – You still hanker for the draws I suppose – But try to get along more temperately – Enough when I have said a sweet good night –

Yours,
A. Upson