

Aug. 11, 1863
No – 130
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow enveloped postmarked Alexandria, Va. Aug 12 1863 with a 3- cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of unlined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Camp Distribution
Aug. 11th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

It is now 9 ½ P.M. I have been to Washington – Walked over & back arriving home a short time since – Went out to Lincoln Hospital which is East of the Capitol about a mile – That journey with what tramping I did around the city I guess has made good 15 miles – Considering the hot weather & dusty roads it is fair work – But you know me good on the hoof – Wonder if is because of my practice in courting days – If so you developed some powers in me that have benefited the cobblers if no others – Found Newell sitting in a rocking chair & enjoying a refreshing breeze – in fact as comfortably situated as he well can be – There are but two rows of beds in his ward which makes (**Pg. 2**) it quite roomy – Everything is neat & he spoke favorably of the nurses – Newell is weak & shows plainly that he has been sick – But his spirits are cheerful & so far as I could judge he will continue to improve – Just assure his friends when you meet them of his agreeable surroundings & let them continue easy – Gad will keep a look out on him & he has my address which I told him to use in case of emergency – Lincoln Hospital is favorably located – Much better than if it were directly in the city like most at Washington & Alexandria – I consider this a very important fact – The patients are free from noise & dust & bad air – In short I do not believe one third of the patients could be as well situated in their own home – He of course would be an exception to this remark – But were I to choose a place for a sick soldier down here seems to (**Pg. 3**) me no spot within the range of my observation, which now has been considerable, would sooner be selected than that –

I came across Major Buckingham at the Kirkwood house – He has been in Washington ill for two weeks, but hopes soon to rejoin the 20th. Had a very gratifying interview with him – Showed him the orders by which I had been turned hither & thither since leaving Annapolis – Told him how much I desired to go to the front & asked him what chance there was – He said I would bring around in time – that I could not help myself much & told me to rest easy – Had been much wanted - He understands the matter completely & manifested much satisfaction at my call upon him – Next went to the pay masters office – He had returned only last night from the army – I was armed this time with all the documentary evidence in my possession (**Pg. 4**) & the old iron chest flew open without hesitation – Upson got his \$214.90 for services during May & June – I have sent you by Adams Express to Plantsville \$100 – Enclosed you will find receipt for the same which you can present to the agent if he requires it – I guess you better stop a hole with this sum right off – I have more & shall forward you a little by mail after settling my

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board bill with Mrs. McDonell – Saw Gad & returned the thirty he loaned me – So the green backs are once more in hand & if dismissed the service without pay Uncle Sam can gobble my wages for rainy July & sultry August - but May, spent all the way from Kelly's Ford clear round by Richmond to Annapolis & June sweetly opening with those blissful days at Washington & then handing us over to great trouble & disappointments for all that period, so the usual compensation is secure - It ought to be – We earned it fairly – Well, here is more occasion for gratitude – Your letter of Aug. 6th was waiting my return tonight – Expected rather the one written Sunday evening last –

(Written upside down on first page in upper margin.)

Intend to send a note to father to-morrow – I am tired – Guess it is best to try the floor – That is my bed now-

Yours Ever,
A. U.