

Aug. 17th, 1863

No -13...

Mrs. Andrew Upson

Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope postmarked Alexandria Va., Aug. 17, 1863 with a -3 cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on three sides in ink.)

Alexandria, Va.

Aug. 17th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

I left Convalescent Camp yesterday about 11 o'clock by cars – Recd. your letter of Friday eve just before starting – Stopped with Millard over night & shall start for Bralton Station at 2 P.M. Don't know how far it will be necessary to walk from there before arriving with the 20th – There is a considerable movement of troops this way – There are several thousands now here right from the front – Even part of our division & corps – It is supposed they are bound for New York – Probably the govt. is going to be prepared for “Andy Wood & his boys” before commencing anew the draft – But possibly an entire change of base with the Potomac army is taking place – One (**Pg. 2**) Officer assured me so this morning – It is reported that everything is this side the Rappahannock – Lee makes no demonstration – I guess he is in trouble with his own men – Shall leave my carpet bag & best things here until I know what is best to do – Millard is very conveniently located – He proves just as handy as a hotel keeper to me & I pay my bills when I get ready – Slept in our front room last night, or rather tried to – Soldiers were tramping all the darkness through upon the pavements & wagons thundering along kept up continual racket –

Have bought me a new portfolio, paper, inkstand, envelopes & towel – Now comes soldier fare & shelter tents – Shall have to write upon my knee & rough it generally – But do you know the necessity to sleep out of doors again pleases me – There is no rest like the soldiers in clear weather (**Pg. 3**) Have been looking for a black boy – They are plenty enough but don't care to leave the city – Intend to have a servant if possible – A vessel with conscripts arrived from New Haven last night, but Capt. W. is not aboard – They went forward on the eleven train – Ermina has gone to Gum Spring – They are better at Uncle Lancelot's according to latest accounts – The streets are full of soldiers & every eating shop & ice cream saloon will be cleaned out – Clothiers, grocers fruit sellers & pretty much every tradesman is reaping a harvest –

You spoke about pictures – I was intending to sit at Brady's in Washington on my next visit – Went down to all the galleries here this morning & again a short time since – But each was crowded full & I could get no chance – The pictures taken were not good – Brady is the fellow & I will get one from him the next opportunity – I'm off –

Ever Yours,

A. Upson