

Aug. 19, 1863
No. 135
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Aug. 20, 1863 with a 3- cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Camp of the 20th
Near Kelly's Ford, Va.
Aug. 19th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

I'm with the boys – Left Alexandria at 2 P.M. Monday – The train delayed so much at stations along the road that we did not arrive at Bealton until 10 at night – I concealed myself in a box car upon a pile of oats & was just about forgetting my supper, which I did not see & everything else, when half a dozen darkies sprang into the car & commenced throwing out the bags – Pretty soon one got hold of me accidentally – Seeing they were bound to spoil my rest anyhow I got up & after the bags were piled outside & things got still I once more bunked upon the oats – Rested well till morning – Had a cup of coffee & bread for breakfast found the direction of the 12th Corps & started out – After walking about 3 miles met (**Pg. 2**) Charley Clark horseback – He did not recognize me at first – But I soon made him halt & we squatted by the roadside & had a long chat – He was bound for Bealton & we parted – I promised to stop at their quarters, which were near Gen Slocums & wait for him – in return & he would go to the regt. with me – I missed the road & went two miles out of the way, falling in with the 2d. Corps – Got new directions & took across field – Found Capt. Stieners, where Charley is, had dinner with them of which I was ready enough to partake & then we jogged on –

But I must shorten these details – Arrived at the 20th about 2 P.M. & then came hand shaking & salutations – Boys said they were glad to see me & I doubt not felt so - Col. Wooster, Ross & the officers generally recd. me warmly – I have no time here to tell you much – For since I commenced to write men & officers have kept coming to talk & rally I have feared they would not give me (**Pg. 3**) a moment – You must not blame them or me – They love to talk over their hardships & fights - & I like to hear the accounts of each – The camp is very pleasant – I had rather be here than at Conv. Camp – The regt. looks small & also company E – But what remains is the genuine stuff – Serg. Grannis was sent to Alexandria yesterday - I did not see him – He is some sick – David looks very well, also Lieut. Lewis – The army is under marching orders & perhaps a move is about taking place – Not however one that is intended to bring on immediate action – The army is to be more or less reorganized –

The fix I am in is curious enough – The order for reinstatement did not grant me pay for the interval between dismissed & return to regt. – I shall lose that due me for July & 17 days of August unless the order is modified – Intend to make a plain statement for the war dept. & batter (**Pg. 4**) away until they do me justice – Probably it will take six months or a year – Ross says I am the only officer restored in the whole batch & that my standing

(8-19-1863)

at the dept. is better than it would have been but for the dismissal – Be that as it may I shall not rest satisfied until they do me full justice – The fact is there is a sight of blundering & the endless round of red tape makes a practical act of sense & sight well nigh impossible – The thing is all known here now – David says Sergt. Grannis heard of it a short time since – You will probably have a stir now in Southington – But it has got where I don't care a button for home talk – You can let the gossipers wag their tongues at pleasure – Don't manifest a particle of uneasiness, & disclose just enough to bother those who are in the habit of poking their noses into other peoples broth – You know more than anyone else & just make them understand it – It is our turn now to enjoy this thing & I intend to have my share of the fun – The officers of the regt. all feel right towards me in this matter – They regard it in a measure affecting their own honor as my associates & manifest their interest in my behalf – On the whole the look is favorable – Let us be thankful –

Ever yours

A. Upson