

Aug 20, 1863
No – 136

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope postmarked Washington, D. C. Aug 21 with a three- cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of unlined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Camp of the 20th C. T.
Aug. 20th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

Suppose you will be feeling unnecessarily & I send you another note today – The location is very pleasant – We are near the river & can look across upon the very field upon which Hookers Army was massed last spring after crossing – What a circle I have completed since then!

Reb. pickets are visible on the other side, but not within gun shot – There is not supposed to be much force there – Went on battalion drill last evening from six till 7 – This morning immediately after reveille we had company drill an hour – The nights are quite cool & the days not so hot as at Convalescent Camp – But we shall not suffer - (**Pg. 2**) The country here looks better than last spring – But we get no fruit – Peddlers do not appear – I guess the army is living rather short – We are too far from the R.R. to get potatoes; probably they are not yet plenty enough to supply the whole army – Those in front always live poorer than the more favored near the cities & lines of transportation – Everything seems as quiet as northern rural neighborhoods at the north – Sergt. Barnes is not very well – Lieut. Lewis looks plump & very tough – So also do many of the boys – Jo. Hitchcock is in fine condition & Corp. Frisbie – I shall get broke in after a few days – But really things are strange – Many very many, faces are gone & those that remain wear new lines – The service tells upon all – some improve physically – the majority are unequal to the test – About my condition, (**Pg. 3**) I shall lose 1 month & 18 days pay unless the order is revised – That will take time – Did you ever see anything so provoking? – But I have learned at last a great lesson – That is to rely less upon others & more upon myself – Told Col. Ross as much yesterday, but at the same time thanked him & Col. Hooker for their services in my behalf – If we do not move from here under two or three days I shall get up a document & continue the contest with the War Dept. until they treat me with due justice – You spoke about a cap for Willie – Guess you better buy him & Frank each a good lasty one – It might as well be military as anything – I don't care if you get them each a suit – Let them have something pretty – I send here with \$10 – Shall do the same in the next – If I get no pay on these days referred to above (**Pg. 4**) I may have to call upon you along in Sep or Oct. – Don't wish much by me at one time & shall remiss to you until the amt. is down to about 20 – Wish you to acknowledge its arrival & keep me posted on matters at home.

The result of the draft arrived here last night – The boys were pleased with some

(8-20-1863)

names, but thought the list could be improved by certain additions – Have recd. a copy of Dea. Twichell's funeral sermon from Sarah Stow – David also has Russell's notes which you mailed me long ago – Shall read it at leisure – But I have not so much opportunity now ahead for such pursuits –

Keep yourself easy – Upson is a brick & there is no telling what he will not live through – Sweet thoughts of wife & babies filled my mind last night –

Ever yours
A. Upson