

Aug 24, 1863  
No – 138  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, *Conn.*

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

Camp of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Near Kelly's Ford, Va.  
Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife –

I wrote you yesterday morning & improve a few moments again today – Our mail leaves at 10 & arrives at 4 – Recd. nothing from you yesterday but a note came from H. Bunnell at Convalescent Camp informing me of the death of A. S. Peck - I wrote his wife the Friday before leaving there, sending it first to Enos – For I thought she would get it sooner through him than if sent directly to her – Peck wished me to caution her about coming on – I had no idea that he was going to be very sick, nor did Wightman & Adkins who lay near him – Sunday, before leaving I went up & saw him a few moments – He was a little out there, but still that did not surprise me – It may be that we under estimated (**Pg. 2**) his condition – He had always been healthy – Hale Smith came on from Convalescent Camp last night – He says Peck went down rapidly from last Monday – I shall write his wife today again – Hope she will not feel that I misrepresented things – Peck requested me to write & I did so, desiring to convey information without unduly exciting her solicitude – For at that time appearances were entirely in his favor – My heart is touched for these widows & orphan children – If you can, had you not better call on the poor woman – Dwight Lewis was taken sick pretty severely Saturday afternoon – He is very much better this morning & will get along, I think – But after this I shall fear to write to friends at all –

There is nothing new in camp – I never saw matters so quiet in the regt. as here – The boys do not exactly fancy receiving those “rough & rowdy conscripts” – If they are so hard discipline will be more strict & when the reins are drawn (**Pg. 3**) tight the honest & dishonest suffer alike – That is why our old soldiers dread the arrival of a delegation from New Haven – If we could receive those coming from the country towns there would be less dissatisfaction – About that drain – I presume there is a stoppage under the manger – A little ways from the south end of the manger one of the floor boards is cut & the piece can be lifted up – If that piece is taken up & a man lies down flat in the manger & reaches with his right hand to the bottom of the stones under the east sill he will find without much difficulty the end of a tile – I presume some hay or dirt has got before the opening & so obstructed the passage of water – I had trouble with it once before & in the way above described remedied the difficulty – Seems to me I told Miles how the thing is done but he may have forgotten – But if you can get any Irishman a few minutes & show him the place he will find out (**Pg. 4**) about it – The end of the tile does not project much

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beyond the stone & lies in the lowest hollow – Hay seed accumulates beneath the manger & when you get the board up it will be best to clear it out – The truth is those eaves troughs ought to be put on the west side of the barn & cow house & then the water would not accumulate so – I see you sold some hay to Henry Hart – He will be slow pay – Keep an eye of him & get it as soon as possible – If you desire I have no objection to you depositing in your own name some funds against a possible necessity – It is best to lay up what we can. Either by paying debts or salting in a safe institution – It is quite time Ed & Eliz. Lowrey were settled with – I almost feel ashamed that my old college bills are not cleared away – But if God blesses us, before another 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. we will be square with them – The rye you had better sell at once I guess – Consult with Joseph about it & also the straw – Have you more than one cow? Would like some ripe apples – We get no fruit here – Living is pretty short – But my health is good & things move very pleasantly – Hope to hear from you today – Is the 2d crop of grass in the house lot worth mowing? – Enough here – Is it a year this morning since the company left Southington as the weeks run – A year! What a scattering! We are (written on first page in bottom margin) all alive – God be praised –

Always A. Upson

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

A word for the children – Father thinks of each many times a day – Here is my best desires for Ida, Frank, Willie & Mary – May they be dutiful & all speak the truth – Remember me to grandmother – is she well?