

Aug. 25, 1863
No – 139

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Yellow envelope postmarked Aug. 25, Washington, D.C. 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. 25th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Yours of Friday last came in yesterday evening – Glad to see that you had made a turn in the road & found troubles not so thick as when the previous missive was penned – There are no changes to record in our condition or prospects – There is some indication of a storm at hand – Wind is southerly & clouds obscure the sky – The days are long – We have little to do – Yesterday I read Bleak House until my eyes ached – About 5 ½ P.M. Ross gave us a short battalion drill – The first from him that the regt. has had in a long while – We all feel rather pleased over the uncertainties of the \$300 appropriation by the town for drafted men – We should not object to paying every man who comes & does his duty the same as we recd. viz \$100 – But it is outrageous (**Pg. 2**) to go beyond that – The soldiers are not in very good temper over the present aspect of things at the north – They criticize rather freely & I see you do the same –

Yesterday a copy of the Morning Courier, New Haven, fell into my hands, containing letters of Co. Wooster & Lieut. Beardsley acknowledging the receipt of swards, sashes & belts – I am glad they of Derby can appreciate the sacrifices of their citizens in this war – The heading by the Edition is quite puffy – Really it makes some difference where a man's lot falls – One man is puffed up & another is left to obscurity – The fortunes of individuals are strangely demonstration of neglect & ingratitude in our case & under appreciation in another – But there is no use of talking – Beardsley went home after leaving Annapolis & staid a fortnight or more – had no pass of furlough – But I suppose he is smart enough to avoid all dangers such as befell me – He has come down from a staff officer to be simply a lieut. once more – The old (**Pg. 3**) brigade is broken up & that puts him with the rest of us – Now notice how things will turn – Lewis says the next vacancy for a captaincy will be given to him or Sprague – They are both Derby boys – You see they are backed up at home & here too – But the Col. is between two fires & the Lt. Col. has so far committed himself that I rather guess they will feel some delicacy about riding over me – There are two other 1st Lieuts. who rank me as the names came out of the hat one year ago – I have a little curiosity to see what the upshot will be – One thing I feel sure of – Ross & Wooster both understand that I can wield some influence, if I see fit, that they would not exactly like opposed to them – They both pay me gentlemanly deference – are cordial in their greetings & more condescending than before Chancellorsville – I ascribe it to the fact of having found out that there is more in

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the unassuming department of some men than in the blow & bombast of others – But for all this position may be allotted to the least (Pg. 4) deserving – I intend to keep the powers in wholesome remembrance of what they have got an inkling – Education gives a man power after all & unless justice is more frequent in her calls I am going to use my pen – Let these strut cocks look alive – Some guns may yet get the range of their camping ground & before they are aware of danger the shells will burst – You can keep these things to yourself – I have as yet formed no purpose of proceeding, but shall act according to circumstances – Has not the story of my dismissal xc. got home yet - Expected Sergt. Grannis or some one else would before now sow it broadcast – Give my regards to Julia Ann – Glad she is with you – You & she better go into partnership & set up business – You spoke about Jenny – Sell the farm if you can & then you can dispose of the horse – Guess you can't do without the horse as long as you are so situated – Perhaps the war will end within six months – But I expect to put in my three years – A year today since we left Southington – Wish I had as nice a bouquet as on that morning – 8 of the company are dead - & 10 men discharge – We have only 39 present now – The remainder are scattered, Who knows where?

(Written upside down on first page in upper margin)

Love to the children – How much I should delight to see them! God bless you all –

Truly
A. Upson