

Sept. 7th, 1863
No – 145
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope is postmarked Washington, D.C. Sep. 8, 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 C. T.
Near Kelly's Ford, Va.

My Dear Wife –

Yours of the 2d inclosing neck tie came last night – Shall have occasion more or less to encircle my throat with the fashionable band and as often as it is wound & knotted guess the thoughtful, kind donor will be remembered – Since returning to the regt. I have pretty much discarded collars & cravats Still good taste & especially due regard to the practice of my fellows on parade require more deference to those elements of dress & convential character – I have sent for my carpet bag – Expect it to be here about Wednesday next – Then with the long tailed coat & sash Upson can take his place in the line & salute his superior without any sense of deficient exterior – Last night we came out for drill & formed our line with conscripts & all – The 20th stretched away some (**Pg. 2**) what as formerly – The boys are impressed more favorably than they expected to be by the additions we have recd. from New Haven – The 8 sent to our company are gaining the esteem of former members rapidly – It is amusing to witness the contrast in action towards them now that they have come & in the comments & threats very common a few days before their arrival – I must acknowledge that the substitute business, practically is working better than we thought for - Very likely the material thus thrown into the army will not average high – But really we shall profit about to the same extent as if an equal number had been obtained by volunteering – Perhaps we get more physical soundness – At least I infer the medical examiners are more rigid from the proportion they declare unfit – A year since many now thrown out would have passed – But scrutiny then was too loose & as a consequence quite a fraction of those mustered (**Pg. 3**) proved unequal to the demands of the service – The first requirement for active military life is soundness – It is almost folly for at least half of the whole population of males to attempt the struggle with such hardships as must fall to the experience of those who go forth to war – But if out of the whole draft we get a 100000 men able bodied men it will put our forces in a more efficient condition than at any previous time – We are acting wiser than ever before in that the old regiments are to be increased – These recruits distributed throughout the entire army will be almost as good as so many veterans – In fact many of them are old soldiers – But where inexperienced they will at once be made efficient by association with those who have learned the hooks & crooks – One old regiment thus brought up to the maximum will for this falls campaign be as good as three raw regiments of volunteers – The effect upon us will be happy & I doubt not Ben Meade will (**Pg. 4**) be surprised at the great improvement wrought – There is no news here aside from what grows out of the

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matter of conscripts – Dwight Lewis & Alonzo Hough are sick in hospital but better – I have written two letters to Alonzo's wife – one this morning – He will soon be out I think - There is no change in outward affairs – We know nothing about the promotion of Ross – The officers generally would be much offended were any one pushed over Col. Wooster's head – Guess Miles would be a fair measure for me in the matter of a vest – Let it be decently long & a good one in material – I wrote you also about pants – You can put them in a box & send by Express, shirts & all – Also a box of troches – I don't think of anything more except the two little bags made of bladder or oil silk – But it will be several days before you will have these things & I shall write again – Intend to keep myself within bounds as to dress – Have wrappers enough – Want one pair of drawers –

In haste
Ever yours
A. Upson