

Jan. 3, 1864
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Nashville, Ten. Jan. 7, 1864 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of unlined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Stevenson, Ala.
Jan. 3d, 1864

My Dear Wife –

I was intending to pen you a long letter today but it has got rather late & you will I guess be satisfied with a note sheet – Lt. Lewis & I slept together last night & it was rather well along into Sunday when we waked up – You see I had some extra sleeping to do & he not being very well did not stir – But at last an engine bell broke my slumber & in the dreamy state consequent there to I thought it was the first call of some sweet toned monitor uttering from the church steeple a warning to all worship goers – We turned out & by breakfast over & boots blacked it was eleven o'clock – Going over to the room fitted up for a chapel, thinking all the way of your New Years Sermon, Communion, & the exercises incident there to I really wished myself at home – Arriving at the building we found men at work – They had already converted the seats into bunks along the sides of the room & on inquiry we learned that this new encroachment upon our religious privileges was to accommodate RR engineers (**Pg. 2**) They need such a place & I suppose we can take our preaching in the street or under a tree – The Col. jokingly suggested to the Chaplain that he make the stockade his Hd. Quarts. saying he would always have an audience there – We three went to the hospital & I had quite a visit with Mr. Frisbie - He is a patient man & I like exceedingly the spirit he exhibits - Elbert is no worse & the purpose is to start for home as soon as his papers are recd – I hope he may get safely home, but my fears are strong that the boys journey will be to the grave – He got no mail last night – The weather has been very chilly & a fine hail storm commenced just now – It will probably end in rain - The box I have not yet carefully examined – though Mrs. Munn's walnuts & Sarah's cake & somebody's cookies have tempted me to a little extra indulgence – I shall particularize before long & will acknowledge by letter each friendly remembrance. That favorite edition of the Psalms from yourself is just what I want – It don't fill my pocket & of course will go with me constantly – (**Pg. 3**) You packed things so snug that they don't like to come out & I prefer not to disarrange them much until it is certain I may remain here long enough to enjoy them – We had milk in our tea last night & this mornings coffee are a lighter color than usual – Those cranberries look tempting as fruit from Paradise & the pail containing them will be worth more than a side dish of silver – But I fear it will be lost soon – It does surprise one to see how many dishes & all kinds of ware known to the army get away – Now My Dear Wife I am over flowingly grateful to you & wish I could say it at your lips rather than your eyes – At this distance home comforts are costly but they have a proportional value when once at hand – We almost hesitate to touch them at first they have such a precious significance – That beautiful ruler will supply a much felt want & as often as I have occasion to use it, it will bring sweet remembrance of home & wife – I have my muster rolls except one,

(1-3-1864)

Ordinance Returns for last quarter & clothing account for Dec. to make out – this will employ my time for a week or more, particularly as Royce is gone – Then too I (*Pg. 4*) may be ordered off on this or that duty & so interruptions will possibly put me behind – But very soon whoever put anything in the Box shall get a short missive – I have not forgotten little Sarah Bingham, but you know me not much of a children's man & besides a hesitancy of attempting the right mood & opportunity has not occurred – The truth is I am all the while provided with something that needs to be done & aside from correspondence with you I have not often of late written to others – Letters recd. will be answered but beyond that, except in cases like this of gifts – I shall not enlist for more labor – Folks at home that with all their conveniences can not take the initiative are very unfair to solicit pen work – We like to hear from all our friends – I would from all my acquaintances – But except in certain cases they will have to incur a debt before I address them. - That I consider but simple justice – About selling the hickory or oak I am not very much disposed to interfere – If Joseph would attend to it I should be satisfied - But I have not much faith in men generally & should expect them to take every advantage of you – The paymaster is expected before a fortnight expires – I will put you all right when he has visited us - A snug pile is due me & I expect to get the whole this time – You may express to each of the contributors to that box my thanks – Commend their generosity for I find folks love to be praised – I recd. Sam Shepard's letter & will reply when the present hurry is over – I have no clerk & a company affords so much writing that with regular duties my time is all quite provided – Express to him my interest in his welfare & in that of each member of his family – My fond love to each of the little ones – Grandma and Julia Ann – A letter too is due her - Ah how much looms at just now – But here's to you last not the least of my love –

Truly A. Upson

(Written in upper margin of first page)

Send me some stamps – I am clear out & been borrowing -