

*February 17, 1864*

*(Letter with no envelope is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half written on four sides in ink and one small sheet of paper written on both sides in ink.)*

Tracy City, Tenn.  
Wednesday Evening  
Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1864

Dear Sister –

The long & wearisome jaunt which lay before me last Friday is accomplished. This great distance has been passed in safety. I occupy the front – Having reached this place at 5 PM today. There being but one passenger train daily out of Louisville & the same from Nashville – a day & a half is lost. I have connected with every train since I left home. Considering the delays I have made as rapid a journey as is possible under the present arrangement. The trip has been a pleasant yet a tiresome one. While I should have enjoyed your company, I have had many occasions to see the wisdom of the course adopted. A lady could much easier go to Chattanooga than to this place. The only conveyance for passengers or mail from this place to Cowan is by a miserable coal train, making one trip a day. [Pg. 2] Last night coming up we ran off the track twice in going ten rods. The engine has been laid up for repairs, for what length of time I can't say, you see therefore that I am unable to send you a telegram or letter till travel is resumed.

Surgeon Terry came up last night to see Andrew. He thinks him much better than when he telegraphed you & in a fair way to recover in time. Since he was wounded no two days experience has been alike. He rallied to be quite smart soon after the affair & even sat up. Then came a reverse, failing rapidly & getting so low as to be almost entirely helpless. Last week he again revived & continued to gain slowly for some days.

Appetite increased & spirits confident of speedy recovery. Dr. Terry says he has passed some of the worst stages & is confident that he is better, but by no means out of danger.

(Pg. 3) Thursday 12 M

Dr. Terry is still here & will remain till the engine is repaired. I sat up most of the night in company with two of his company. Andrew passed a very restless night, talking most of the time about army matters. Mind very wandering & is exceedingly nervous. Dr. t says he is not so well today. He dressed his wounds & the Surgeon says are doing finely.

The main thing now is, whether his constitution can endure the shock. We were misinformed of the character of his wounds. His neck was slightly hurt. The ball which struck under the left shoulder blade instead of passing down, or around the body & then up to his chin as we supposed – passé through to the neck going through one lung & under the collar bone & was extracted on the side of his neck. How much damage it has done it is impossible to estimate. He coughs (Pg. 4) & raises considerable. I cannot but feel that he has a great task to recover. Judging from the state of his system & the

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knowledge we have of his powers of endurance, we think there is much room for hope.

This attention & care could not be improved. The family are very kind & express a warm interest in his welfare & recovery. His company are unceasing in their watch – Two are detailed for the day – two more for the night & be assured that nothing more could be done to render his circumstances more pleasant. I shall not leave him till he is better. I am in a process of ...but most curious to think of. From day to day, action either by medicine or nature assures me of my weakness. You would be surprised here great it is. If I turn in bed there is coughing. If I turn my body there is great action,. As Morris said, it was good blood as now stains the hills of Ten. One would hardly think himself located here.

(On small piece of paper)

Friday Morning

The closing lines of the large sheet & the following were dictated by A.

Of guerrillas I fear little. They cannot do damage. There are great movements in the Government. God grant more for peace.

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

To the believers ear.

It soothes his sorrows

And drives away his fear.

I have been somewhat vexed that I could not communicate with you. The conductor tells me he shall go at about 10 o'clock this morning.

Andrew has had a tolerably quiet night & his countenance looks brighter. I brought him from Nashville some Ale oysters & figs & the Ale the De wishes him to follow up.

Yesterday his meals consisted of toast turkey, eggs & oysters. He cannot be better treated. He has the best room in the city – a good De & plenty of fine nurses. I hope your mind will be at ease. I shall write as often as the mail leaves.

Yours affectionately,

M. U. Upson