

My chum saw  
your Photo  
and said he  
was certain  
you are a  
schoolmarm  
and that it  
is an excell-  
ent picture  
He is an Ohio  
boy whom you  
never have  
seen, but a  
good judge of  
the fine arts.  
I dont  
write this as  
flattery as I  
never intend  
to deal in  
that style,  
but offer it  
as a compli-  
ment from one  
of the com-  
rades of  
Leonard

Plaquimine, La. Feb. 10th, 64

Dear Elisabeth

To day I re'ed your letter containing those photo's and will write you another letter. I had been anxiously looking for this letter for upwards of two weeks and felt almost certain it would come to day.

I think your picture is very natural and it reminds me of a few pleasant moments I have spent in company with the original. Your sister's is also a good picture with the exceptions you mentioned and I have a good mind to keep it, only for the particular request of "Elisabeth" to the contrary.

As you will see by date of this we have not moved yet and it is now said that our Col. \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to stay here with his men during the summer but I hardly credit the report as yet, for one I would as soon remain here as to sling knapsack and "march" to the field, perhaps though it is because I have not as much patriotism as a soldier should have that I feel thus. We however have been privileged with a considerable amount of marching and think we ought to be excused from wishing any more.

Your wrote that you did not choose to talk or hear much said on the subject of war and I cannot blame you it is indeed rather disagreeable but the thought struck me that my letters must indeed be of little interest to you. I think however you make all necessary allowances as I think something of the kind, we have mentioned before. Our business is war our companions are warriors nearly everything we see pertains to war, look at a newspaper and you see "War" at the head of every column, the principal topic of conversation is war and what can a person write about? Why war most certainly. I hope however the day will come when we shall not be obliged to write on this subject but can enjoy the privilege of converssing on a subject more pleasant.

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I am not however as sanguine in my hopes or expectations of the war soon ending as many persons are: it is a gigantic affair and requires time to come to a termination, our able secretary of treasury is calculating on a two years struggle yet he may not be correct but he is a pretty able man and good authority.

We are having a pretty interesting time in this department with the colored population they are in the transition state at present from slavery to freedom. It is amusing and yet in many cases excites pity to see and hear them relate their history. A mulatto boy of 18 with a wife and one child had been to work for their master during the past year with the promise of wages the payday did not arrive and the boy threatened to report the case to the authorities which provoked the master to strike him and then for fear of being reported the worthy white came and accused the boy of disobedience and the girl his wife of theft, and they were brought to jail. They are quite intelligent and declare their intention of never returning to their old master. They are well pleased with the Yankees. The girl expressed herself in this way. "Lor bless em dey is done to much for the black people, dey will all go to heaven suar".

Similar expressions may be heard nearly every day. They are certainly an unfortunate race and it is very doubtful whether freedom will better the condition of the present generation.

I think by the tone of your letters you enjoy yourself in your school and wish you all the enjoyment possible as I believe it a privilege peculiar to what we term America in other words our north.

I dont think Julia did Mother hardly justice in her remarks concerning our return home after going visiting. Mother said but very little to my knowledge on the subject and what she did say I thought



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was far from "scolding" therefore I think Julia was laboring under a misapprehension and ought not to have been so hasty in deciding. Elizabeth I never should have said this much in contradiction to what my sister has said to anyone else. It was long after bed time when I commenced this letter and must now be nearly midnight and as this sheet is pretty full will close. My thanks for your Photo. I will enclose your sisters as per request and wish her a pleasant journey and safe return after her adventure in \_\_\_\_\_.

Good evening      Most truly your ---- Friend

Leonard