

Don't show this to your "confidant" even.

Camp near Kinston NC.  
June 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear "Sissie":-

I received your rare letter yesterday. It is a perfect stranger to me. I wonder if my sweet little niece, did think enough of her uncle to write to him. I had made myself easy about Adela and you writing any more; but was aroused from my quiet by two long and interesting letters from her and you in quick succession. What a surprise!

Now let me make a request of my niece, probably two of them. Don't think I have got any thing to say against your style of writing; for you can excel me now, in that, (Excuse my praise) but the request is:- in the first place, to write more frequently, and get over the disposition of being a poor correspondent. And in the second don't tell me any thing about the movements of our armies; for that is a mere recapitulation of what I see every day in the papers; but tell me something of what takes place around you every day, what you see or hear funny to laugh at, or do you ever laugh? \_ what you are studying, how you progress, how far you have gotten in the books, what's the subject of your next lesson, or the last one.\_ What pretty girls and smart ones have you in school who are your friends, companions, about your evening walks, your conversations &c. What do you think of Miss Emma B.\_? Any of these things are far more interesting than to hear that ten thousand Yankee carcasses are rotting on the planes of Vicksburg. I have been witness, nay, participant in these bloody scenes. It is my part to tell you something of war. yours to tell me & bring back to my mind those happy scenes of peace, in which I formerly was an actor.

I will not tell you how come we here or any thing about; for doubtlessly you read all my letters to Sister do you not? I told her every thing that I could think of, and were I to write to you the same thing, it would be, time and ink wasted, and paper thrown away.

I find, that the farther we come south, the prettier in the face the girls are, and the more frail they become. The Virginia ladies have a much more graceful carriage, prettier figures, more intellectual features &c. but the N. Ca. girls excel them in pretty features. I do not know how to compare them with Ga. girls, for I have not been there in such a long time, that I have forgotten how they look; but as I am partial to the latter, you may know that the comparisons would not be unfavorable to them. The Soldiers and ladies have

picnics on every occasion, but I never attend. When have you seen Miss Lovicia & “Rose” R.? What has become of Miss Adela W. Do you think Miss Nannie B. is smart and pretty?\_ what sort of a disposition has she?\_ where is she? In fact tell me every thing that you can think of the old home-folks. There are none there but girls, is why I ask you about them. Am I impertinent or inquisitive? If any of my books can be of any service whatever to A\_ and you you may consider yourselves perfectly welcome. Write soon to your Uncle,

Kit C.A.