

Headquarters Army of the United States,

Washington, D.C. Feb 25 1847

Rt Rev H. B. Whipple.
Fairbault, Minn.

My dear Sir,

I am deeply moved
by the high commendation con-
tained in your favor of Feb
21. - and assure you that
nothing moves me more.
than praise such as you
pay Limb Lancaster for his
It gives us all assurance of
a future to find that our

Younger officers maintain
the fame and reputation of
their Profession. Especially in
the sphere of Education, Science
and Literature. This is
Sunday. - and I cannot get
access to the record, to see
exactly his status, how long
he has been at Fairbault,
how long absent from his
Company, and what other
officers are actually present
with that Company. These
are the elements of the
problem wherein I perform

only the part of Asorin, for
the law imposes on the
Secretary of War, the power
to decide, and to order.
No one knows better than
yourself the importance of
having with one little Army,
in all its small detachments,
officers of honor and
merit; and I assure you
that it is a daily struggle
to accomplish this, and
at the same time respond
to the many calls, for
some of our very best, for

Collyer, for West Point, for
Signal Serv., and the various
Staff Departments: Then again
these details become a sort
^{claim for} of relief to others who are
banished to remote stations
and who claim a share
under the old rule of
"turn about, fair play." —

I promise however tomorrow
to give St. Leger the benefit
of your high endorsement,
and to advise you at the
earliest possible moment
of the Secretary's Conclusion

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1877

I have such faith in your
abundant Charity ^{as} to venture
on this second sheet, to say a
few words about the Sioux.

It may be that as a people, as
a nation, we may have incurred
Sioux displeasure for our treatment
of the Aboriginal tribes of America.
but I hope not - All nature is
free of antagonisms: the Strong
prevail upon the weak, and the
law of the survival of the fittest,
seems almost an irresistible
conclusion. This Displeasure may

be gradual, or rapid. Evolving force
and friction in proportion to the
time consumed - Thus in the U.S.
the Displacement has been rapid and
attended with much violence - whilst
in Canada it has been slow and
attended by less necessity of force.
Again in past ages, Races have
been displaced or absorbed, creating
an infinite variety of results -
It is a study of infinite interest
to follow the numerous Asiatic waves
it swept North & South of the Black
Sea, and assumed various types
in the different quarters of Europe; but
for our purposes it suffices to take the
examples of America - both as we
have absolutely displaced the Indian
and one people, though unde. and
sometimes come, here the Strong

Saxon virtues, based on industry
and study, which characterized our
ancestors: whereas the French in
Canada, & Spanish in Mexico have
consummated & produced a mixed
Race, surely inferior to ours, for all
the great purposes of Social good &
Civilization. Would you if you
could, change this result?

The Shawnees ranging from the Lakes
to the Chattahoochee in Deenewah's time
may have been happier, than a like
number of the torrid Sons of Ohio
Louisiana, Kentucky & Tennessee, yet
would any one now restore the
status quo of 1800? True it was
that the Amer. & bear-gone ^{in that region} ample food
to the contented hunter & warrior,
but now man must plough, sow -
reap, grind, & toil to make food

and Cloth - In the former State
there may have been in the belly of the
Ohio 200,000 slaves, - how then are
ten millions and some will be forty
millions - The body consumes, and the
mind thinks - we must think ahead
or perish. we must think out the
Slave problem. Smooth the way for
this vanishing Race, do all that
human & responsible men should,
but the inevitable is coming on,
fast & faster, and I fear will en-
gender more or less violence, as we
are more or less prepared for the
inevitable Result - We have decided
this forthright on others, and I do
not envy them the responsibility.
What they decide, we soldiers must do
if the Govt be a human possibility.
Affectionately Yours, W. L. Sherman



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