

U.S. Gen. Hospital  
Point of Rocks Va.  
Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>/65

My dear Emmy,

Yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. arrived today. I have been looking impatiently for it for some time but as I do not get but one letter per week from you, perhaps, it does not make much difference what day of the week it comes, but then, there is so little to interest me here, that the arrival of your ever welcome letter is the important even in every week of my monotonous life and the delay of one day is quite a serious matter to me. I am very sorry that you had not received either of my last letters, (for I have written) since I received your New Years letter, though there is not means of knowing (till I get an answer) whether you would feel better or worse from reading one of my letters. It gave me a great deal of pleasure to read your last, though I am very sorry to find that you still allow the foolish fancy to trouble you, that gave you so much unhappiness when you were younger. But I am going to answer your letter until evening. I have just begun this to make the afternoon so a little quicker. It is a most beautiful day and if you were here with me to go sit on the rock where the young Indian girl saved the life of Capt. John Smith and to enjoy with me the delightfull picture of the Appomattox to be seen from that point. I have no doubt but the sun would go down as quick as my impatience now would have it. But I will not write any more will evening, or I just add that Jackey Mrs. Dr. Storr's colored girl has been in here to get me to read a letter from her beau (who is a gentleman of the African persuasion) in which he proposes to, with her permission, to speak to her "parents" it was altogether a very grand affair. Jackey gets some very amusing letters and she generally depends on me to read them for her probably because I do not make fun of her. I should like to have you see one of her letters.

Evening I do not feel much like writing this evening but I will do the best in my power.

I should have liked very much to have been with you at Emilys for your own sake as well as mine, but it could not be so. When I shall see you again is more than I can tell at present, but I must be patient, and hope for the best. It is quite likely that I shall get a chance to come before a great while. I have not had a letter from any of my folks, but you for a number of months. I do not know why some of them do not write. Elmer has not written to me since October, and Joseph has not even sent me any word that he was living since I saw him when he first got back to his regt. But I will not complain for I know what a nuisance it is to be writing letters when there is anything better to do. There are all sorts of peace rumours going but my three years experience makes me very slow to believe anything that I do not see myself. There are many reasons at present to hope that the way will not last much longer, but whether it is to be for a longer or shorter time, there is only one way in which I ever hope to see it end, and that is by an unconditional surrender of the reb's, and their submission to the authority of the Government. I do not feel as though I could write you a decent letter tonight, so I will close now, and write again in a few days. Write often darling.

As ever, your truly,  
Leander