

[Armstrong, R. F.]

37 Tabin St. Halifax -

April 19th 1901.

Lieut. Col. Pratt,
Carlisle, Penn.

My dear Pratt,

I exhibited to my clerical friend to day the two groups - "Before taking & After" - of Indian boys & girls which you gave me years ago. I informed him somewhat of who you were and of a right ought to be &c. &c. Well, I never saw a man so impress^d; as he said you seem^d to have accomplish^d what he had always been dreaming about. He asked so eagerly if he could by any means procure copies of the wonderful exhibit that, in a moment of impulsiveness, I gave them to him - remarking - Take the pictures, Mr Dobson, I'm sure, with your views on the Subject

2/
 of humanity you can do more good
 with them than I can. He took them.
 I lent him your letters to me to read, &
 we are to have one Symposium on Tues-
 day. I will write you the outcome of it.
 This all occurred, at my office ^{and} when
 I went home for dinner, ^{my} inform. my
 wife of the happenings of the day, I got
 the very devil for disposing of the pictures
 which she said I had given her & which
 she valued very highly. The object of this
 letter, my dear Col., is to ask you to
 replace them, if you have any spare copies,
^{and} to send me other photos. on the
 same line. You know how I was
 from the first impress. with your thor-
 ough honesty of purpose; your splendid
 courage; your absolute freedom from
all cant & hypocrisy. I look upon
 you as the one man in the whole U.S.

4/ ing you the latitude he did, he was only giving you rope to hang yourself, not imagining for a moment that there was in the make up of a Hoosier Lieut of Cavalry such grit, manly resolve ^{and} full determination -

Now, my dear friend, just one word of solemn advice - Don't be persuaded, to undertake, in any manner, shape or form, the Negro Question. You have undertaken & solved one of the vexed questions in the U.S - You have solved it for all time & proven the absolute falsity of ^{Piegan} Sheridan's saying - "the only good Indian is the Dead Indian". Now in the name of friendship let me adjure you to be content with your noble life's work ^{and} have inscribed on your tomb - --- "the 2^d apostle to the Indians ^{and} their Savior" - In^o Elliott supposed to

3/ capable of solving the Indian problem, ^{and} as the one man who did it!

I am proud of your friendship, old man, ^{and} recall the days of our association with pleasure.

How diff.^t to day wd. you stand in the public estimation ^{and} in your own opinion, if, instead of the course you took, you had enlisted on the popular side, ^{and} allied yourself to the execrable gang of prosl. traders ^{and} Government agents, who operated openly & defiantly under the leadership of the President's brother, backed up by the President himself! But you had character: saw the right, humanity & justice in your side of the controversy, ^{and} had the courage of your honest conviction. I believe now that the then Secy. of War. Delmop was it not - thought in giv-

4 have been the 1st { according to Yankee
histories, which I don't
take much stock in -
I cd. give you dozens of good rea-
sons for my advice to you re the
negro - And if you have any idea of
listening to the voice of the tempter, &
desire them, I shall give them to you
freely & cordially.

You know the Indian - most thor-
oughly; I know the negro - And you
don't, altho' you may think you do.

I recently lost a very dear friend,
Captain Bullock - the Contractor for
the Alabama. I am sending you to
read & (return please) the Confederate
Veteran for March, containing my eu-
logium of the dear old gentleman.

The only thing the dear old Captain
has to his discredit is being the uncle
of Teddy Roosevelt. Do try & look
me up some of the instructive object

5/ lessons of the Carlisle Indian School.
and forgive me for writing so lengthy
a letter on such a small errand.

Yours faithfully.
R. J. Armstrong.

Pro. Armstrong
Hemlock, My
Harrisburg