

Texas Parish La

Jan 1st 1862 New Years

Dear Sister Ann

I am going to celebrate

the advent of another decade by having a
good long talk with my sister through the
~~silence~~ only accessible medium - the silent but
truthful pen. This day closes the great time
of Announcements and Semi-freedoms among the
darkies and to morrow and the year of servi-
tude ^{with} all its attendant sorrows and miseries
- claims upon the dusky thousands who inhabit
this rich and beautiful country the far famed
- sunny South. But I am not going to write you
a great long account of the sorrows and suf-
ferings of the "niggers" for two or three reasons
first because I have never witnessed them and
secondly because it would not be a pleasant
theme for a New Years letter so I will close this

The subject The weather is quite contrary to day
quite the most so that has visited us since the
winter season commenced. On Christmas day and
during the week following it was most delight-
-ful weather, warm and sunny and many of
of the northern summer birds were chattering
and calling among the trees and shrubbery forc-
-ibly reminding me who has spent a winter in a
-winter to the latitude of the contrast between
-mid winter weather here and there. But sudden-
-ly a change came over the spirit of our dreams
- A "north" commenced blowing on Friday and
a snow storm followed during the night which
-morning had covered the ground to the depth
of several inches; but it soon disappeared and
-now scarcely a trace of it remains except in the
-intolerable muddy roads which it has left
-behind. You were right in your conclusion that things
do not travel so fast down South as they do in your
-home State. The Father of Waters, which is about
the only great thoroughfare is a slow but slow
-mail carrier and letters almost invariably require
-from two to three weeks to travel from the
-a point as far north as northern Ohio. I am
-warming to me to avoid expressing abolition sentiments

will assure you he ~~is~~ needed not that it
-have any fear of meeting the fate of "Old Brown"
-should expect them. But "there is policy in war"
-they say and I think there is truth in the saying
- I received a letter from Deane a few days
- enclosing one from Aunt Jane which contained
- the usual quota of news. I was quite surprised
- to learn of Cousin Roger's "Affaire de Amour" with
- Mr. Allen Titchen but strange things happen in love
- affairs. And "Votre fiancée" has expressed a wish
- to correspond with your bachelor brother and you wish to
- know my opinion of it. Well I shall give it you. I
- should like very much to make the gentleman's acquai-
- -tance and should like to please you by complying
- with his terms. But I have objections to his terms and
- -and to the proceeding also. I think it looks rather
- too much like giving you engagements a sort of
- -and you know. I dislike such things but if
- -any favourable circumstance should occur to make
- his acquaintance either by correspondence or
- otherwise I should avail myself of it with pleas-
- -ure or if he chooses to condescend so far as to
- write me I shall answer cheerfully. I of course feel
- -sider myself highly complimented by being a favourite
- of his but enough of this I don't like the subject

And now about ~~the~~ ~~Stell's~~ engagement with
with Adelia Bennington. ~~What!~~ ~~where!~~ ~~get~~
out you goose. ~~you~~ ~~you~~ ~~know~~ ~~better~~ ~~are~~
Winnon knows better and every body knows better
Now I hope you are satisfied and if you
ever ask ~~me~~ such a foolish question of me
again, I'll have you sent to an insane asylum
I have not ^{forgot} Miss Mary P Evans neither have I
forgotten my request that you should write her
but you ^{will} recollect that you declined writing first
and nothing farther has transpired respecting it
since Miss Mary is a very fine young lady and
admitted her heart to all her society and prizes
her correspondence. More than that of any other
young lady whom I ever knew. But that is all
and it is all over and past for aught I know
I have ^{not} heard from her from any source for nearly
a year. I suppose our erratic life has cast
me the farther of all claims to her attention
Those apples are doubtless excellent but you
will please excuse me. I must decline taking any
at present. Remember me in kindness to
all at home. Tell Jane I'll answer her
letter soon. As ever most affectionately
Your brother Stell