

10-23-1859

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to William Armstrong and Jane Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Delaware Oct. 1859

Dear Father and Mother

You wished me to write often. May be I cannot write anything that will interest you. I found in a two story frame house painted brown situated about 200 yds east of the Bernal Seminary and about one third of a mile from the college north west from the College. On the floor up stairs our room is situated it is a small one about 12 feet long by 6 ft wide. it has one window facing the north and a door opposite. going into a hall with the left hand as you come in is our bedroom just large enough for a bed on the other side is a oth room for washing &c. then we have a stand for our books and a small stove that keeps our room as warm as you please. We have a fluid lamp

that keeps a nice light our time
in on one side of our Chandy and
we have two chairs looking glass
and other paraphernalia of the toilet
such as a redding comb for comb
clothes brush hair brush &c &c

In the morning (always careful
to wait till daylight) I get up
light our lamp and build on a fire
in our little stove soon it has things
a roaring. then I wash & change sheets
and commence studying. at the
second bell we go down to breakfast
about 7 o'clock then study till 25
minutes to 9 o'clock then we go to
the M.E. Church to Chapel thence
to recitation in the basement room
in the large college Building and
recite Greek 45 minutes to
Doctor King then we go to the north

Basement of the Old College
Building and recite Latin 45
minutes to Professor Perkins
then I go home and study till
dinner about 12 o'clock then
I study Algebra till ¹⁵ 25 min
of 3 then we go to Prof. H. H. Caber
room in the Middle Building
and recite & work problems
on the black board &c &c for an hour
then I go home and study till
supper just at dusk after supper
I generally take a walk then I
commence and study till midnight
take off my linen put on flannel and go
to sleep. I have had one shirt
and 2 collars washed by an old
negro woman. Her boy a little
Black eyed Bright fellow comes
often then and brings the same when
washed 5 cts a piece in the morn-

I can graduate here in three
 years after this by studying
 hard. The days are so short
 that I have not much time
 for loitering the professors give
 us very large lessons. But
 I am well posted on my
 lessons generally I am going
 to take one more study soon
 Willson's Outlines of History
 If I had come here one week
 sooner I could have taken that
 study now I will have to study
 vacation to catch up. I want
 to study it next term any how
 I am well but have only 3 cts
 to my name and have not recd
 one word from you yet send me
 15 dollars any how if you can
 I keep an account of my expenses
 But soon Yours would be recd. Humphreys

Suppose you think I have
 a great time asking for money
 well I ought to have some
 I cannot get any thing at
 all. I only spent one ct at a
 time now I dont want to
 go in debt. I dont want
 you to think hard of me for
 asking for money.

Last Saturday I was
 in the "Prescott Cabinet"
 it is a collection of natural
 curiosities such as stuffed
 birds of all kinds Sea shells
 all kinds of Stones ores
 and skeletons bones of the
 Behemoth jaws & teeth of the
 Shark grampus ribs & one
 vertebrae of the whale

The skin of the Rattlesnake
 the snout of the Swordfish & the
 skeleton of an Indian giant
 It looked very old and rusty
 then there was a petrified
 apple and pear. then I went
 to the Sturges Library
 that is grand I will describe
 them in full to you some other
 time. It is groaning late my
 eyes stand study very well
 they do not get sore like they
 did in the summer

Give my respects to all the
 folks tell me all the news
 how Ship & Co. come on
 since that trial and
 all the news whether you
 are done seeding yet
 The corn all cut up
 How did you get along

at the County fair
 Did we get any Premium
 Well I will not tire you
 patience I have wore one
 pair of stockings into holes
 I do not wear any now
 at all My fat sweet so
 Tell me how the girls are
 let each one write a letter
 send two or three in one
 envelope. On one side of
 my room one two Brothers
 Peters from near Concord
 one is a freshman the other
 is with no language
 On the other side are two
 other students Sophomores

"The worst period of
 the whole of a man's existence
 is when he has just entered

College. because he has not
had the opportunity of measuring
his attainments and capacity
with those of his fellows. It
is not that you merely sharpen
the intellect and add a keenness
to the mind by contact with
other minds, but you strengthen
it by the contact and you have
to be modest in regard to your
own powers. You will see
many with intellects of a high order
and with attainments far beyond any
thing you have dared to call your own.
There must be some defect in that
man who can be associated for years
in study with those that are hard
students and at the end of the period
feel that he is a very wise or a
very great man. Let a fellow
come here and he feels he is a
know nothing. I don't see what
march West Coulter has such
~~it~~ exalted views of
himself when he was here. I feel humble
What soon from your office
Love

L. C. Armstrong
at College
Oct 23. 1839

October 23, 1859

Delaware Oct 23/59

Dear Father and Mother

You wished me to write often. May be I cannot write anything that will interest you. I board in a two story frame house painted brown, situated about 200 yards east of the Female Seminary and about one-third of a mile from the college, north west from the college. On the floor up stairs our room is situated; it is a small one about 12 feet long by 6 ft wide; it has one window facing the north and a door opposite facing into a hall. On the left hand as you come in is our bed room, just large enough for a bed; on the other side is another room for washing, etc.; then we have a stand for our books and a small stove that keeps us as warm as you please. We have a fluid lamp that keeps a nice light. Our trunks are on one side of our shanty and we have two chairs looking glass, and other paraphernalia of the toilet such as a ridding comb, fine comb, clothes brush, hair brush, etc., etc.

In the morning (always careful to wait until daylight) I get up, light a lamp, build our fire in our little stove. Soon it has things a roaring. Then I wash, change shirts, and commence studying. At the second bell we go down to breakfast, about 7 o'clock. Then study till 25 minutes to 9 o'clock, then go to the M E Church to Chapel, thence to recitation in the basement room in the large college building and recite Greek 45 minutes to Tutor King. Then we go to the North basement of the Old College Building and recite Latin 45 minutes to Tutor Perkins then I go home a study till dinner about 12 o'clock, then I study Algebra till 15 min of 3, then we go to the Prof McCabe's room in the middle building and recite and work problems on the black board 3/4 of an hour. Then I go home a study till supper. Just about dusk, after supper, I generally take a walk and commence and study till nine o'clock. I take off my linen, put on _____, and go to sleep. I have had one shirt and two collars washed by an old Negro woman. Her boy, a little black-eyed bright fellow comes often then brings them home where washed. 5 cts apiece is the price.

I can graduate here in three years after this by studying hard. The days are so short that I have not much time for loitering. The professors give us very large lessons. But I am well posted on my lessons generally. I am going to take one more study soon. Willson's Outline of History. If I come here one week sooner, I could have taken that study, now I will have to study vacation to catch up. I want to study it next term anyhow.

I am well but have only 3 cts to my name and have not rec'd one word from you yet. Send me 15 dollars anyhow if you can. I keep an account of my expenses. Write soon. Yours would be rec'd I have _____. I suppose you think I have a great time asking for money. Well I ought to have some. I cannot get anything at all. I only spend one ct at a time now I don't want to go in debt. I don't want you to think hard of me asking for money.

Last Saturday, I was in the "Prescott Cabinet." It is a collection of natural curiosities such as stuffed birds of all kinds, sea shells, all kinds of stones ores and skeleton bones on the Behemoth Jaws & teeth of the shark, grampus ribs & one vertebrae of the whale, the skin of the rattlesnake, the snout of the swordfish, the skeleton of an Indian giant (?). It looked very old and rusty; then

there was a petrified apple and pear. Then I went to the Sturgis Library that is grand. I will describe them in full to you some other time. It is growing late, My eyes stand study very well; they do not get sore like they did in the summer.

Give my respects to all the folks. Tell me all the news, how Skip & Co. came on since that trial and all the news whether you are done seeding get the corn all cut up. How did you get along at the county fair? Did we get any premium? Well I will not try your patience. I have worn one pair of stockings into holes. I do not wear any now at all. My feet sweat so. Tell me how the girls are. Let each one write a letter. Send two or three in one envelope. On one side of my room are two Brothers Peters from near Circleville. One is a freshman, the other is with me in language. On the other side are two other students, sophomores.

"The wisest period of the whole of man's existence is when he has just entered College because he has not had the opportunity of measuring his _____ and capacity with that of his fellows. It is not merely that you sharpen the intellect and add a keenness to the mind by contact with other minds, but you strengthen it by the contact and you have to be modest in regard to your own powers. You will see many with intellects of a high order and with all armaments (?) far beyond anything you have dared to call your own. The _____ be some defect in that man who can be associated for years in study with those that are hard students and at the end of the period feel that he is very wise is a very great man." Let a _____ overcome him and he feels he is a know nothing. I don't see what made Wet(?) Coulter have such exalted views of himself when he was here. I feel humble. Write soon, from your affectionate son.

T.S. Armstrong

At College