

2-8-1860

Letter from Wilbur F. Armstrong to Thomas S. Armstrong

Wilbur F. Armstrong

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Taylorsville Feb. 8.

Dear Brother: I rec'd
yours of 29 ult with
feelings which my pen
refuses to express.

I have been tolerably
well since I came here.
have been enjoying myself
very well I am getting
along with my school
excellently. You spoke
of "Ivanhoe" I have the
work borrowed and by
sending to T. B. Peterson
Philadelphia can get it
for .23-cts or can get
all of the Waverly books
(which cost \$64.00 i.e. the
Edinburgh edition) for
\$5.00 free of postage.
w^{ld} you do that

I am sick, sorry,
and mad I am
with the aspect of
things in general.

I have long ere this
discovered that to be-
come anything in
the world requires -
constant study and
almost supernatural
perseverance and energy

We are not children
of fortune and if we
ever shall make our
mark in the world
it will be by the hardest

But another side to
this not very vivid pict-
ure "Man at his best
estate is vanity" what
if we should be favored
by fortune so far as to
rise a little higher than

those in our immediate
vicinity, in a few
short years at furthest
we shall pass off this
stage of existence and
in a very short time
the world will never
know that we existed.

For my part the pros-
pect is dark and fore-
boding. We had better die
"And endow a college or a cat"
as Mr Pope has it -

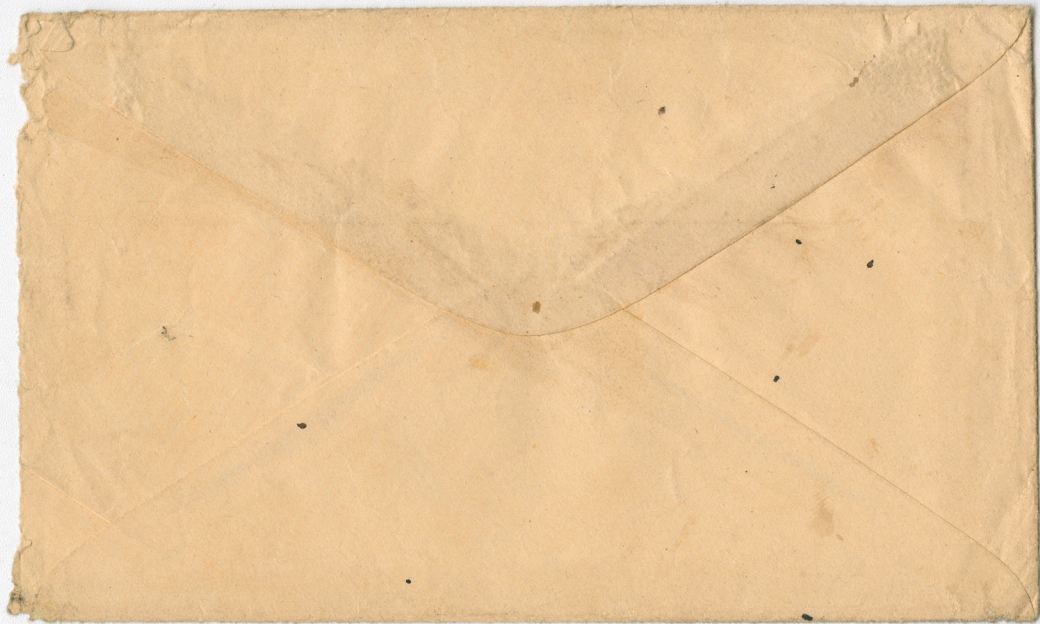
These fears are probably
illfounded and if they
prove to be we may
probably yet live in the
annals of our nation
I have heard it said
that a persevering, energetic
spirit seldom fails.

I rec'd a letter from Jacob last week he says every thing is going on very well Also, rec'd a letter from Dr J. E. Atwell of Jacktown and in it was this sentence "But don't let the fair sex prevail against you for know ye not that Omnes Vincet Amorem please give me a translation of it. I went with his (Atwell's) girl last Saturday night from church she is a No. 1 I send you some examples which were given me by one of my Dutch friends at a ball the other evening please solve them and send them back post haste I have not yet tried them But in time to. I am reading "Gery Mannering" one of Scott's waverly novels the scholars are gathering & I must close this time I have moved my boarding to a Dutch Boarding house more anon write from
Yours Brother W. S. Amstutz



W. S. Armstrong
Delaware Co.

Wm. C.
Dec 9th



February 8, 1860

Addressed to: T.S. Armstrong

Delaware, O.

Taylorsville

Feb 8

Dear Brother

I rec'd yours of 29 _____ with feelings which my pen refuses to express. I have been tolerably well since I came here. Have been enjoying myself very well. I am getting along with my school excellently. You spoke of "Ivanhoe." I have the work borrowed and by sending to G.B. Peterson, Philadelphia, can get it for 23 cts or can get all of the Waverly books (which cost \$64.00 i.e. the Edinburgh edition) for \$5.00 plus postage. Would you do that.

I am sick, sorry, and mad I am with the aspect of things in general. I have long ere this discovered that to become anything in this world requires constant study and almost supernatural perseverance and energy. We are not children of fortune and if we ever shall make our mark in the world, it will be by the hardest. But another side to this not very vivid picture "Man at his best estate is vanity." What if we should be favored by fortune so far as to rise a little higher than those in our immediate vicinity in a few short years at farthest. We shall pass off this stage of existence and in a very short time the world would never know that we existed. For my part, the prospect is dark and foreboding. We had better die "And endow a college or a cat" as Mr. Pope has it.

These fears are probably ill-founded and if they prove to be we may probably live in the annals of our nation. I have heard it said that a persevering, energetic spirit seldom fails.

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W.F. Armstrong