3-9-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Editor

Thomas S. Armstrong

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/harvey-newspapers

Part of the Military History Commons, Social History Commons, and the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation

Armstrong, Thomas S., "Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Editor" (1863). Harvey Collection Newspapers. 21.
https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/harvey-newspapers/21
Letter from the 7th Regiment

MEXICO, Tex., Feb 19th, 1863

Enos Conner

Our Division (Lazett's) will start down the Mississippi, for the vicinity of New Orleans, at an early hour, to-morrow morning. We have just received word to be in readiness, as it is expected that they will have their transports ready to start the boats, before to-morrow night. So we are here, (11 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi) waiting for the boats, to come in and load the large number of transports that are being prepared for this expedition, at the landing of New Orleans. The boats are being loaded with supplies, for the troops of the New Orleans division, and we shall move away to-morrow morning to join the main body of our forces. We shall be at the landings to-day, and we shall be on our way to join the main body of our forces at the landings to-day, being loaded with supplies for the troops of the New Orleans division.

The early departure of our forces from the vicinity of New Orleans will be a great relief to the people of that city, as it will prevent the necessity of a long siege. We shall be able to start our forces on their way to the interior of the country, and we shall be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

In behalf of the regiment, I am allowed to say that we are on our way to join the main body of our forces, and that we shall be able to start on our way to join the main body of our forces.

The early departure of our forces from the vicinity of New Orleans will be a great relief to the people of that city, as it will prevent the necessity of a long siege. We shall be able to start our forces on their way to the interior of the country, and we shall be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.

I have been informed by the authorities that the troops of the New Orleans division will be able to start on their way to the interior of the country, and that they will be able to move them to the interior of the country, where they shall be able to find a better place to settle.
February 28, 1863

Letter from the 78th Regiment\(^1\)

Memphis, Tenn. Feb. 19\(^{th}\), 1863
Editor Courier:

Our Division, (Logan’s) will start down the Mississippi for the vicinity of Vicksburgh, to-morrow or next day. Last night, we received orders to be in readiness, (with three days cooked rations, in haversacks), to move at a moment’s warning to-day. But the transportations arrangement could not be completed in time to get aboard the boats before night. So we are here (1 ½ miles from the city,) waiting for further orders. A large number of transports are at the Landing to-day, being loaded with soldiers, and army supplies. “Things are working” down the river. Regiment after Regiment, and Brigade after Brigade, are moving down to strengthen the Union army, now in front of the rebel “Gibraltar,” and unless I am very much mistaken in the signs of the times, you will ere long hear glorious news from General Grant’s army. Although the undertaking may cost thousands of precious lives, and make homes sad and desolate, Vicksburgh, the stronghold of “rebeldom” must, and will be taken. The running of the blockade by the Ram “Queen of the West,” and the later daring exploit of the U. States gunboat, “Indianola,” in passing all of their batteries without having received a single shot, is having a good effect upon all our soldiers, and a depressing effect upon the rebel ________ in this vicinity.

_______________________, allow me say to friends at home, that we going where duty calls us. Some of us may fall by the way, far from the scenes of our youth, and the friends that we love. But if we do, let me give the assurance that the consciousness of having added our mite toward the crushing of this accursed rebellion, and the restoration of our once glorious (and now distracted) nation, will, in the hour of death, have a charm, which no traitor’s heart can ever feel.

To those at home who are croaking for peace on any terms (and whose sympathies are with those in armed rebellion against the best government the sun ever shone upon, or the world ever saw.) let me say a few words. You have done all you could, to discourage enlistments. You have denounced the President of the United States, and his entire Cabinet, as Abolitionists, wishing for the overthrow of slavery alone, caring but little for the true interests of their country. You have time and again written treasonable and discouraging letters to soldiers in the field, and in some instances, have been the direct cause of desertions from our army.

You have ben deluding yourselves with the very foolish idea that peace could be had by simply asking for it. You have said that the government could never be restored to its former tranquility and prosperity, and by uttering such sentiments as the above, you have said indirectly to our noble army of patriots and heroes, “Lay down your arms and come home.” Shame on such men. The fields of Donelson, Shiloh and Corinth still cry out from their graves, and appeal to you to look at the homes made desolate, the wives made widows, the children made orphans by the \textit{fiend secession}, and the question is asked, how can you play a traitor’s part with all these things staring you in the face? The dead not only cry out against you but the masses of soldiery say there is an account to settle when they get home. They say they volunteered to fight traitors and that they intend to do it wherever such are found. If you would not invite bloodshed in your midst, I implore you, as a friend of justice and right, to stop before you farther go. Let your

\(^{1}\)Zanesville Daily Courier, February 28, 1863, P. 2
sympathies be with the Union soldier in the field. Show by you[r] actions and words at home that love of country and hatred of rebellion has taken deep roots in your hearts and that those who are enduring hardships and suffering privations (that you may enjoy peace and happiness in the future) may have at least your good wishes. To the true and loyal hearts of the North, I would say be of good cheer. “The darkest hour is just before day,” and though the present seems dark and gloomy, daylight will soon begin to dawn. – The glad news of “victories won,” will soon swell the heart of every true American with pride and cause the nation to rejoice over the success of her arms. We generally are pretty well.

Colonel Leggett has not yet received permission to “shoulder stars,” but I hope he will soon, as he is in every respect a true soldier and fine officer. He is well. Lieut. Colonel Z.M. Chandler commands the regiment, and is at present enjoying pretty good health.

I have just learned that we have to strike tents in the morning at 7 o’clock. The Pay Master is to be here early in the morning to pay us for September and October. We are all ready to receive the Green-backs.

JOHN W.A. GILLESPIE