

4-30-1860

Letter from Wilbur F. Armstrong to Jacob G. Armstrong

Wilbur F. Armstrong

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Charlton Apr. 30.

Dear Brother:-

I once more assume the responsibility of penning a few lines home.

Last Thursday I received a letter from T.S. and with it \$16.00 since I wrote I have changed my notion and have concluded to remain here the next session which commences on the 10. of May. I suppose you will want to know the reason of my sudden change of mind. Well considering such to be the fact I shall attempt to give them. 1st When I wrote to May I had a very severe attack of the "flu" and had not altogether recovered when I got the letter from T.S. and that is the reason I did not like the school. Since then I have changed my opinion and now like the school very well and I am

now getting along very well.

Daddy, It will cost me more at Delaware than here. I have engaged a room for boarding myself next session so that my board will not cost near one half as much as this session has.

Bobby There will be a commencing class in Latin, Greek and algebra and I am not certain whether there will be at Del.

Here I will not have to buy any books of any kind. The school is supplied with books and they are rented to the scholars for five cents a session. For these reasons I think I can do better to stay here. There are as good teachers here as at Del. and I am inclined to think better. W. D. Henkle the Professor of mathematics is one of the best teachers in the state I might say United States. He and Stoddard the author of Stoddard's arithmetics got up an Algebra which is considered among the best extant, it is the one they use here.

We are having considerable excitement here on account of a certain gentleman that came into our school about three weeks ago, who is about one eighth African. He attended the Methodist church in this place and to their disgrace the sexton insulted him and the other day he was arrested in the Normal in the presence of the whole school whereupon Mr. Hallbrook the principal made us a speech giving the history of this "colored individual" from his first appearance among the Normalites. He was followed by the "colored German" who made a first rate speech and produced quite a feeling several of the lady students "boothed" right out" and I felt like it myself but restrained my feelings after he was through he started out with the drum and constable and the students applauded him vociferously. Then Prof Henkle arose and proposed that a committee

be appointed to attend him and help him if necessary and to of the students were appointed to go went his bail for seventy-five dollars. He has the sympathy of the school and of the teachers but the Trustees of the Normal have determined to expel him. his trial is set for next Thursday after that I will give you the result.

To day four of us students went to Shakertown about four miles from here to Church where we had a chance of observing some of the addities of the deluded sect called Shakers. Their modus operandi ~~is~~ is truly amusing although I felt too solemn to laugh. The preacher was the notorious Richard Realf secretary of State for Old John Brown. He is not known publicly here. I heard it intimated who he was and I happened to have a picture of him and although he has altered his appearance considerably by shaving off his mustaches and whiskers and put on a shaker dress, I could distinguish the same features and sharp flashing eye. He is intelligent and an eloquent speaker. I want you to answer immediately and tell Mary and Elavilla to write and take me some of the W. S. C.



Mr. J. G. Armstrong,
Newark, Ohio.



April 30, 1860

Addressed to: Mr. J.G. Armstrong

Newark, Ohio

Lebanon

Apr. 30

Dear Brother

I once more assume the responsibility of penning a few lines home. Last Thursday I received a letter from T.S. and \$15.00. Since I wrote I have changed my motives and have concluded to remain here. The next session which commences the 10th of May. I suppose you will want to know the reason for my sudden change of mind. Well considering such to be the fact I shall attempt to give them. 1st, when I wrote to Mary, I had a severe attack of the "blues" and had not altogether recovered when I got the letter from T.S. and that is the reason I did not like the school. Since then, I have changed my opinion and now like the school very well and I am now getting along well.

2ndly, it will cost me more at Delaware than here. I have engaged a room for boarding myself next session so that my board will not cost near one half as this session has.

3rdly there will be commencing a class in Latin, Greek, and Algebra and I am not certain there will be at Del. Here I will not have to buy any books of any kind. The school is supplied with books and they are rented to the scholars for five cents a session. For these reasons I think I can do better to stay here. There are as good teachers here as in Del. and I am inclined to think better. W.D. Henkle, the professor of mathematics is one of the best teachers in the state I might say United States. He and Stoddard, the author of Stoddard's arithmetics got up on Algebra which is considered among the best _____ it is the one they use here.

We are having a considerable amount of excitement here on account of a certain gentleman that came into our school about three weeks ago who is about one eighth African. He attended the Methodist church in this place and to their disgrace the sexton insulted him and the other day he was arrested in the Normal in the presence of the whole school. Wherefore, Mr. Holbrook the principal made us in a speech giving the history of this "colored individual" among his first appearance among the Normalites. He was followed by the "colored Gentleman" who made a first rate speech and produced quite a feeling. Several of the lady students "boohooed right out" and I felt like it myself but restrained my feeling. After he was through, he started out with the drunken constable and the students applauded him vociferously. Then Prof. Henkle arose and proposed that a committee be appointed to attend him and to help him if necessary and two of the students were appointed _____ went to his bail for seventy-five dollars. He has the sympathy of the school and of the teachers but the Trustees of the Normal have determined to expel him. His trial is set for next Thursday. After that I will give you the result.

Today four of us students went to Shakertown about four miles from here to church where we had a chance of observing some of the oddities of the deluded sect call Shakers. Their modus operandi is truly amusing although I felt to solemn to laugh. The preacher was the notorious Richard Realf secretary of state for Old John Brown. He is not known publicly here. I heard it intimated who he was and I happened to have a picture of him and although he has altered his appearance considerably by shaving off his mustache and put on shaker dress I could distinguish the same features and sharp flashing eye. He is intelligent and an eloquent speaker.

I want you to answer immediately and tell Mary and Flavilla to write and tell me something of AT Hull. W.F.A.