

10-1861

## Letter from Wilbur F. Armstrong to Thomas S. Armstrong

Wilbur F. Armstrong

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Sat 16  
Sund 17  
Thurs 18 Louis to  
Wed 19 improve to him  
Tues 20 three units left bag the carried  
Mon 21 three units left bag the carried  
Sun 22 went to Church

Worwick Ohio  
Saturday Eve

Dear Bro.

I recd. your note last evening and having an opportunity to send an answer I improve it. I was much surprised and not a little disappointed to learn that I was humbugged again and you may suppose I am in no very enviable state of mind and you may rest assured that had I known this at first I should have stayed in your company and let all these bright visions of "2nd Lieutenancy" and Orderly pass well, others, good as I have enlisted and will go through the war as privates, but I'll be dogged if I fancy the idea.

In my opinion this Jenkins will hereafter carry himself in a very proper manner and so this chance for his place amounts to just nothing at all and as for the Orderly other Companies have inefficient officers and they will retain them till the end of the war. So you see at a single glance that my chance for promotion is tarnation slim.

"Could not in justice to the company appoint him 3rd Serj!"

Strange; passing Strange! That idea never occurred to the old gentleman until after I had obtained his promise



and had joined his company.  
Oh Justice thou art fled to British hosts  
And men have lost their reason!

Strange infatuation!  
And does he think to escape me?  
No By the Eternal Gods! Justice is mine  
and I will repay!

(You will please take notice that part  
of the above is sarcasm and just  
from Shakespeare,) but to be serious  
about the matter I am sadly disap-  
pointed and don't like the idea of  
going as a private in a strange  
Company. but such is my inevitable  
fate and all I can do is  
to quietly submit. Your chance in pro-  
portion to our difference of years is but  
little better. We have been sold most mag-  
nanimously.

I am thoroughly disgusted  
with the prospect before us  
The "masterly inactivity" displayed by our  
leading generals is enough to make one  
turn Scotch, when by a "masterly  
"advance" the war could be ended  
in less than two months

Well Father came over to the station last  
evening with a horse to take you  
home but found no soldier dar  
All I have to say about the matter  
is this: be very careful of yourself and  
write frequently and keep on the good  
side of the officers and be friendly with  
Porter and work your way up if

possible and do what you can  
for me and puff Gillespie and be  
very friendly with him even become  
confidentially intimate and "trust in  
Providence and keep your powder dry,"  
as Cromwell hath expressed it,

Do your duty as a soldier and a  
patriot, keep up a good heart and  
all will be well. We are fighting  
for our country and our dearest  
interest and let us try and get  
some of that spirit that animated  
the ancient Spartans.

Well I declare I don't know what else  
to write about as news is so very  
scarce in this town. I am enjoying  
myself very well in the society of  
the Union ladies but I shall probably  
go home tomorrow

Now you talk to Gillespie and get  
him to tell you just what my chance  
is and tell him that I shall claim  
from Gebhart a position as good  
as the one he promised me and  
I believe John may by the use of  
a little overworking obtain for me a  
position

Well I am tired writing and  
will close by wishing you all  
prosperity

Yours truly

W. Armstrong

Write immediately







[No date - written by Wilbur after enlisting]

Norwich Ohio

Sunday Eve

Dear Bro

I rec'd your note last evening and having an opportunity to send an answer I was much surprised and not a little disappointed to learn that I was humbugged again and you may suppose that I am in no enviable state of mind and you may rest assured that had I known this at first I should have stayed in your company and not let all these bright visions of "2nd Lieutenancies" and Orderlys pass. Well, others good as I have enlisted and will go through the war as privates, but I'll be dogged if I fancy the idea.

In my opinion, this Jenkins will hereafter carry himself in a very proper manner and so this chance for his place amounts to just nothing at all and as for the Orderly other companies have inefficient officers and they will retain them till the end of the war. So you see at a single glance that my chance for promotion is tarnation slim. "Could not in justice to the company appoint him 3rd Serg!"

Strange, passing strange. That idea never occurred to the old gentleman until after I had obtained his promise and had joined his company. Oh justice thou art fled to brutish beasts and men have lost their reason.

Strange infatuation. And does he think to escape me? No, by the Eternal Gods! Justice is mine and I will repay.

(You will please take notice that part of the above is sarcasm and part from Shakespeare,) but to be serious about the matter, I am sadly disappointed and don't like the idea of going as a private in a strange company but such is my inevitable fate and all I can do is to quietly submit. We have been sold most magnanimously.

I am thoroughly disgusted with the prospect before us. The "mastering inactivity" displayed by our leading generals is enough to make one turn Secesh, when by a "masterly advance" the war could have ended in less than two months.

Well father came over to the station last evening with a horse to take you home but found no soldier there. All I have to say about the matter is this: Be very careful of yourself and write frequently and keep on the good side of the officers and be friendly with Porter and work your way up if possible and do what you can for me and \_\_\_\_\_ Gillespie and be very friendly with him even become confidentially intimate and "trust in Providence and keep your powder dry," as Cromwell hath expressed it. Do your duty as a soldier and a patriot, keep a good heart and all will be well. We are fighting for one country and our dearest interest and let us try and get some of that spirit that animated the ancient Spartans.



Well I declare I don't know what else to write about as news is so very scarce in this town. I am enjoying myself, very well in the society of the Union ladies but I shall probably go home tomorrow.

Now you talk to Gillespie and get him to tell you just what my chance is and tell him that I shall claim from Gebhart a position as good as the one he promised me and I believe John may by the use of a little wire working obtain for me a position.

Well I am tired and will close by wishing you all prosperity.

Yours truly,

W.F. Armstrong

Write immediately.