

4-20-1865

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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1865

Annapolis Maryland April 20

My "Own" dear

Early yesterday morning nearly all the officers left Annapolis, in a body, for Washington City to attend the funeral obsequies of our late, lamented president, Abraham Lincoln. We arrived there - marched to the White House. The assembly was immense. And the funeral procession said to be the most impressive demonstration which has ever occurred at the Capital. After the religious services at the Executive mansion were over the procession moved. The funeral car draped in black upon which lay the splendid coffin that contained all that remained of Abraham Lincoln, stood in the Avenue in front of the mansion. Reverently we lifted our hats as we marched passed. Tears fell as we thought of the good and great man who has fallen. "We mourn a martyred father" was our

leading thought We marched to the Capitol halted and formed the Car arrived and the body was borne up the steps of the Capitol and deposited in the Rotunda from whence it will be taken to Illinois. The city was crowded with persons thousands of them from distant cities, nearly the whole population were out - every prominent point on Pennsylvania Avenue the line of the procession was occupied by those who wished to obtain the best view

You will see a description of the whole affair - It was the most extensive affair I ever saw - I was at the funeral of Abraham Lincoln - But one thing I have to regret is I never saw him We returned on the train last evening The bells were ringing in Annapolis when we got here I attended the Catholic Church. The funeral services were said ~~there~~ there with an appropriate address by the ~~actress~~ Priest

was made - I am boarding at Mrs Murdock's Greene St There are 3 daughters fine young ladies you'll say when I describe them - They are Methodists Their beaux call on them every evening One of them is a Jew - 7 or 8 officers board here. We are allowed to go into the parlor & for instance last night after I came from church I came into this parlor & looking toward the sofa He was, this same Jew lover, with one of these ladies, with her head reposing softly upon his breast - his arm encircling her waist - she stroking his mustache & looking lovingly into his face & behold 3 or 4 officers were sitting in the Room Yet they are said to be respectable people Members of Church But I think If a girl of mine acted so - well I won't say what do you think of it? You know I don't make much pretensions to having a girl forgive me for my nonsense & "soft talk"

You must forgive me for my last
cool letter but I will tell you why, when
I see you - There were some officers here rally-
ing me on "going west" I showed them
that letter & they told me, If they should
ever write such a letter to a lady friend
they would expect her to discard them -
But I know you will forgive me.
Please burn this -

Frank I should like you to attend
school this summer - that is if you
wish to - let me hear from you
I and well - as soon as I can
get out of the Army I will come
out and see you - and more -

Don't forget to write soon
as I am very anxious to hear
from you - Believing you as
ever my own true dear I bid
you an affectionate farewell
from your true lover Thos. S. Armstrong



Miss F. E. Porter
Clinton
Dr Witt Co } Illinois



April 20, 1865

Annapolis Maryland April 20 1865

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Don't forget to write soon as I am anxious to hear from you. Believing you as ever my own true dear, I bid you an affectionate farewell from your true lover.

Thos. S. Armstrong