4-22-1865

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Annapolis, Maryland April 22, 1865

Francis Parmelia

I was pleased to hear you express yourself thus. Have not been feeling very well since before you came out but I never own that I’m sick.” You’re for it, remember. I tell you, you looked thinner. In fact, I really was distressed at your delicate appearance. You never seem to eat anything, scarcely. Perhaps if you were warmer you would be healthier. Pardon me, but your eyes and mine are the only ones I think that will do it. You must remember I claim you as my own. Perhaps you will think I’m no right to talk to a young lad, thus, but I know you’ll forget it for I know you’ve a forgiving heart. Thank you may not think it, but I can truly say for you alone I intend to live work by your help & God’s providence in this world. Now, dear child, how long do you think you’ll wait for a husband? But you’d I know the circumstances don’t give yourself any nonsense about growing up at your pleasure.” I don’t fear it. Thank you. I know you are cheerful even though you suffer. I think you look a little worn to what you did at sweet 16. Your face is not so easy. But I have you ten times more now than when I saw you in my first letter. I have concluded to quit the service if I can get out. Thank you, I advise you not to teach. No go to school. I would advise...
you not be sure of doing any thing that is decently but take
walks out on your beautiful pommies. Let a shet gun and
hunt prairie chickens & wild hares &c. But don't
care ad do not stuff your gun up you guns will shoot you
dear self. Will you pardon me for bung sand ask you to let my foot on
your chair. Know you don't like it but you needn't say any I am used to it & you know all
Sir I am Krist how can you talk so. You was sitting on the
chair you streamer remember you did put your foot on
my chair but only the round of my chair. "On my chair"
How do you know I don't like you. Just tell me to do.
I don't believe you little thing. I was for you to train
me to cause such complaint etc. to you? I dont know to train you
though. I am dear. I shall come to see you some of these times
for sure. But truly I shall come to see you when I
can get permission from uncle Sam & have Hamilton the
3rd Son say's. Brown & merchant James Brown are daughters
8 jin't. No Frank that killed murder of our good
father's president will only write the friend of the know
the Clear & President Johnson is going to punish
treason. I have great faith in Johnson I believe him
a good man a true patriot and a man of ability.
George lives home day after tomorrow than I want you
to give him my love. I wrote to him when I was home.
but eat, drink, and sleep. Last night I went to a Sacred Concert at the Episcopal church. The same church that Washington used to worship in part of the books were brought from England in Queen Anne's time. It is called St. Anne's Church. The singing was good with a splendid organ. We have also a ladies' fair here. The soldiers spend nearly all the wages they draw at it. One can see the youth and beauty here. Because the city ladies attend. I wish I was out of this slow coach city. I never saw such a stagnant place. The Maryland ladies do not "draw Tarbacter" like the beauties of Virginia or the fair ladies of North Carolina.

I have met several of my friends here. I know nothing yet as to when soon I can either get a muster roll or report my regiment. I want to hear from you, dear Pegg. Remember your old friend T. S.

Pleasant dreams when you sleep. May angels keep watch over you, dear self. When you are in ill health. May God make you well and keep you for that day you & I should look forward to as the crowning act of our lives. I do look forward to it as such.

Farewell.

Thomas, J. Armstrong

My love to your kind father, to the
Your brother & sister, and please
reserve my share to you.

T. S.
April 22, 1865

Annapolis Maryland April 22, 1865

Francis Parmelia

I was very pained to hear you express yourself thus "Have not been feeling very well since before you came out but I never own that I am sick." You remember I told you you looked thinner. In fact I was really was distressed at your delicate appearance. You never seemed to eat anything scarcely. Perhaps if you were married, you would be healthier. Pardon me, but your eyes and mine are the only ones I think will see this. You must remember I claim you as my own, perhaps you will think I've no right to talk to a young lady thus, but I know you'll forget it for I know you've a forgiving heart. Frank you may not think it but I can truly say for you alone I intend to live, work, & by your help & God's, succeed in this world. You poor dear have waited long for a husband. But you & I know the circumstances. "Don't give yourself any uneasiness about me growing sad at your pleasantry." I don't fear it. Frank, for I know you are cheerful even though when suffering. I think you look a little worn to what you did at sweet 19. Your face is not as rosy. But I love you ten times more than then. Excuse my writing thus.

I have concluded to quit the service if I can get out. Frank, I advise you not to teach not o to school. I would advise you not to sew or do anything that is sedentary. But take walks out on your beautiful prairies. Take a shot gun and hunt prairie chickens and wild ducks, etc. But take care and do not stubb your toe in your gun nor shoot your dear self.

"Will you pardon me for being so rude as to put my foot on your chair. I know you don't like me for it, but you was teasing Sis and you know who don't like to be teased but loves to tease T.S." O Frank, how can you talk so. You was sitting on your chair. You remember, you did not put your foot on my chair, but only on the round of my chair. "On my chair." How do you know I don't like you. Did I ever tell you so. I don't believe you like "to tease" said T.S. for you never tease me to cause me to complain to you? I do love to tease you though.

Yes dear, I shall come to see you some of these times for good. But truly I shall come to see you when I can get permission from Uncle Sam.

Arthur Hamilton is the 3rd son _______ Brown & Merchant James Brown are daughter and father.

O Frank, that accursed murder of our good & fatherly president will only unite friends of the Union the closer. President Johnson is going to punish treason. I have great faith in Johnson. I believe him a good man, a true patriot, and a man of ability.

George leaves for home day after tomorrow then. I want you to give him my love. I wrote him when I was home. Sister Mary thinks I did wrong in not letting her know that I was coming out (or going rather) west.

Mr. Lipzenbergen or berger, I don't recall any such name. Now I think I never have seen him. I know I should like him if you say "he is a real good fellow." Dr. Goodbrake seems like a fine
jolly old gentleman & his daughter is exceedingly pleasing. Mr. Britten seems like a fine gentleman, honest I should like to think "as tis late and you are aware I never keep late hours." Yes I'm aware of that.

Remember Barrick's long, long ago. So long I can hardly remember so long. How late was it Frank? 13 o'clock? Thanks to you for your blessing, "May heavens blessings rest up on you Happy Dreams. I wish you better still.

Why could you "not get home till the last speech was made" at the Jubilee? I am sorry you was so lonely after I left. Do you enjoy life Frank or not? I think I can tell you that you wanted to know till I see you, but it isn't much nothing serious. You talk so pleasant: "Let me ask you now & please dear, tell me in your next -- What is it?" I'll let you guess you can think it out. You've felt the influence of it I think so it's nothing bad. Nothing bad.

Today I am not doing much but reading novels, writing letters. I've nothing to do but eat drink & sleep. Last night I went to a sacred concert at the Episcopal church. The same church that Washington used to worship in. Part of the bricks were brought from England in Queen Anne's time. It is called St. Anne's Church. The singing was good with a splendid organ.

We have also a __________ fair here. The soldiers spend nearly all their wages they draw at it. One can see the youth & beauty here because the city ladies attire.

I wish I was out of this slow coach city. I never saw such a stagnant place. The Maryland ladies do not "chaw terbacker" like the beauties of Virginia or the tar heels of North Carolina.

I have met several of my friends here. I know nothing yet as to how soon I can either muster out or rejoin my regiment.

I want to hear from you. When you pray, remember your old friend T.S.

Pleasant dreams when you sleep. May angels keep watch over your dear self when you are in ill health. May God make you well and keep you for that day you & I should look forward as the crowning act of our lives. I do look forward to it as such.

Farewell.

Thomas. S. Armstrong.

My love to your kind father & mother, your brothers & sisters and please reserve my share to you.

T.S.