


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 pained 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 ^{ever} remember I told you, you looked thinner In fact I really was distressed at your delicate appearance, you never seemed to eat any thing, scarcely - perhaps if you were married you would be healthier. Pardon me, but your eyes and mine are the only ones I think that 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 - Now, 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 pleasuring" 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 so rosy But I love you ten times more now than then - Excuse my writing this - I have concluded to quit the service if I can get out - Frank I'd advise you not to teach nor go 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 & wild ducks &c. But take
care and do not stuff 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 dont like me for it But you was teasing
Lis and you know she dont like to be teased but loves to tease
J.S." O Frank how can you talk so. you was sitting on your
chair you remember remember - you did not put "your foot" on
my chair but on the round of my chair - "On my chair"
How do you know I dont like you Did I ever tell you so?
I dont believe you like "to tease" said J.S. for you never teased
me to cause me to complain did 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~~ see you when I
can get permission from Uncle Sam - Arthur Hamilton is the
3rd son Maxie Brown & Merchant James Brown are daughter
& father - Oo Frank that accursed murder of our good
& fatherly president will only unite the 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 home day after tomorrow then - I want you
to give him my love. I wrote to 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 Litzemberger or -berger I dont
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 Goodbroke seems like a fine jolly old gentle
man & his daughter is exceedingly pleasing. Mr Britton
seems like a fine gentleman honest I should 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
that still - Why could you "not get home all the last speech
was made"? at the jubilee - I am sorry you was
so long after I left - Do you enjoy life Frank or
not? I dont 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 - its nothing ^{bad} bad
nothing bad - So day 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 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
"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
get a 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
fare well

Thomas S. Armstrong

My love to your kind father & Mother
your Brothers & Sisters 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 pleasntry." 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.

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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.