


6-17-1865

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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near Washington City Camp 122nd O.O.S.
Saturday June 17th Anno D. 1865

Dear Frank

Much obliged to you for writing
once more - thought you a very long time answering -
do n't remember anything of the Richmond letter at all.
How kind you are to tell me such "good tidings of great joy"
that you are enjoying yourself so well "better this summer than"
ever since you ceased to be a denizen of Buckeye dom. "never
had better health in" your life. Well Dear I am so glad of
it - I wish now I was out of this scrape of staying here
This kind of Camp life is a bore - well nigh unendur-
able I assure you. While the arms of a kind, loving,
and dear girl like your own self (is only waiting patient-
ly or impatiently) are waiting for my reception God
bless you Frank You are too good for me - I always
felt & thought that. You say you wish I "had stayed here
this summer" I'll get out of this as soon as I can do
so honorably. I should like to be mustered out honorably
with my Regiment you know. The Herald says the 6th
Corps will be mustered out before 8 days. but I can't
tell whether it is true or not. I'll resign if not

My Dear Sister Mary wrote me that she wanted me to come
home if possible, as she wants to study with me. It
seems as if if I was cut out for a teacher, but
I don't expect to make my money that way, but
then you know I can finish my education that
way & yours too. You say ~~my~~ and speaking of my resign-
ing "wish you could" O you wicked tease How can you
talk so? Excuse that word "wicked" - only a word of indear
ment! rather strong, though, you think, perhaps -
About that "fishing party of fifty one persons (ladies & gents)"
you "went out early in the morning" was it before you got
up? & did your mother "know you were out"? "fished till
noon - did you catch a tad-pole, or a bean? & then the
"splendid dinner" was it of fish you caught? Tad-poles
& beans? Had you a pin hook? You must have had good
luck in the fore noon for "after dinner" you "fished until
late in the evening" did you fish by the light "of the moon"?
Yes I would have enjoyed it with you.

I wrote Col. Kelly about that school. I don't see why he
never got my letter. I am very anxious to secure that school
because I could do well with it I know. The Select
School I mean. Tell him, Frank, I'll write to him
again about the matter - you can tell him if you
want to - Don't blush - that you want that school reserved

for your future husband Don't that sound funny? You need
not show him this letter when he asks for "the papers"

I got a letter from George when I was at Richmond He
was at the Pelay house Md. I did not get to see him
though I called at Mr. Harvey Smith's 45-6 9th St.
Washington. He, Col Miles, & Adolph. Search, had just
departed the day before, so you see I did not get to see him.
I saw the 11th Corps in Richmond. Our Western Boys got
the praise by the Washingtonians & the Army of the Potomac
say they (Sherman's men) looked well & marched well &
were larger & more warlike looking men than our eastern
men of the Army of the Potomac. Our Corps was review-
ed by "Uncle" itself It's the Corps that made Little Phil.
Sheridan. I saw William Fredige at Janesville. Did you
ever get my photograph. About the Richmond letter
"I'll talk to you when I see you" I don't understand
exactly what you mean. Certainly you must talk to me
I don't want you to become dumb - "Come over against
the 4th of July" I don't know whether I can. I tell
you one thing I've found out that it's very easy to
get into the Army but "get away dar" when it comes
to stepping out - It's hard work getting out. Use your
own pleasure about going to the Ball I'd advise you
to go. Don't be afraid of me for I'd go with you if

I was there - I know you so well that - You are a
lady to whom to talk propriety would be like talking
to a saint & Christian He or she'd better get religion
Go if you want to - I've no right to ask you
to stay away - I don't want to - & I'd advise you
to go and dance too - I think dancing improves
ones grace & self possession - I love gracefulness
in a lady tho' so ungraceful & awkward myself
What do you think of the fashionable world? I've seen
some of it in Richmond & Washington lately
You can't imagine how loose morals are in Washington
God save us if some curb be not put to the rein of
licentiousness gracing or disgracing our land - God
bless the fair, virtuous girls at home - Some of them
even (I mean not the virtuous ones) have disgraced their
sex - God pity them, and more, their seducers -
Pardon me frank but then I know you have no
false modesty - & won't faint at such allusions as
I've just made - Your good sense will even
cause you to talk to me & express the same
opinion I believe - My affairs are prosperous at
home Jacot says - Hoping to see you before very
long I will finish my letter - We will be at
home before long - Write me soon & more than two pages
tell me all the gossip you know of - its spicy you know
fare well - may God protect you - & prosper you
Hoping soon to occupy my real station in life with reference
to you I subscribe myself yours till death Tom

June 17, 1865

Near Washington City Camp 122 O.V.I.

Saturday June 17 Anno D. 1865

Dear Frank,

Much obliged to you for writing once more, thought you a very long time answering, don't remember anything of the Richmond letter at all. How kind you are to tell me such good tidings of great joy that you are enjoying yourself so well "better this summer than" ever since you ceased to be a denizen of Buckeyedom. "Never had better health in" your life. Well dear, I am so glad of it. I wish now I was out of this scrape of staying here. This kind of Camp is a bore -- well nigh unendurable, I assure you. While the arms of a kind loving and dear girl like your own self (is only waiting patiently or impatiently) are waiting for my reception. God bless you Frank. You are too good for me -- I always felt that.

You say you wished I "had stayed here this summer." I'll get out of this as soon as I can do so honorably. I should like to be mustered out honorably with my regiment you know. The Herald says the 6th Corps will be mustered out before eight days but I can't tell whether it is true or not. I'll resign if not.

My dear sister Mary wrote me that she wanted me to come home if possible as she wants to study with me, It seems as if I was cut out to be a teacher but I don't expect to make my money that way but then you know I can finish my education that way & yours too. You say in speaking of my resigning "wish you could." O you wicked tease. How can you talk so? Excuse the word "wicked" -- only a word of endearment, rather strong though, you think perhaps.

About that "fishing party of fifty one persons (ladies & gents)" you "went out early in the morning" was it before you got up? Did your mother "know you were out?" "fished till noon. Did you catch a tad pole or a bean? & then the "splendid dinner," was it the fish you caught. Tad poles & beaux. Had you a pin hook? You must have had poor luck in the fore noon for "after dinner" you "fished until late in the evening." Did you fish by the light of the "olde moon?" Yes, I would have enjoyed it with you?

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by "Andy" itself. It's the Corps that made little Phil. Sheridan. I saw William Tresize(?) of Zanesville.

Did you ever get my photograph. About the Richmond letter, "I'll talk to you when I see you." I don't understand exactly what you mean. Certainly you must talk to me, I don't want you to become dumb -- "Come over against the 4th of July" I don't know whether I can. I tell you one thing I've found out, it's very easy to get into the army but "get away dear" when it comes to stepping out. It's hard work getting out.

Use your pleasure about going to the Ball. I'd advise you to go. Don't be afraid of me for I'd go with you if I was there. I know you so well that you are a lady to whom to talk propriety would be like talking to a saint & Christian. He or she'd better get religion. Go if you want to. I've no right to ask you to stay away -- I don't want to -- & I'd advise you to go and dance, too. I think dancing improves one's grace & self possession. I love gracefulness in a lady tho so ungraceful and awkward myself.

What do you think of the fashionable world? I've seen some of it in Richmond & Washington lately. You can't imagine how loose morals are in Washington. God save us if some curb is not put to the rein of licentiousness, gracing or disgracing our land. God bless the fair, virtuous girls at home. Some of them even (I mean not the virtuous ones) have disgraced their sex -- God pity them and more their seducers. Pardon me Frank but then I know you have no false modesty and won't faint at such allusions as I've just made. Your good sense will cause you even to talk to me & express the same opinion I believe.

My affairs are prosperous at home Jacob says. Hoping to see you before very long I will finish my letter. We will be at home before long. Write me soon and more than 2 pages, tell me all the gossip you know of -- its spicy you know. Farewell, may God protect you & prosper you. Hoping soon to be occupying my real station in life with reference to you, I subscribe myself yours till Death.

Tom