


1-23-1863

## Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Winchester Frederick Co. Va.

January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1863

Friend Porter,

Yours Dated Jan 17<sup>th</sup> was  
duly received the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. Making the  
journey in 5 days rather a quick trip!  
I am sorry you are only "tolerably well" &  
that you "have taken cold" I move those school  
Directors fix that school House because if you  
are killed I will come out there and stir them up  
with a buzz around their heads. "How grum  
the teacher is" Did you really look grum? Just  
look if you please, into the looking glass and look  
grum again and write me how you look please  
now, won't you? I haven't a doubt you would  
like the Country for a retired life fully as well  
as the city. But if you like Society why the town  
would be preferable. But choose that  
which you prefer & you would be most  
happy. "Yes I kind o like that Soldier Boy"  
Did you ever tell him you loved him?



Does he offer his arm to Frank ever? Does he have his arithmetic lesson well? "Don't know whether that Scule Marster ever attended the school at D. or not - ahem!" What does that mean? I think I shall write to Bob soon I am afraid he and George & the rest of the 78 Boys will meet the enemy at Vicksburg and maybe they will fall in defense of their Country. May God preserve them! Bob is a good fellow, truly! So Capt. Gillespie has gone to get married Is it to Miss Alice Harrison of Tazewell? Ben Tudor & Melissa Whittaker of Norwich were married lately Ben. was in Co F 78 Reg. Yes I hear from Home to night. "I will tell you what the family are doing this evening (Jan 19) Father is reading the tribune. Mother is sitting near Father knitting - Mary is solving some problems in 2<sup>nd</sup> part Algebra - "Fla" is reading Wedds Elocution Frank & Gus are playing Culling up Jack as usual + + We have quite a snow - The young folks enjoying themselves Sleigh Riding But if the snow stays on I will

And have one" So speaks Bro Jacob Likely I could find a lady I like better than myself. If I was out in Ills. I had you for a pilot We could make calls in town So you was at a War Meeting and they didn't ketch a man so bad! Maybe some of the galses ketch one!

"Johnny is getting the army fever" How is his fever now? Lieut Black gets along finely He likes soldiering very well. But don't like the principles the Government has taken to be its guide I am glad Meda is more reconciled than she was. I will send you my Photograph as soon as I get it from home. I am looking for yours Yes I have been in Edgar & Coles Counties in Illinois I have seen plenty of sloughs Did you ever get in one? I am well and enjoy myself finely in the camp This is the Valley of Virginia and a beautiful valley it is too.



I will "be a good boy" I hope God will  
make me truly good Pardon all my sins  
For I may be cut off before very long My  
heart is in this struggle for our good  
Government. I believe the policy of  
the government is good.

Give Huldah my love "You have my best  
wishes Remember I am the same to  
day &c &c I will cherish your name  
as one I love Don't forget me?"

So you say I say the same to you  
Well we are by my here still & will  
stay in this place until spring  
Write me word how the 78 fares in  
the battle just coming off at Vicks-  
burg We get the news here the  
Baltimore Papers & Danesville  
Courier &c Do you get the Courier?  
Well I must close give  
my love to all

Write soon from  
Love Arund

T S Armstrong  
Winchester Va

January 23, 1863

Winchester Frederick Co. Va.

January 23rd 1863

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Yours dated Jan 17th was duly received the 22 inst, making the journey in 5 days, rather a quick trip! I am sorry you are only "tolerably well" & that you "have taken cold." I move those school directors fix that school house because if you are killed, I will come out there and stir them up with a buzz around their heads. "How grum the teacher is." Did you really look "grum?" Just look if you please into the looking glass and look grum again and write me how you look please. Now, won't you?

I haven't a doubt that you would like the country for a retired life fully as well as the city. But if you like society why the town would be preferable. But choose that which you prefer & you would be most happy. "Yes I kind o like that soldier boy." Did you ever tell him you loved him? Does he offer his arm to Frank ever. Does he have his arithmetic lesson well? "Don't know whether that scule marster ever attended the school at D \_\_\_\_\_ or not -- ahem!" What does that mean?

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Give Huldah my love. "You have my best wishes. Remember I am the same today etc lest I will cherish your name as one I love. Don't forget me?" So you say. I say the same to you. Well we are lying here still & will stay in this place until spring. Write me word of how the 78 fares in the battle just coming off at Vicksburg. We get the news here the Baltimore papers & Zanesville Courier etc. Do you get the Courier. Well I must close. Give my love to all.

Write soon from

your friend

T S Armstrong

Winchester Va