1-23-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Winchester, Frederick Co., Va.

January 23rd, 1863

Dear Mr. Porter,

Your letter dated Jan. 17th was duly received the 22nd inst. Making the journey No. 5 days rather a quick trip! I am sorry you are only "tolerably well" is 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 sit them up with a buzz around their heads. "How grum the teacher is." Did you really look grum? Just look at you (please, into the looking glass and look grum again) and work me how you look pleased now, won't you? That isn'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. "Does he or is he?" "Did you ever tell him you loved him?"
Does he offer his arm to Frank ever? Does he have his arm seen well?

"Don't know whether the schools are open or not. How does one mean? I think I shall write to Bob soon I am afraid he and George. The rest of the boys will meet the enemy at Vickburg. I may be they will fall on defense of New Court. May God preserve them! Bob is a good fellow. Truly!"

Do you think Miss Alice Harris is of only Norris? Ben Ludlow, Melissa Whittaker of Norris were married lately. Ben was in Co 3 of 51. Last heard from Montague. "I will like you what the families are doing this evening (Jan 19)."

Father is reading the bulletin. Mother is sitting near. Father, knitting. Mary is solving some problems in 2nd book Algebra. "Fla" is reading Indian Education. Frank & Pete are playing Card game. Jack as usual - They have quite a snow. The young folks enjoying themselves. Sleigh Riding. But if the snow stays on will
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 a good government. I believe the policy of the government is good.

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

So you say I say the same to you. "We are here some still I will stay in this place. until spring. Write me word How the 78 faces in the battle. Just come off at Vicksburg. We get the news here. The Baltimore papers & Danville courier &c. Do you get the Cour. We must close give my love to all. I trust soon soon.

Yours As ever

S. S. Armstrong

Winchester Va.
January 23, 1863

Winchester Frederick Co. Va.

January 23rd 1863

Friend Porter

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?

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 the 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 Zanesville? Ben Tudor & Melissa Whittaker of Norwich were married lately. Ben was in Co. F 78 Reg.

Yes I heard from home tonight. 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 2nd part Algebra. "Fla" is reading Kidds Elocution. Frank & Gus are playing Calling 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 better than myself. If I was out in Ills. & had you for a pilot we could make calls in town.

So you were at a War Meeting and they didn't Kotch a Man. Too bad! Maybe some of the galses Kotch one.

"Johnny is getting 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 and 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 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