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

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Stuchester Freder, ck Co. Va. April 15-the Nechnes Day 1863 Frarest, I am glad to hear you say that you are getting so many photographs from your kind frends That you will get an albund, I will send you a much larger & Bette one of my phiz sometime before very long I was glad to hear that les was well and in good spirits Frank I never got a "long letter" that he wrote to me. I am sorry undeed. I will with very soon tohum and of he will "not write" me until & worth to him the soone I worth the Better. I am glad has got the position of 1st Level. on hen Leggets Staff. I should like to be with him In the Same place, But my chances lie work the East em any. Iwon's much Pathe have his position now, than That of Capt. of a Co. To tell you that you photo graph fails of presenting linea ment of your face as The original is, is true, I left That one, Bgot from you befor, when I was going in The 18, at home. But the one For got now brings you near me, The dear, good girl, That you are the it is not by any means a perfect pechere.

I have the partiel news from Sister mary the Bol go into the army with out my consent I'll (Formal love him more than Ever Signed Teanson has much lost his eye-right and she said I am of the same opinion That "men always going he was on his way home pour the Reg't . I am so svery against The well of a good woman, is very wrong for him, He is a good hearter, Kind, generous, & obliging man. That a misfortim? he that loved to read Brorte letters\_ "How are a good woman Here I did wrong, azint That good logic I did not want to plage loved to accommodate loved to visit his frends - loved to Do his cuty. Towe The Dear ladies. has to groke his way you by hurting your feelings in my former letto Sour this the cold world in perfect Darkness with Did & plague any? nothing to solace him. "you think because a young I unagen I see you and Heldah Streaking lady would rather her "Hon" would stay at home." That a cross The prairie putting out fire. "I want lach must think him Some better thanothers," to see you to bad." Well Frank Prish The was was "Why do you think if a lady requests her Searie to stay at home over then you could have that chance I am long 8 he does not the is moverty her love ." Because I think ing for the time when you & Fill be -It thous the man to see him in the army when Ho home I ruther think Bwill come & see you when I of his how were ced by menaced by menics But when Come to Alls. I am Sorry epow are living in you bay "lead I one to volunter against my urgent prospect of a tonesome Surmer. I hope you request I'd love him more than ever" Thank will have a good time Seeing Meda This fall you for your love, I can truly day the same, for a Norm R an afrand this was well not be our "Dear girl" That Submits to what you have done soon Nash't That discouraging news That only raises in my Esteen. You put the case Come for Charleston about 5 of our gun general put A particularly to you & Boats being disables. I am afraid the me. This way Thould one Annshong Vecksburg affair will be a failure

Well Sont let us be discouraged our armus are all right hant Burnside Rosecrans booker Hunter & Banks are around them, Enclosing them in as with a wall of fire Secretary Chase has the finances an in good condition and we will have to fight it through manfully. Well Frank the other Day a got wood for many There Father was very sick & that I had a new niece! matilda askes the. mary for a name I toto them "Frank O." was my choice, Tathe has some recovered so as to go to Abranis to see his children. Its had boyn trouble in Ohis about the Coppenheads but The Electrons tell Them now how they stand leave this place. The rain is pourny down in torrents and the air is very damp Our Aggt is in good condition we have very fin sick now. I have very good health Have had some cold and about nealth Aave has a bittle fever. mother I weeks ago has a little fever. mother and father want me to come home and See them. I should like to see them and all my punds Well Fank Don't forget I Sear Trunk, Jour Friend I Sear Trunk, Jour Friend

April 15, 1863

Winchester Frederick Co. Va.

April 15th Wednesday 1863

Dearest,

I am glad to hear that you are getting so many photographs from your kind friends that you will get an Album. I will send you a much larger & better one of my \_\_\_\_\_\_ sometime before long. I was glad to hear that Geo was well and in good spirits. Frank, I never got a "long letter" that he wrote to me. I am sorry, indeed. I will write very soon to him and if he will "not write" me until I write him the sooner the better. I am glad he has got the position of 1st Lieut on Gen Leggett's staff. I should like to be with him in the same place. But my chances lie here with the eastern army. I would much rather have his position now than that of Capt of a Co.

To tell you that your photograph fails of presenting the lineaments of your face as the original is true. I left that one, that I got from you before when I was going in the 78, at home. But the one I've got now brings you near me. The dear, good girl that you are, tho it is not by any means a perfect picture.

I have the painful news from Sister Mary that Bob Hanson has entirely lost his eyesight and she said he was on his way home from the Regt. I am so sorry for him. He is a good hearted, kind, generous, & obliging man. What a misfortune? He that loved to read and write letters -- loved to accommodate, loved to visit his friends, loved to do his duty, loved the dear ladies, has to grope his way down thro the cold world in perfect darkness with nothing to solace him.

"You think because a young lady would rather her Hon stay at home," that lady must think him some better than others." "Why do you think if a lady requests her dearie to stay at home & he does not, he is unworthy of her?" Because I think it shows the man to see him in the army where the home of his "hon" is menaced by the enemies. But when you say "Had I one to volunteer against my urgent request, I'd love him more than ever" thank you for your love. I can truly say the same for a "dear girl" that submits to what you have done only raises in my esteem. You put the case general, I put it particularly to you & me. This way, should one Armstrong go into the army without my consent, I'd (FP Porter) love him more than ever, signed and returned. I am of the same opinion that "men always going against the will of a good woman, is very wrong. You are a good woman. Hence I'm wrong. Ain't that good logic. I did not want to plague you by hurting your feelings in my former letters. Did I plague you any?

I imagine I see you and Huldah streaking across the prairie putting out fire. "I want to see you so bad." Well Frank, I wish the war was over, then you could have that chance. I am longing for the time when you & I will be -- I rather think I will come & see you when I come to Ills. I am sorry you are living in prospect of a lonesome summer. I hope you will have a good time seeing Meda this fall.

Frank I am afraid that this war will not be over soon. Wasn't this discouraging news that came from Charleston? About 5 of our gunboats being disabled. I am afraid the Vicksburg affair will

be a failure. Well don't be discouraged. Our armies are all right. Grant Burnside Rosecrans Hooker Hunter & Banks are around them, enclosing them in as with a wall of fire. Secretary Chase has the finances in good condition and we will have to fight it through manfully.

Well Frank, the other day I got a note from Mary that Father was very sick & that I had a new niece. Matilda asked thro Mary for a name, I told them "Frank P\_\_\_\_\_" was my choice.

Father has since recovered so as to go to Abram's to see his children. We had some trouble in Ohio about the Copperheads but the elections tell them now where they stand.

I don't know when we will leave this place. The rain is pouring down in torrents and the air is very damp. Our Regt is in good condition, we have very few sick men. I have very good health. Have had some cold and about 2 weeks ago had a little fever. Mother and father want me to come home and see them. I should like to see them and all my friends. Well Frank don't forget your friend T.S.A.