


4-15-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Winchester Frederick Co. Va.

April 15th Wednesday 1863

Dearest,

I am glad to hear you say 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 phi's sometime before very long. I was glad to hear that Leo 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 to him the same I will do 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 with the East-ern 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, is true. I left that one, I got from you before, when I was going in the 48, 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
Nanson has entirely lost his eye-sight and she said
he was on his way home from the Reg't. I am so sorry
for him. He is a good-hearted, kind, generous, & obliging man.
What a misfortune? he that loved to read & 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" would stay at home." that
lady must think him some better than others."

"Why do you think if a lady requests her dear to stay at home
& he does not. he is unworthy her love?" Because I think
it shows the man to see him in the army when the hon
of his "hon" ^{is} ~~was~~ menaced by enemies. But when
you say "had I one to volunteer against my urgent
request I'd love him more than ever" I 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 with out my consent I'd
(F. P. Bob.) 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 did wrong.
axint that good logic I did not want to plague
you by hurting your feelings in my former letter
Did I plague ^{you} any?"

I imagine I see you and Hildah streaking
across the prairie putting out fire. "I want
to see you so bad." Well Frank Swift the war was
over then you could have that chance. I am long
ing 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 this war will not be over
soon. Wasn't that discouraging news that
came from Charleston about 5 of our gun
boats being disabled. I am afraid the
Vicksburg affair will be a failure

Well Dont let us be discourag'd 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
in good condition and we will have to
fight it through manfully. Well Frank
the other day I got word 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
Abrams to see his children. We had some
trouble in Ohio about the Copperheads but
the Elections tell them now how they
stand

I dont 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 now. 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 Dont forget
To Dear Frank } your friend
T. S. A.

April 15, 1863

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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.