

West Point Jan<sup>y</sup> 21. 1829

My Dear father

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. By it, all my fears are quieted; and I can now look forward to something honourable; You can hardly conceive of a more wretched state than that in which I was before this letter was received, I have always had an inclination for the law, which arose from an entire conviction that it was the path which led to distinction: When therefore it was first proposed to me to come to W. Point I thought that I saw all my hopes blasted forever, and though I desired to acquire the education given here, yet I must confess to you that I looked upon my stay at this place with a kind of horror. But now that I see that your intentions have all along been in unison with my wishes, I feel sensibly how much I have erred in the supposition, too hastily formed, that you purposed that I should become a member of the army. Feeling as I now do, I cannot but beseech you to