

Washington 25th Dec 1827

My dear son

I continue to receive through various channels, the most gratifying intelligence about your diligence, your morals and your progress. I cannot express to you how much happiness this information affords me. And if, as I hope, you should persevere in this praiseworthy course, it will bring along with it honor and happiness to yourself as well as a blessing to me.

My letter you will see is dated on Xmas day, which here is not very pleasant, being wet, thawing, and extremely disagreeable under foot. We should be delighted to have you with us, and we are only consoled for your absence by the belief that you are doing well where you are. Henry C. Ward arrived today, from Norfolk. He will sail to the Mediterranean in a short time. Mr. Brown, the father of your brother in law, is also with us.

Do you find your pay sufficient to obtain for you all allowable comforts? If it be not, tell me frankly & you know I will supply you with any pecuniary means in my power.

All of us are proud of you, and all send you their love, and the compliments of the season.

Your affec^t father

H Clay