

Ashland 24<sup>th</sup> May 1830.

My dear Son

The period of the annual examination of the Cadets is approaching and I feel very anxious to know how you will acquit yourself. I had hoped to be able to visit you this summer, but I now fear it will not be in my power. You have another year to remain at West Point, and it will appear a very long one; but I hope you will command the fortitude necessary to carry you through it. Write me fully as to your feelings on that subject and consider me both as your friend and father. Your uncle Brown will probably see you. He writes to me in terms of high praise of you.

Anne and Mr. Erwin are now in Tennessee, near Shelbyville. I expect them here in a few weeks. Owing to her family condition she has been compelled to abandon her Northern trip. They will remain some time with us. Tom is in Illinois on my Prairie, but I have very bad accounts of his habits. I despair of him. Theodore is with us, and altho' he does not drink, he has other habits almost as bad. He has the most unfortunate temper that ever afflicted any person, and seems soured with all the world. Oh! my dear Son no language can describe to you the pain that I have suffered on account of these two boys. My hopes rest upon you and your two younger brothers.

A young Mr. Fry from near Danville has gone to West Point. I promised his grandfather to give him a letter of introduction to you, but I was not at home when he passed through Lexington. His connections are highly respectable, and I am told he is promising. I wish you would be attentive to him and treat him with kindness, as I hope you do all the young men from Kentucky.

My friends at Washington write to me in the best spirits,  
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