

Kennville 31<sup>st</sup> March 1831

My dear Son.

We reached here this morning from N. Orleans. Anne and her children are with us, proceeding to her new home near Ashland, the little to which Mr. Erwin has secured. We remained at N. Orleans, to follow us in five or six weeks. Our voyage has been quite agreeable. Your mother thinks her health has been benefited by passing the winter below, and mine has been not bad.

The time approaches when you will emerge from the Academy of West point. I rejoice at it, and I rejoice that you have remained there the whole term. I feel quite confident that you will never regret it hereafter. The time also approaches when you must finally decide the important question of your future pursuit in life. My wish is that you should devote yourself to the profession of law. Such has been always my desire. At the same time, I do not wish to control your own choice. Should you elect the profession of the law, you will enter on its studies at the most favorable period of life and with uncommon advantages. I wish you to study the Common Law thoroughly, embracing all its branches, the Roman civil law, and the Public Law. You may commence, if you please, at Ashland, or wherever else you prefer. In the course of your studies, I wish you to pass a winter at N. Orleans, where you will have an opportunity of perfecting yourself in French, and witnessing the practice under the civil law.