

West Point

October 24<sup>th</sup>

1829

My dear Father

I received your last letter which conveyed to me the intelligence of the death of Aunt Sophia Clay. I had learned before the decease of her only daughter; What a shock this double calamity must have given Uncle Porter. But I am sure he will sustain it with firmness, and Frederick I hope will conduct himself in such a manner as to afford him consolation hereafter—

Every thing goes on as usual at West P. Richard Shelby about whom his father feels so much solicitude is getting on very well. He is at present in the 2<sup>d</sup> section of each of the branches of his year's course—

I myself am very much pleased indeed with the studies of my year and I now fully concur in your opinion that the knowledge acquired here will be useful to a man in whatever pursuit he may embark. The Chemistry, Philosophy, and civil Engineering will in all probability be eminently useful if I determine to reside in Kentucky after leaving here. The desire of improving the local conveniences of the State cannot I think subsist until it is in some measure satiated; and