

West Point

May 21st 1830

My dear Father

I merely have time to say to you that I have delivered the 1st of the addresses which I mentioned in a letter to you some time since - I have been singularly fortunate

my pursuits in life are fixed - There ^{before} I derive such gratification as I have done from the expressions of ^{the} pleasure which my speech gave. To you & to you only would I dare to be thus frank. I fear the attention which I have given to my orations may be in some degree prejudicial to my studies.

However the examination is a week off - I hope to make up all losses, and to put in a claim to your approbation

Your very affectionate
son - H. Clay B