

Camp Eaton

July 4th 1835

My dear father

The anniversary of the declaration of Independence was celebrated here on yesterday, from peculiar considerations. I again appeared before an audience of between 4 + 500, and was once more eminently successful. At the dinner given by the Corps, at which about 100 invited guests were present, the wit & eloquence of the sons of Kentucky were toasted with applause. But the toast of Mr. Merriam, the editor of the American Farmer & Self Register, "The Orator of the day, in the language of the turf, Blood will show itself" drew forth enthusiastic cheers. Do not accuse me, my father, of too broad an exhibition of vanity; I confess that I, in common with all my fellow men, am subjected to that besetting sin of the human race, But I have thought that to you a candid expression of my sentiments, would be far more acceptable than any affected air of indifference that I might force from my self-love.

You must know my object in accepting the honor conferred upon me; even though prefer-