

Camp Eaton

July 12th 1820

My dear Father

I received your letter of the 25th ultimo relating to a subject, which I fear from its very calmness must have given you pain. If it does not appear too much like fickleness on my part, permit me to recall the expression of my own opinion on the propriety of my remaining here the last year.

Uncle Brown was here on the 6th & 7th of this month. He is going to the Springs with Aunt Brown, Miss Susan Brown and her brother. He had an attack of fever in New York, but the air and quietness of West Point completely restored him. Aunt Brown looks a great deal better than I expected to see her, but she is still evidently too weak to attempt the journey to the West. I applied to Uncle Brown for advice on the subject which has lately so much occupied my mind. He gives it as his unqualified opinion that I ought not to leave the Academy. I explained to him the relations in which the Officers of this post stand to the general government, their dependence on the execution for their situations and for extra emoluments. I told him also of the grasping ambition and the intrigues of him at the head of this Institution; as an instance of which, I pointed out to him the case of the present Secretary of War; Mr Eaton came here with violent and avowed personal enmity to Col Hays; but in consideration of the personal compliments of honour rendered to himself and the numerous attentions shown to his