

Washington 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1851

My dear Henry I received your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> from which I was glad to perceive that you had a good standing in your Class. But still it is not as good as I could wish, or as I am sure you can make it, and I hope that you will exert yourself to improve it by the next examination.

You say that you do not like the confinement of West point &c. What would you do if you were not there? You must be employed, or you would be in the greatest danger from idleness and dissipation. When you shall have completed honorably your course at West point, you will in after life be very glad of it; as I am sure you would be then greatly mortified if you did not avow yourself of the