

West Point March 27th 1827

Dear father

Since I last heard from you, Mr & Mrs Smith with Margaret Kop, have been here: they remained but a day or two, and seemed delighted with the place. from them I learned that you were well, and that Theodore is going as a bearer of despatches to the Congress of Panama likewise that it is your intention to visit Kentucky some time in May, but they do not inform me, whether my mother goes with you or not: Should you come to the determination of leaving Washington, I should be extremely happy to see you here: the Lakes will then be open, and will afford you a speedy and pleasant route: Worthington will be very little out of your way and by calling, you will gratify James.

I learned from Mr Holley that he goes to Europe in a few months where he will superintend the education of 8 or 10 young men, who will accompany him from this country: Were it at my option to go with him, or not I should embrace this occasion of perfecting my education under so learned a man, as he is, with the greatest pleasure, but as it is, I shall remain at West Point, and endeavour to graduate, and enter the army, should there be a prospect of my being able to get a furlough for a year: Although I know very well that the fame of the warrior is far superior to that of the statesman; he only acting the secondary part of execution: still I put down all feelings of ambition, when they are not in accordance with wishes long formed, and upon which I may say with great truth, I have lived.

You will oblige me, by telling me where I may find an explanation of the principles of the banking systems of England and of this country Give my respects to our friends at Washington and tell my mother that I recieved her present, which came very opportunely,

P.S. I am requested by Mr Carr, a cadet who wishes to travel for the benefit of his health, to inform you that should you have any despatches to send to Caracas, he will consider it as a favour, if you will permit him, to carry them; but his relation Mr Secretary Barbour must have spoken to you on the subject; and this notice will therefore be unnecessary.

Y^r aff^{te} Son
H. Clay jr