

West Point June 2-1829.

Dr. Father

Your last letter was duly rec^d and I assure you the contents of it highly delighted me. The doubt which has long preyed upon my mind and which I have hitherto but partially concealed, has been cleared up and I learn that in your estimation my talents ^{are such} as entitle me at least to a trial of the law. To know that this is your opinion pleases me beyond measure, and, I confess, incites me to exertion and raises within me a wish to arrive at something higher than a professorship although I consider the employment of professor at least as honourable and much more lucrative than a post in the Army.

In regard to my going to Kentucky - I feel forcibly the obligation under which I am to you for your kind wish that I should spend my vacation as agreeably as possible. Yet I am not certain, all things being considered, whether it will be proper for me to perform the journey in question or not. The expense which it will cause to you will be great, say \$150.00 as together with the usual expenses of the journey must be added that of purchasing citizens clothes, of which I shall be entirely in want, and I know not whether the transient pleasure which I shall enjoy will compensate for the inconvenience to which you may be put to furnish me such a sum. However if you think it well for me to go I will gladly embrace your suggestion as to the route which I take