

My dear Father

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter dated the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. You express pleasure at the information, that my late address was well rec<sup>d</sup>. To me, my father, it has been the source of much gratification: I almost feared to attempt the delivery of it; expectation was raised very high; I know not for what reason unless it was the name that I bear. All my friends tell me that it gave general satisfaction, and that it was not unworthy the son of Henry Clay, but that I cannot for a moment flatter myself to be true for with the disadvantages of no practice & no candid criticism, under which the young men of this Academy must be placed, I do not suppose that I even did my own powers justice. I am at present preparing for the exercises of the 4<sup>th</sup> July, and I earnestly hope that I shall acquit myself with credit.

In my last, I suppressed at the time of writing it, that I had given you all the arguments for & against my leaving here, but after reflection has suggested some other considerations that may be important, though they do not alter my own opinion as to the propriety of leaving the Academy. The first of these is the effect which a good example set by an elder brother may have on the younger. To carry an arduous undertaking through with credit to oneself is always useful in its influence by affording confidence, but it is particularly useful in inciting the younger members of a family to