

West Point

April 3^d 1831

My dear father

In about 3 months now I shall complete my course at the Military Academy. In the retrospect of my academic labours I have much cause of gratification and perhaps some of regret. As an educated man I am much improved. For I feel my mind to be greatly enlarged and I have acquired habits of mental discipline which I am sure will be invaluable to me in whatever profession I may ultimately embark.

In another place and under different circumstances I might have gained more knowledge of the world and made some acquisitions which I now do not possess, but which are generally esteemed in one of my years. But I am well satisfied with the past. I am prepared to enter life with a character solidly formed and upon ^{which} no blemish has yet attached from any offences against propriety, or duty. My information though not various nor brilliant is of such a nature as to be extensively employed: indeed I