

FROM William Wirt*

Baltimore. May 17. 1823

3244. 44
6648

Dear Sir.

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Colo. Hugh Mercer*, one of the most respectable of the gentlemen of Virginia. I persuade myself that it will give you pleasure to render the visit of Colo. Mercer and the ladies whom he accompanies to your picturesque Point as agreeable as possible and it is, therefore, in reference to your own enjoyment no less than to theirs that I take the liberty of this introduction. I remain, Dear Sir, with great respect Your Obedt Serv.
Major S. Thayer.

WM WIRT

*See Index

FROM Martin Van Buren*

New York May 30 1823

Sir/

This will be delivered to you by my son Abraham* who accompanied by Master Van Antwerp* repairs to West Point to join the Academy. I hoped to have come with him and to have had the pleasure of staying with you a few days, but am prevented from doing the former & compelled to defer the latter until July. I hope the boys will so conduct themselves as to fulfil the just expectation of their country. I have endeavored & I hope not unsuccessfully to impress them with a conviction that not only their continuance in the institution but their future character & usefulness entirely depend on their industry & fidelity.-

With great respect your obedient Serv't M. V. BUREN
Col. Thayer

*See Index

FROM Andrew J. Donelson*

Nashville July 19th 1823

Dear Sir,

This will be handed you by Cadet Sanders* of Tennessee, a friend of mine, and for whom I beg leave to ask your advice and attention. He has been for several months since, in ill health; so much so that he has been unable to report himself agreeably to his instructions. He will do so, however, so shortly after the organization of the classes for the new year, that I trust his misfortune will not exclude him the liberty of being classed; or if it should you will oblige greatly the young man by selecting for him some convenient place in the neighbourhood of W Point, where he may pursue the studies prescribed for the school. His Parents are of the first respectability - his reputation good, and I have no doubt he will demean himself as an obedient, and orderly cadet.

During Mr. Sander's illness, his father incautiously filed his warrant with some useless papers - it was torn up, and he can exhibit to you but a piece of it. He can present however Mr Calhouns* signature, and a part of the instructions: enough to identify Mr Sanders, so that I presume it will not be necessary for him to obtain a second warrant -

Since my resignation I have learned with a great deal of pleasure, that your exertions have extended the course and given more perfect organization of the school - It is more popular in this section of Country than it has ever been before - As proof of which, you may be glad to hear that Mr Cannon* the false declaimer will be left at home, and probably Mr Cocke*.

Be pleased to accept the assurances of my best wishes for your health, and also my grateful remembrances of your services & kind attention to Yr. Hu Servt AND J DONELSON
If you can spare the time I should be thankful for a letter from you - telling me, with what else you please, what is the standing & progress of my Brother (Daniel S. Donelson*) - He is the only Brother I have, and I feel a deep interest in his welfare - V. Respectfully AJD
Maj S Thayer Superintendent of the Military School

*See Index

FROM Simon Bernard*

New York, July 30th 1823.

Sir,

The growing celebrity of the Military Academy induces the austrian Doctor Reider to visit that national institution.

Doctor Reider is a traveller of distinction, and a gentleman eminent amongst the learned of Vienna. I will be very thankful to you, if you give to him (and to his company) every opportunity to make himself acquainted with the organization of that military and Scientifick Academy. I have the honor to be Sir, very respectfully, your most obedient Servant. BERNARD Brig Gen

To Col. S. Thayer Superintendent of the Military Academy.
at West Point

*See Index

TO John Forsyth*

Military Academy West Point
30th Sept..1823

Sir,

I have to request that you will immediately make out & present your accounts against the United States for materials & labor furnished up to this date. Separate accounts are required for whatever has been furnished for the kitchen. It is proper to inform you that all accounts which shall not be presented by the 8th of October next must remain unpaid at least for the present year. I would thank you to inform Mr Veltman that his accounts are also required. Very respectfully I am
your obed servt S. THAYER

*See Index

TO John C. Calhoun (?)

Military Academy
West Point 9th October 1823

Sir,

I have attentively perused the letter of Mr. William Morris of New York to the Secretary of War: complaining of the late decision and report of the Academic Board in the case of his Son Gouverneur Morris*, and beg leave to submit a few remarks with a view to call your attention to some of the erroneous statements and inferences contained in that letter. Mr. Morris begins with an examination of the Merit roll made out at the General Examination in June last, and undertakes to prove from the Roll itself that his son had stronger claims to a commission than many others of his class. All persons who are acquainted with the manner in which the merit rolls are made out, will at once perceive that the number in the last columns present the fairest comparative views of general merit. By reference to the roll it will be seen that the number representing the merits of Cadet Morris in all the branches taken together is 785 which being the lowest number in the column places him at the bottom of his class. The number opposite Cadet Birdsall who is the 35th or lowest on the list of those who passed their examination is 914 making a difference between Morris and Birdsall* of 129 in favor of the latter, and it should be observed that this a greater difference than exists between Birdsall and 9th above him. If however any other mode of comparison be adopted even that selected by Mr. Morris himself, the result will be the same, and will still place his son at the foot of his class. Mr. Morris occupies seven pages of his letter in shewing that his son was superior in one or more branches to some of his classmates and thinks that he has thereby succeeded in proving his sons claim to commission, but his argument if it prove anything proves too much. Upon that principle every cadet, even the most unworthy might also claim a commission, for it is hardly probable that any Cadet however idle or stupid he may be could remain four or five years at the Academy without surpassing a portion of his classmates in one or more of the many branches taught in the Institution. But to come to particulars let us see whether, according to Mr. Morris's own mode of comparison, his son possesses any advantage over any other member of the Class. For example, let us compare him with Miller* & Birdsall who stood lowest among those commissioned. G. Morris was superior to four in mathematicks, to six in French - to three in Philosophy To nine in Drawing, To two in Chymistry and Mineralogy- The sum of these numbers is 24. Miller was superior to Five of his class in French- To Six in Philosophy - To nine in Drawing - To Ten in Engineering - to Four in Chymistry & mineralogy - To Ten in geography History, Ethicks and National Laws - Total 44. Birdsall was superior to Twenty Six of his class in mathematics - to Twenty two in Drawing - To sixteen in Philosophy - To six in French - To Four in Geography, History, Ethicks & National Law & To Four in Chymistry - Total = 78

Again the bare inspection of the merit Roll shows that G Morris was inferior to Miller & Birdsall and to every other member of the class in at least Five out of the Eight branches in which he was examined, but I will waste no more time in

proving what must be perfectly clear to every man who will examine the subject. By referring to the merit Roll forwarded to your Department in June last, it will be seen that the number representing Cadet Holts* merit in Engineering is 120 instead of 100 as stated by Mr. Morris. He equally errs in representing that "the true standing of Cadet Alexander* in mathematics is but 14 instead of 67 as returned by the Academic Board" The Register of Merit kept by the Post Adjutant - The Journal of the Examination kept by the Rev. Mr. Picton* and many other records of the Academy. together with the best recollections of all the officers can be adduced to prove that the statement of the Board in this particular was correct. Mr. Morris has neglected to notice his sons standing in Geography, History, Ethics and National Laws, and it is therefore proper to mention that he was inferior to all his class mates in that Department as well as in Engineering & Tactics of which the two last mentioned embrace every thing taught in this Institution relative to the Military Art, and the duties of an officer. Mr. Morris states that "more than a year ago his son was attacked by sickness and that his health was not thoroughly restored until Four or Five months previous to the last examination" Having no recollection of this fact, I have carefully examined the daily Sick Reports of the Surgeon from August 1822 to July 1823 during which period it appears that Cadet Morris was twice excused by the Surgeon from attending to his academick duties. Mr. Morris asserts that General Bernard* declared to him that his son passed as good an examination in Engineering nearly as the average of the Class" but in this I think there must have been some misapprehension and my reasons for thinking so are 1st. because to the best of my recollection the general was present only a small part of the time that the class was under examination and could not therefore compare the examination of Cadet Morris with that of the class generally. 2nd Because even admitting that the general had formed a different opinion from that expressed by the Board as to the merits of any cadet, such is his nice sense of propriety that he would either have been silent or have only declared his opinion in his official report to the government. With respect to the declaration which is ascribed to Doctor Cutbush*, and stated to have been made prior to the Examination you will not fail to observe that the standing claimed for G. Morris in Chemistry & Mineralogy would not have altered his place on the roll of general merit.

Mr. Morris has thought proper to bring forward a certificate of mine intended only for the eye of the Secy. of the Navy (Samuel L. Southard) & to contrast it with the Report of the Academic Board. In what manner the certificate was obtained from me will be best understood by referring to the enclosed letters marked A.B.C. It can hardly be necessary for me to disclaim all intention of making any statement which would be contradictory to the Report approved by myself & I will therefore proceed to observe by way of explanation that Cadet Morris would undoubtedly have been recommended for a commission in the Army but for his deficiency in the

studies of the last year; that he had passed his examination in the other branches of the Course & altho (taking into consideration the time he had devoted to them) his progress in them as compared with that of the class generally might be considered as indifference & was very correctly so represented by the Academic Board nevertheless as the Secy of the Navy was supposed to be unacquainted with the extent to which some of these branches are carried at the Military Academy & which is considerably greater here than elsewhere in the UStates I thought it would be only fair & liberal to compare young Morris's attainments with those usually made in the same branches in other Seminaries & to speak of them accordingly in my Certificate.

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TO Alexander Macomb*

Military Academy
West Point 12th Dec^r 1823

Dear General

In compliance with your request I enclose herewith my plan for the augmentation of the Corps of Engineers. It is merely the same as the one which I had the honor to submit in 1817. A more rapid increase than is here proposed would not in my opinion be advisable nor do I think that the Academy would be able to furnish a greater number properly qualified for the Corps. To ensure the passage of a Bill for the augmentation of the Corps at the present Session I consider four things indispensably necessary

- 1^t. That no grade superior to that of Colonel should be proposed. After the augmentation shall have been affected Congress would doubtless provide for a higher grade as a matter of course but I am persuaded that a proposition to that effect at the present time would infallibly defeat the Bill.
- 2^d. That no increase of pay should be proposed
- 3^d. That the Bill should be accompanied by Remarks shewing the expediency & utility of the proposed augmentation. For instance in discussing this subject it might be shown that the present Corps is too small for the exigencies of the service. That by increasing the number of officers the works would be better superintended & constructed with less expense. That if at any time all the officers should not be wanted for military service they might be carefully employed as Civil Engineers either in the service of the General Government or of the States. Neither should the utility of the augmentation to the Mil. Acady be overlooked. Appointments to the Corps of Engineers are conferred as rewards of distinguished merit & accordingly excite great emulation among all those Cadets who hope to obtain them There is one consideration which has greater weight with me than all the others. In the event of War a sudden augmentation of the Corps would be likely to take place which I conceive would be a great misfortune & which can only be prevented by a gradual augmentation in time of Peace.

4th I consider it all important that the Bill for augmenting the Corps should embrace no other object & be disconnected with all other interests. If a proposition to increase the topogs* is to be brought forward also, let the Bills be separate & let each depend for success on its own merits. As a member of the Corps I object to uniting our fate with theirs. I know that they wish to identify themselves with the Corps. I have no serious objection to their wearing our uniform as they are so much pleased with it & I do not complain that the company of Bombardiers has been sacrificed for their preservation but I would thank them to sink or swim by themselves & not to hang as a mill stone about our necks. It is time to say hands off: With great regard I remain
dear general Sincerely yours S. THAYER
Major General Alexander Macomb

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FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington Jany. 23d 1824

Sir,

I have laid before the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) your communication of the 29th ultimo marked private, together with the papers accompanying it.

The plan which you propose meets, with some exceptions, the Secretary's ideas on the subject of the Military Academy. One is as to the age, and the other as to the qualifications:- The age he fixes at from 16 to 20, and the qualification to be well versed in the English grammar, saying nothing about the Latin. It is also suggested that the Sword Master should be Riding master also; and your ideas on the subject of procuring from 25 to 30 horses in order to teach the Cadets equitation and the cavalry exercises and manouvres would be acceptable. It is proposed to add two Professors of the Spanish language, as there is every prospect of our being, at a future day, intimately connected with the people of South America, and the acquisition of their language may become very important.

It has suggested itself to me that a new organization, such as you propose, might be effected without any additional expense, if the pay of the cadets were reduced so as to cover the difference; and it is desirable to know how far below the present allowance a reduction could with propriety be made. The object of government is simply to pay the necessary expenses of the cadets but not to make them a gratification for services which they do not render. The pay of a cadet formerly was that of a sergeant, then increased to ten dollars and two rations for the artillery and 16\$ for the Engineer service. They were liable to do duty with their respective companies and corps. A deduction of \$4 per month from the pay of each cadet would make an annual saving of \$12000, about two thirds of which would pay all the additional expenses contemplated.

I sent you yesterday a copy of a letter from Mr. Livingston, of Louisiana, calling for information relative to the Military Academy. As there appears at present that a liberal disposition exists in Congress and the nation towards this institution, I wish you to give me your views on the subject fully, and to present them in an official shape so that they may be acted upon as soon as possible should it be necessary. I am with great respect Sir, your most obt servt. ALEXR MACOMB Maj Genl
Inspector of the Mily. Acdy
Lt Col S Thayer Corps of Engrs. Supdt. Mil. Acdy. West Point, N.Y.

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 3d March 1824

Sir,

Enclosed herewith are three projects for establishing the relative rank of the officers, professors and instructors at the Military Academy, two drawn up by you and the other by myself. I will thank you to examine them and forward, with as little delay as practicable, your opinion on each with your reasons at large in favour of the one you may prefer - or propose other if you think proper. I am respectfully Sir, Your most obt. servt. ALEXR MACOMB MG
Ch Engr

Lt. Colonel S Thayer Corps of Engrs.
Supt. Mil. Acdy West Point

*See Index

FROM Edward Fenwick Tattnall* to Alexander Macomb

House of Reps. May 13th. 1824

Dear General

A friend of mine, Thos. Spalding* Esqre of Georgia, is about proceeding to West Point for the purpose of placing his son (Charles H. Spalding*) (recently appointed a cadet) at the Institution. Mr. Spalding is one of the most scientific men, & I may also add accomplished gentlemen in our country. - I am particularly desirous on this account to obtain for him a pleasing introduction to Col: Thayer. Will you oblige me by giving him a line to the Col:? - My acquaintance with Col: T is so slight that I feel some indisposition to take such a liberty myself. Were the case a common one I would not trouble you with this request, but from Mr. Spalding's standing I feel very desirous that he should see the Institution & its officers in their true light. - I hope you will deem this a sufficient excuse for troubling you - I am dear General most truly & respectfully Yr. Obt. St. EDWD. TATTNALL. -
Genl Macomb U.S.A.

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FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington May 14th. 1824

Sir

The following named gentlemen have been invited to attend the approaching examination at West Point as a Board of Visitors.

Major Genl. (Edmund P.) Gaines*
Doctor John Chester* of Albany
Doctor (Thomas) McAuley*, of New York
Thos. C. Levins*, Professor, Georgetown College. D. C.
Doctor Burgess, of Raleigh, N. C.
Genl. (James) Talmage*, of New York
Honbl. Mr. (James) Buchanan*, of Pennsylvania,
Col. Pierce, of Chester, Pen.
Mr Professor (James L.) Kinsley*, of New Haven
Genl. (Joseph G.) Swift*
Col. (Nathan) Towson*
Genl. (Edwin V.) Sumner*, of Boston
Mr. C(aleb). Atwater*, of Circlesville, Ohio.
Honbl. J. S. Johnston*, of La.
Doctor Wm Staughton*, Prest. Cola. College D. C.
James T. Austin* Esqr.
Col. (Henry W.) Dwight*
Mr. (Henry R.) Warfield*

I am respectfully Sir Your obt. sert. ALEXR MACOMB

M Gen Inspector of the Mily Acady

Lt. Col. S. Thayer The Supdt. Mil Acdy. West Point New York

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FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington. May 14. 1824

Sir.

Mr. Thos. Spalding* of Georgia is about to visit West Point and desires a letter of introduction to you, which I give with great pleasure, because I have often heard of the respectability of Mr Spalding and because of the enclosed letter from the Honble. Colo (Edward F.) Tattnall* of Georgia. I therefore have to request your friend(ly) attentions to him. With great esteem I am DSr Yours truly ALEXR MACOMB
To Lt Colo. Thayer Superintendent of the Mily. Acdy.

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TO John M. O'Connor*

Military Academy West Point
21st May 1824

Dear Major,

I have had the pleasure to receive your friendly epistle of the 18th & shall not fail to send you by the first safe conveyance the volume of (La Harpe) refered to. The box containing it has been for several weeks in the Custom House Store & will probably be recd here on Sunday next.

We obtain our french books directly from Kilian* who draws on me for the amount. The charges for packing, transportation, Insurance, Commission, freight, etc. etc. are nearly equal to the booksellers deductions. I should always be happy to include any books for yourself for which you would have to pay at most (besides the duties) the Catalogue prices reckoning 5 francs to the dollar. You will receive herewith a Catalogue of Didot for 1822 & one of (Bacholier) () for 1823. I had a recent Catalogue of (Mag 1) but have mislaid it. When found it shall be sent to you.

Col. Mac Ree* when I last heard from him was at Wheeling framing his Report on the Western Armory. He was then in good health & spirits. I have no doubt but a trip to Niagara this summer would greatly improve your health. I shall be at West Point & hope you will make it convenient to call both going & returning & to spend a few days with me each time. In that expectation I shall reserve a bed for you at my house. With the highest regard I remain Dear Sir
your most obed svt S. THAYER
Major John Michael' O'Connor

*See Index

FROM Parker Cleaveland*

Bowdoin College, Brunswick Me
May 22, 1824.

To Majr. S. Thayer,

Sir,

I take the liberty of introducing to you Mr. Seth Eastman*, who has recently been appointed a Cadet in the Military Academy. He is the son of Mr. Robert Eastman, whose name appears in the 5 vol. of Silliman's Journal, as the inventor of the (Rotary Sow Machine). -

Those gentlemen, who have heard the recitations of the young man, speak favorably of his talents & industry. With the hope, that he may become a valuable member of your very important Institution I have the honor to be
Yr Obt Servt
P. CLEVELAND

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 28 May 1824

Sir

Owing to a mistake in copying the invitation of last year to the Gentlemen who made the Board of Visitors*, which invitation stated first of June, that being last year the first Monday; all the invitations which have gone out this year, have stated the first of June, instead of the first Monday - I fear that this error may put you to some inconvenience, but it was not discovered until today.

In addition to the persons invited, the Honbl Col (Henry W.) Dwight* & the Honbl Mr (Henry R.(?)) Warfield of Maryland have been named. They will attend, but probably not before the first Monday in June.

Charles Henry Winder* of Maryland, has been added to the list of Cadets. I have the honor to be respectfully,
Your obt Servt ALEXR MACOMB M G Inspr of the M. A.
L Col Thayer Supt. Mil Acad. West Point

*See Index

FROM Andrew Jackson*

Hermitage June 26th 1824

Dear Sir,

This will be handed you by G. S. Rousseau* of Louisiana, who has been lately appointed, as I am informed a Cadet of the Military School over which you preside. Permit to recommend this young gentleman to your friendly notice & care, as one, who, from the respectability & high standing of his family, & the interest expressed to me in his behalf, cannot but prove himself worthy your confidence & attention - With great respect I am Sir, Your very obt svt

ANDREW JACKSON

Col S Thayer Superintendent of the Military School

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department.
Washington, July 7. 1824.

Sir.

I have received the Merit Roll of the last examination together with the list of those recommended to be discharged and also your letter of the 30 of June requesting that Lieuts Mahan*, Parrott*, Smith (S. S.)*, & Fin(d)lay* may be attached to the academy as assistant professors & that Lt Catlin* may also be attached to the Military Academy for a few months for the purpose of completing some models for the Drawing Dept and likewise that you should be authorized to retain at the Military Academy during the present encampment such of the graduates as may be usefully employed. I have laid the above subjects before the Secy. of War (John C. Calhoun) & he approves thereof & you are accordingly authorised to retain the above named graduates accordingly. I am

Sir, respectfully Your mo. Obt. Servt.

ALEXR MACOMB

M G Insp Mily Acady

Lt Col S Thayer Supt Mil Acady.

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FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington July 8, 1824.

Sir

The result of the last general examination of the Cadets, and the Report of the Board of Visitors* on the State of the Military Academy, have been received and examined with great attention and interest, by the President (James Monroe) and Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun); and it is with great pleasure that I have to announce to you their perfect satisfaction with the State of the Institution, which reflects the highest credit on yourself and the gentlemen connected with it. A Copy of the report of the Board of Visitors, and of the letter addressed to their President General Gaines*, will be transmitted to you as soon as they can be transcribed.

It is the intention of the Secretary of War to direct a revision of the Book of General regulations and of the Tactics, and has assigned General Scott* to the duty. The Secretary of War has thought that West Point would be a suitable place for the purpose, and thinks of associating yourself and Major Worth with General Scott. It is therefore desirable to ascertain from you whether General Scott could be accommodated at the Point, and also, whether you and Major (William J.) Worth* could be associated in the business without interfering materially with your other duties. You will as soon as possible let me know your views on this subject. I have the honor to be,
Sir very respectfully Your ob Serv. ALEXR MACOMB

M. Genl. Insp. of Mily Acady
Lt Col S Thayer Supt. of the Mil Academy West Point

*See Index

FROM Charles J. Nourse*

Adjutant Genl Office
Washington 21 July 1824.

Sir.

I am instructed by the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) to inform you that he is about organising a board of Officers to convene at West Point, by the 1st of next month, for the purpose of revising and correcting the regulations for Infantry exercise. He is desirous of employing yourself and Major Worth* as members of the board which will in addition thereto consist of Major Genl. (Winfield) Scott*, Pres, Brigadier Genl (Hugh) Brady* and Colonel (John R.) Fenwick*.

The Secretary of War hopes that this will not interfere with any of your arrangements of the season, of this I will thank you to advise me by return of mail also whether there is any obstacle to the accommodation of the board at West Point - On the receipt of your answer to this communication the necessary orders will be issued. With great Respect I have the honor to be Yr. Obt Serv. CHS. J. NOURSE Adj Genl
To Lieut Col. Thayer.

*See Index

FROM William Henry Harrison*

Cincinnati 12th Augt. 1824

Sir

A young gentleman of the name of Martin has lately been refused admittance into the Military academy in consequence of his State of preparation not being such as the Rules of the institution require. I am well aware Sir of the Difficulty of making any deviation from the established Regulations of the Academy and more particularly in a case of this kind but I am persuaded if it ever could be done it ought to be done in the present instance. The youth to whom I refer is the Son of an old revolutionary officer who served with Distinguished honour to its close & was then continued in the Army which he did not leave until age & disease rendered him incapable of further service. Perhaps it would not be going too far to say that at the close of the first War our Army did not contain a Platoon officer of equal Standing with Captn. Thomas Martin. I have good reason to believe that that was Genl. Washingtons opinion & I know that it was General Waynes. He died in this neighbourhood some years ago extremely poor leaving a Widow and several children to be supported by their labour. The Youth in whose favour I write bears a high character for industry & correct principles. What little knowledge he possesses he has acquired by his own exertions and I am convinced that if he can gain admittance into the academy he will acquit himself entirely to the Satisfaction of his Superiors. I am told that young Martin is now with one of the Professors who has humanely taken him to his house to endeavour to qualify him for passing an examination on the 1st of September. Having Stated this youth's case & the obligations which our Country owes to his father I am persuaded that you will want no inducement to render him any Service in your power - With great Respect I am Sir yr. Hum Sevt. W. H. HARRISON
Colo. Thayer

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*.

Military Academy
West Point 7th Sept 1824

Dear General,

You will remember that it was not in my power, when at New York some weeks ago, to pay my respects to the Marquis' La Fayette* but on my return to West Point in the Steam Boat I had an interview with his son George Washington thro' whom I communicated my desire which was that of all the members of this Institution that he would honor us with a visit on his return from Boston.

It is possible that this invitation may not have been sufficiently direct & formal & I have therefore to request that you will consider yourself in conjunction with L^t Girard as a deputation from West Point & that you will seize the first favorable moment to wait upon him & say how anxious we all are to take him by the hand & to render him those honors which are due to our Country's benefactor, to the friend of Washington & to the disinterested advocate of liberty throughout the world. ~~The-Officers-&-Cadets-of-the-Mil-Academy-would-be-consideringly-glad-if-the-Marquis-would-make-such-arrangements-as-would-enable-him-to-dine-with-them-on-the-day-of-his-visit-&-request-that-an-invitation-be-extended-to-him-accordingly-~~ If his arrangement will not permit him to stay to dinner I shall expect him to breakfast at my house. A Table may be spread for 30 or 40 persons. I beg you to acquaint me with the Marquis' answer as early as practicable & believe me your friend S. THAYER
General Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun* (copy)

Department of War Sept 13th 1824

Sir.

The Report of the Board of Visitors of the last examination & the statements of respectable individuals who have visited the Military Academy having been unfavorable to the qualifications of Mr Picton* as Chaplain & Professor of Ethics The President has determined to supersede him. Mr Pictons character is however so amiable & respectable that the President is desirous that this painfull act should be performed in the manner most delicate to his feelings you will accordingly make known to him the views of the President in the manner best estimated to effect that object if should prefer that it should assume the shape of resignation he may adopt that course & that he will be allowed to the 1st of Jany next before his resignation will take effect in order to afford him time to seek other employment. If, however, he should prefer that his removal should be by the act of the President you will inform him in that event that his services at the Academy will not be required after the time above mentioned. I have the honor to be Sir, very respectfully your obedt servt J. C. CALHOUN
Lt Col S. Thayer Super Mil Acady West Point

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FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington Decr 10. 1824

Sir

I transmit herewith, by direction of the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun), several letters of recommendation for the appointment of Chaplain at the Military Academy; and shall forward such others on the same subject as may be hereafter received at this Department for your information. Very respectfully Your ob Servt ALEXR MACOMB
M. Genl Chief Engr
Lt Col S Thayer Supt of the Mil Academy West Point.

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FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington Decr. 22d, 1824.

Sir,

You will as soon as practicable furnish the following information in relation to the Military Academy, for which a call has just been made upon the Department.

"The whole number of Cadets & what proportion they bear to the number of 2d Lieuts. of the Army?"

"The usual number of Cadets that are discharged before they graduate?"

"The number who enter the army after graduating?"

"The annual expense of a 2d. Lieut., a private soldier, & a Cadet?" I am very respectfully, Sir, Your mo.
obt. Servt/ ALEXR MACOMB M Genl Chief Engineer
Lt. Colo. S. Thayer Supdt. Mily Acady. West Point New York.

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TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy
West Point 27th Dec^c 1824

Dear General

You will recollect that the last Board of Visitors recommended an appropriation for the purchase of additional instruments to complete the astronomical & Philosophical apparatus of the Mil Acady. I have been called upon for an Estimate of the costs of these instruments but as I am not able to procure the necessary information at this place I take the liberty to enclose herewith the List made out by the Board & to request that you will do me the favor to ascertain from some of your friends in the City the prices of each instrument & to return the list with the prices annexed as soon as convenient. I requested Mr. (Thomas) Leslie* to state to you for the information of Mr. (Ferdinand) Hassler* the Terms on which I would agree to take a part of his books & I hope those terms will be agreeable to him. I shall write to Mr. Hassler in a few days & return his Catalogue on which will be found marked those we desire to purchase including nearly all the old authors. Your faithful friend

S. THAYER

Genl. Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy
West Point 30th Dec 1824

Dear General,

Herewith enclosed is Mr. (Ferdinand) Hasslers* Catalogue. I desire to purchase all the works on Mathematics, Astronomy, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry & Minerology except those marked with a cross x of which copies are already in the Library. I would also be glad to make an exception of the german books but will nevertheless take them if Mr. Hassler insists upon it. If agreeable to Mr. Hassler the value of the books may be estimated by Two persons one to be named by him & the other by me I will pay him the sum of two hundred dollars on the reception of the books & the same sum annually until the whole shall be paid for or until I shall be able to procure an appropriation for the purpose. I desire you to inform Mr. Hassler that I am of opinion that the books marked as not wanted for the Library may be sold to the officers & Cadets of the Academy & if he chooses they may be deposited with the Quarter Master for sale. With great respect I remain faithfully yours S. THAYER

N.B. If the prices have been annexed to the List of Instruments which I forwarded to you some days ago I would thank you to return the List by Lieut (Julius) Catlin* who will hand you this

*See Index

FROM John Stuart Skinner*

Balt Post Office
2 Jany 25 (1825)

Dear Sir.

I shall not forget the pleasure with which I passed two days at West Point last summer; it would have been enhanced if I had found you there, by the opportunity which it would have afforded of cultivating your acquaintance - I embraced the chance presented by the visit to make myself better acquainted with the establishment which you conduct with so much benefit & satisfaction to the publick and my observations were committed to paper to bequile an idle hour at the Springs & published in my agricultural Journal, two numbers whereof are herewith sent - May I ask of you the favour to submit the one containing a communication on "boring for water" to your Professor of Natural Philosophy; with a request that he will do to my numerous Readers the favour to make upon it - & the practice & theory set forth in it, such remarks as he may deem suitable to a better understanding and appreciation of the subject - I find, in conversation, it has attracted much attention and does it not strike you, that the practicability of thus obtaining a constant flow of good water in any situation, if it exist, is highly important in a military view as well as to agriculturists, since it would remove an objection which arises to some otherwise eligible military Scites on account of the supposed impossibility of getting a supply of water?

I pray you Sir to excuse the freedom I have taken in thus commending to your notice a subject which seems worthy to engage the attention of men of science & publick Spirit and to believe me with respect your obed sert J. S. SKINNER

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy
West Point 26th Jany 1825

Dear General

About the last of Decemner I enclosed to you the Catalogue of Mr. Hasslers books with a letter stating the conditions on which I would be willing to purchase them for the Military Academy Library. I have not heard from him on the subject & hence suppose that he has not made up his mind. I also took the liberty of sending you a list of the apparatus which the last Board of Visitors recommended to be purchased for the Philosophical & Chemical Departments with a request that you would take the trouble to furnish me with an Estimate of the price of each article. I suppose it is a difficult matter to obtain the necessary information but I thought it probable it might be obtained be obtained from some of the Scientific Institutions in New York for which similar articles had been purchased. When convenient I would be glad to hear from you on these subjects. Very sincerely yours S. THAYER
Genl Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

TO James Hamilton, Jr.*

Mil Acady West Point
8 Feby 1825

Dear Sir,

I have rec^d your Bill for the gradual increase of the Corps of Eng^t. & cannot refrain from expressing the very great pleasure it gave me. I have been anxiously waiting to receive the Bill concerning The Mil Acady but did not get a sight of it untill to day. As you have been kind enough to invite me to communicate my views & opinions on all subjects connected with this Institution I will freely & frankly point out those provisions of the Bill which I would be glad to have changed. Should the reasons I shall assign prove to be satisfactory The Bill proposes to allow to the Teach^r of Drawing & to the principal Teacher of French captains pay with the rank of Major. I suppose this to be a mistake & that it was intended to allow them Majors pay with the rank of Capt. as recommended by the Visitors but why not allow them rank corresponding to their pay? The title cost nothing while it would be most gratifying to their feelings & would offer an additional inducement for men of talents to accept of these situations in the Acady. The Teachers are in no respect subordinate to the Professors. They are chiefs of respectable departments of instruction & it is not only natural that they should consider their own department as not inferior to those of the Professors but it is even desirable that they should so consider them & that they should so be considered by the students. It may be said perhaps that the demonination of Teacher denotes inferiority as compared with that of Prof. but it would be easy to obviate this objection by styling them Professors as is done at some of the European schools. Again it may be said that the Professors would be displeased to have The Teachers placed on a footing of equality with them. I believe this sentiment is not general. There may be one or two exceptions but as their pretensions would be unreasonable & contrary to the good of the service they ought not to be regarded. The Bill proposes to confer the rank of Lieut on the Asst Professors & Teachers without however specifying whether it shall be the rank of a first or second Lieut. The Asst Professors will of course be selected from the army & usually from the grade-of-Lieut^s. but is it not desirable that the field for selection should be left as wide as possible & that Captains should not be excluded with respect to the Teachers of French (or Asst Teachers they are named in the Bill) they must be appointed from Citizens. You are probably aware that those who Teach French in this Country are with very few exceptions mere pretenders who have taken up the (business) from necessity without any of the requisite qualifications. The few who are really qualified to teach are of course in great demand & well paid. We cannot therefore hope to obtain good teachers in the French Dept. without giving them liberal saleries & making their situation in the Acady every way respectable. The pay proposed is probably sufficient but I am clearly of opinion that if any military rank is conferred upon them it ought not be under that of a captain. It cannot be expected that these teachers will be young men & it ought to be recollected that the subordinate grade of a Lieut cannot be an object of desire or a title of respect with persons over a certain age. There is another provision of the Bill on which I will take leave to add a few remarks not however with the intention of discussing the subject but of throwing out some hints for your consideration. I allude to the proposed appointment of a Teacher & an Asst

Teacher of the Spanish Language. It really appears to me that previously to making so liberal an allowance of Teachers certain preliminary questions ought to be settled. 1st. Is it practicable to teach the Spanish language at the acady without excluding some portion of the present studies. 2^d. Is it expedient to exclude or lessen any of those studies in order to make room for the Spanish. I will venture to say that every member of the academic Staff & that every body of (science) appointed to investigate the subject will answer these questions in the negative. It is true that the Board of Visitors of which you were president were of opinion that the Spanish might be taught to the higher French Sections & it is not without great reluctance that I venture to express an opinion at variance with that entertained by so many persons distinguished for genius & literary attainments, but I think you will allow that that the Visitors owing to the short time they were able to devote to an examination of the subject did not hear & weigh the various reasons which might have been urged in opposition to their opinion. However this may be has not the importance of the Spanish language been some what over-rated I mean with respect to army officers for its great importance to the officers of our Navy & to the Commercial class of our citizens cannot be denied. Suppose that the Cadets were taught the Spanish; of what use would it be to them in their military capacity? The military books in Spanish are few & these of little or no value. Where & with whom would they have occasion to speak it? Is it not probable that of those who might learn the language 99 out of 100 would, in a few years entirely loose the faculty of speaking it from want of practice? & would not a sense of its () be likely to render all our endeavors to teach it to the Cadets of little avail? If the Bill had gone no further than the recommendation of the Visitors I would not have troubled you with a single remark on the subject. It is not impossible that some of the officers attached to the Acady & perhaps also those who enter the Institution with a competent knowledge of French (& who have usually not exceeded one or two in each class) might wish to study the Spanish. The number of these would probably not exceed ten at the same time & I cannot think that it would be expedient to provide a Teacher exclusively for their instruction. Nevertheless should the government wish to try the experiment of teaching the Spanish to a greater number of Cadets than I have supposed would be able to attend to it. I would recommend that provisions be made for one Teacher of Spanish with the pay & rank of a captain & should it hereafter appear that another Teacher may be advantageously employed in the Dept the necessary provision for him would doubtless be made by Congress.

My zeal for the interests of the Acady have led me to offer these remarks & I will now conclude by assuring you that whether you concur or not in the opinions I have expressed I shall cheerfully acquiesce in your decision. I remain very sincerely your friend & obedt servt S. THAYER
Hon. J. Hamilton Jr.

*See Index

FROM William Wirt*

Washington. April 6 1825

Dear Sir.

Judge Carr, of Virginia, my especial friend is on his way to New York and I have pressed him to run up to West Point, which he has never seen. Should he do so I have to beg of you the favor, which I am sure you will willingly accord, of shewing him all that is worthy to be seen at the Point, and thereby making the night he will spend there as agreeable as you conveniently can - He is especially fond of music and, there fore, I would fain hope that Maj. Willis Kent Bugle is in good order - I remain, Dear Sir, with great respect, Your obedt. Serv. WM WIRT
Maj. Thayer West Point

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 11th April 1825

Sir,

The following named Gentlemen have been invited to attend the examination of the Cadets at West Point to commence on the first Monday in June next. viz.

George Bancroft* Esq of Northampton Massachusetts

Edward Everett Esq - Boston

Hon. Nicholas Van Dyke*

New Castle, Delaware

" Martin Van Buren*,

Albany, New York

" Mahlon Dickerson*

Suckasunny (Succasunna), New Jersey

" John F Parrott*,

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Chester Dewey* Esq

Williamstown College, Masstts.

John S Skinner* Esq

Baltimore Maryland

" Hon John Forsythe*

Georgia

& a professor of the Virgn University

I am, Sir, very respectfully Your ob Servt

ALEXR. MACOMB

M G Ch Engrs

L Col Thayer Supt of the Mil Acady West Point.

*See Index

FROM Andrew J. Donelson*

Nashville April 19th 1825

Sir

I take the liberty of giving Mr Chappel* a letter to you, as I feel confident, if he reaches West Point, that, as a student and soldier, he will do honor to this section of our country. He has by his own labour, independent of fortune and the assistance of friends, prepared himself for admittance into the Military Academy, where he desires to be qualified for future and distinguished service. Tho poor, he leaves here many friends, who have witnessed an uncommon hardihood in the enterprises by which he has gained a very good English education, and who feel assured from the indications of his moral and virtuous life, that he promises much to his country. I recommend him to your care as one in whose welfare I feel a deep solicitude, and for whom I request your advice, and attention. Yours respectfully ANDR. J. DONELSON
Col Thayer Supert. of the M Academy

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 14th May 1825.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and in reply thereto have to state, that the word "Senior" before the word "Cadets", in Article 78. Paragraph 1317 was put in by mistake by the person Superintending the printing of the Army regulations - It was not in the original furnished from this Department. You will therefore strike it out of the Copy which you have or may receive, and consider the word as of no effect. The operation of the Paragraph will be as heretofore, a matter of selection from those best qualified to perform the duties of Assistant Professors or Teachers. I have the honor to be very respectfully, Sir Your Ob Servt ALEXR. MACOMB M Genl

Ch Engrs

To Lt Col S. Thayer Supt of the Mil Academy Westpoint New York

*See Index

FROM George Bancroft*

Northampton July 2, 1825

Lieut. Col. Thayer

Dear Sir,

This letter will be delivered you by Mr. W. H. Eliot of Boston, who with Mrs. Eliot has felt so much interest in West Point, that he desires to see it in person. May I ask of you, to assist them in becoming acquainted with your institution? And may I hope, that you will be the more ready to welcome them, for their honoring me with their particular friendship?

You know too well the sense I have of your influence and action at West Point to make it necessary for me to add one word either on the pleasure & valuable instruction I derived from my visit, or of my sincere respect for yourself. With great regard I have the honor to be Yours truly

GEORGE BANCROFT

Will you do me the favor to make my kind regards to any of your number who are willing to remember me. I remember them all, and shall count a place in their esteem as a valuable honor.

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 12th July 1825

Sir.

Your letter of the 2d instant did not get to hand until yesterday. Its contents have been laid before the Secy. of War (James Barbour) and the manner in which you propose to employ during the ensuing year

Lieutenants Saml S. Smith* & (James) Green*----
" (Dennis H.) Mahan* & (Alexander B.) Bache*--
" (Robert P.) Parrott* & (Peter) McMartin*
" (Alexander H.) Bowman*-----
" (Aeneas) Mackay*
" (Horace) Webster*, (Edward C.) Ross*,
Parrott, Bowman, & (Raphael C.) Smead*

also the Eight cadets to be detailed & act as assistant Professors & teachers, is approved -- Orders have been this day given for Lts. Bache McMartin, Bowman & (Harvey) Brown* of the Engineers to report themselves to you for orders & the Adjutant General has been directed to order Smead & Mackay to report in like manner. I am, Sir, very respectfully yours _____

ALEXR. MACOMB M Genl
Inspector of the M.A.

*See Index

FROM Charles Davies*

West Point July 26th 1825

Dear Sir

Major Worth* has recently received a letter from Major James Rees, of Geneva, stating that Lt. Webster* is a prominent candidate for the Professorship in the new college, and also saying, that the favorable expression of your opinion, would be highly satisfactory to the Trustees - Knowing how much you have been engaged since the close of the examination, I have feared that the subject may have escaped you, and feeling, from the continued kindness which you have manifested towards those connected with this institution, that you would not willingly let pass an opportunity of doing Mr. Webster an essential favor, I have taken the liberty to remind you, that the appointment will be made soon, and that your recommendation will be highly serviceable - We expect the pleasure of seeing you soon, yet it is not known but you will visit Washg before your return - I am Sir with much regard your obt. Servant CHAS. DAVIES
To Lt. Col. Thayer

*See Index

FROM Duke of Saxe-Weimar¹

New York, 25 September 1825

My dear Colonel,

Captain Rijk, Commanding the Dutch corvette, Pallas, on which I crossed the Atlantic, plans to visit you at West Point, and kindly offered to take this letter to you. In introducing this distinguished officer to you, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the friendly welcome you extended me at West Point. I shall always recall the pleasant moments in your company; they will never leave my memory.

I am sending you herewith the report on the experiment conducted at Woolwich, against the walls proposed by Carnot; they had been constructed in Prussia before prior assessment of their value. The results of this experiment are very interesting.

Please remember me to Mr Carnot and Major Worth.
Cordially, BERNARD, Duke of Saxe-Weimar
Mr Crompton asks me to convey his compliments to you.

¹ Original in French

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington September 27th 1825.

Sir,

I have received your communication of the 22d instant representing the necessity of retaining Lt. (Dennis H.) Mahan* at the Military Academy, under the circumstances of Lt. Webster's resignation, till the annual examination in June next, which you are authorized to do. An order will be issued accepting the resignation of Lt. (Horace) Webster* and granting him a furlough till 31 of Dec. next. I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt. ALEXR. MACOMB M. Genl
Insp of Mil Acady
Lt. Col S. Thayer Supt. Mil Acdy West Point New York

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington October 3d. 1825

(Copy)

Sir,

The Annual report, Memoir of drawings and the Annual Estimate directed in paragraph 89, of Article 67th, of the Army regulations to be furnished by Superintending Engineers and which in paragraph 1333 of Article 78th, are required to be furnished from the Military Academy may require some modification to adapt them to the purpose of fulfilling, in relation to that Institution, the object they were intended to fulfil in relation to fortifications under construction - If any modification should be necessary your intimate knowledge of the Character of the Military Academy would afford better means than are possessed in this Dept, of judging what they should be and it is therefore desired, that you will determine on them, observing the tabular forms as far as practicable, and let the reports etc of the Military Academy this year conform to them. It would be desirable that the reports etc should afford a full view of every thing connected with the Military Academy but if to prepare them in that manner would prevent their being furnished within the time prescribed it must yield to the paramount importance of the latter consideration. The application of funds derived immediately from this Department should however in any event be contained in the Report. I have the honor to be Sir very respectfully your
Obt Servant (Signed) ALEXANDER MACOMB Maj Gen Inspector
of the Military Academy
Lt. Col S Thayer Supt. Military Academy West Point

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington November 21st, 1825

Sir,

The Academic Board of Visitors, in their report of June last, with a view to prevent future collisions with persons who have erected and occupy houses on the public land at West Point, between whom and the United States, it appears, a verbal understanding exists that they and their buildings are liable to be removed at the pleasure of the Superintendent of the Military Academy, recommend that the Superintendent be instructed to take, as well from the present as from all future occupants, a written recognition of the unlimited power of the United States, acting by the Superintendent of the Academy for the time, to remove or in any way dispose of any house, tenement, or other fixture, or improvement which they may have heretofore erected or may hereafter erect on the public grounds, and an acknowledgement of their liability and willingness in person, family, and effects, to be ejected from the premises at the pleasure of the Superintendent;- as set forth in the enclosed extract from the report of the Board.

This measure appears to be expedient, and should be carried into effect; but before doing so the Department would like to avail itself of your local knowledge and experience in preparing a form of an instrument embracing the object in question, which you will furnish as soon as convenient. As the form of the instrument may be of considerable importance, you may, should you deem it advisable, employ legal aid in drawing it up. I am very respectfully, Sir, Your Obt. Servt.

ALEXR MACOMB M Genl Ch Engrs
Lt. Col. S. Thayer Supt. Mil. Acady, West Point, N. Y.

*See Index

Sir,

The late Board of Visitors in their Report to the Secy of War on the proficiency of the Cadets in the French Language have thought proper to recommend that provision be made for the further instruction in Latin of those Cadets who come to the Academy with some knowledge of that language or for the instruction of the higher French Sections in the Spanish language & to shew the expediency of the provision recommended they proceed to state that a portion of the Cadets owing to their previous acquaintance with the Latin or French ~~or both~~ or to their greater natural aptitude are able to complete the prescribed course of French in less time than is appropriated to it by the Regulations & hence infer that they might advantageously devote a portion of their time to the acquisition of the Spanish language. The premises laid down are acknowledged to be correct but not the inference drawn from them. The time allotted to French in this Institution including study and recitations is Three hours per day during the first year & one & a half hours during the second year. Suppose now the most favorable case; say that a Fourth of each class are able to accomplish the French course by the middle of the second year & that ~~they~~ ~~devote~~ the remainder of the year, that is to say one & a half hours each day for Four months including recitations, is devoted to the Spanish Language. Can it be supposed that in this short period they would acquire such a knowledge of the Language as would be of the least practical benefit to them, For instance that they would be able to speak it, or to write it or even to translate it with facility or that they would ~~only~~ acquire more than the first rudiments which would probably be forgotten even before they left the Institution. But admitting that the time thus bestowed ~~on~~ ~~the Spanish Language~~ would not be entirely lost it is contended that the same time may be & actually is more advantageously devoted to other branches. It should here be borne in mind that the students of whom we are speaking ~~that is to say those~~ ^{who} ~~are supposed to~~ ^{are} accomplish the French course in the shortest time are precisely those ~~who~~ ^{are} ~~start~~ the least likely to throw away their time. Such students never fail to improve all the time they can spare from their French lessons in acquiring a higher degree of skill in Drawing or in completing a more extensive course of Mathematics & thus gain a higher standing in their class which is the grand object of ^{their} ~~any~~ ambitions Cadet. Nine years of constant & attentive observation will, I hope, justify me in declaring with confidence that the Board of Visitors, in speaking of the description of Cadets above alluded to, were not correct in saying that "the facility with which they acquit themselves in French has been found occasionally to lead to habits of inattention first in ~~study~~ ^{that} & afterwards in others" & I am confident also that every Professor & Teacher of long experience in the academy will ~~confirm~~ ^{confirm} ~~my~~ ^{my} opinion in this particular. The foregoing remarks, if I am not deceived, show continuously that the Spanish language cannot be taught at this Institution (except perhaps to some two or three in each class, who enter with ^{the requisite} ~~a perfect~~ knowledge of French) without a material change in the present course by ~~leaving out~~ ^{leaving out} some one ~~or more of its branches~~. But the question may be asked ~~as a~~ ^{as a} subject for speculation why the Authorities who established the present System did not see fit to provide for the instruction of the Spanish language & for teaching the Cadets to speak French. It might also be asked & it has indeed been frequently asked by members of former Boards & by various other gentlemen of distinction who have visited the Academy why Latin, Greek, Metaphysics &

various other branches of Literature of unquestionable importance are not taught in this Institution. In order to answer these questions it would be necessary to discuss some fundamental principles. Nothing would be more easy or would perhaps more tend to increase the temporary popularity of the Institution than to include in its course of studies the whole circle of human knowledge as has been done at another Institution bearing the same name & also at many other Colleges of our Country where the Students learn little more than the Technical Terms of the sciences. It cannot however be denied that it is by pursuing an opposite system that the Military Academy principally owes any preeminence it enjoys over other American Seminaries the studies being few. The students are allowed sufficient time to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the principles & practical application of each. This is the real secret of that proficiency which has elicited the admiration and applause of all who have witnessed our Examinations. It will therefore, I hope, not be thought surprising that I have contended & while I have the honor to preside over this Institution that I shall continue to contend against the introduction of any new study until room shall be made for it whether by increasing the requisites for admission or by gradual improvements in the methods of instruction. If the preceding remarks are just we may lay down the following fundamental principle viz The studies of the Military Academy in number & amount including the necessary practical applications ought to be so calculated that they may all be thoroughly taught & that the instruction in each may be carried as far as is requisite for military purposes. It appears to me that those who are dissatisfied with the existing course of studies have not well reflected upon the nature & object of this Institution, that they have not considered that this is a special school designed solely ^{in selecting the studies most proper for such a school, would be} for the purposes of a military education. That consequently not ^{guided by the following rules, in} only all studies are intimately connected with the Military Art ^{profession should be excluded but at that many others} more or less usefull to the military officer should not be introduced to the exclusion of these ^{those} others which are more important & essential. This second fundamental principle is not less important than the first & should be constantly kept in view. But to return to the original question. In order to illustrate the utility of the Spanish language The Board of Visitors make the following remark "The circumstance that the southern frontier of our Country from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean is bordered by a population speaking the Spanish & that some of our most important ^{public} relations are likely to exist with other countries & governments where that language prevails unite with the considerations of expediency already mentioned in recommending the course which has been hinted at" The great importance of the Spanish language to the mercantile Class of our citizens & to the officers of our Navy is readily conceded. It is accordingly desirable that it should be taught in the schools of our cities, perhaps in our Colleges & will necessarily be one of the studies adopted for our Naval school whenever such a school shall be established. But I can by no means concur in opinion with those who regard the Spanish as of any considerable importance to the officers of our Army. In the first place of all ^{the European} languages it is the most barren in books on military science I am not acquainted with but ^{Spanish} one ^{of any} military work of any Celebrity. This is the Treatise of Genl. Morla on Artillery & has been well translated into French. Even the Spaniards themselves if I have not been misinformed make use of no other than French text books in their military schools. It is evident therefore that our Cadets would reap no advantage whatever from learning merely to read & translate Spanish. What advantage would they be likely to derive from being able to speak

& converse in it? Altho' "our southern frontier from the Atlantic to the Pacific is bordered by a population speaking Spanish" yet it should be remembered that the Spanish & American population is seperated by an immense zone & that this zone is a wilderness inhabited only by the natives of the Forrest. Suppose then that the Cadets of this Academy were taught the Spanish how many of them would probably have occasion, in the course of their lives, to speak it while acting in their military capacity & of these how few would not entirely forget it before that occasion arrives All who have learned any of the modern languages know how difficult it is to preserve the faculty of speaking a language without constant practice & in this particular case of which we are treating this difficulty would be so much the greater as our officers after leaving the academy would have no

FROM Horace Webster*

Geneva, College, 8th Jan. 1826

Dear Sir;

The bearer of this, Mr. Thaddeus Spencer, whom I desire to introduce to your acquaintance & notice, is about to make application for the situation of Steward at the Point. As he has been well recommended to me, as a gentleman of integrity & worth, & as well calculated to discharge the responsible duties of the place he seeks, I hope you may find it for the interests of the Academy to give his application a favorable consideration.

Mr Spencer's attention has been called to this subject at this time in consequence of having understood that Mr. Cozzens purposes leaving early in the spring.

Please to accept for yourself the kindest recollections of my esteem & friendship. I am, Dear Sir, Very Respectfully
Yours etc HORACE WEBSTER
Col. S. Thayer Supt. Military Academy West Point.

*See Index

FROM David B. Douglass*

Copy of a letter addressed the to the Superintendent of the Mil. Academy at West Point dated "Jan 12th 1826"

Lieut Col Thayer

Dear Sir

Having, as you are aware, long indulged the belief that a mission to the principal countries of Europe, particularly England France and Holland for the purpose of examining the Civil and Military Public works of those countries, and collecting information relative to the art of constructions &c, would be attended with many advantages to the Military Academy and to the service generally; I have now the honor, through you, of soliciting the attention of the government to that object; and subjoin for their consideration some of the advantages referred to, viz

The first and leading object of such a mission would be the improvement of the course of civil and military Engineering in the Military Academy. _____ x _____ x _____ x

_____ 1 The policy of sending Professors abroad for the purpose of improving themselves by intercourse with foreign Institutions, is sanctioned by the custom of our most approved and best organized seminaries:- but it is believed that there are many reasons for adopting it in the present instance which do not ordinarily exist. The Science of Engineering, in its most improved state has scarcely yet appeared in the form of written elements; It is almost wholly the result of recent practice and experiments in England and on the continent of Europe, of which no details are published in the former country and very few on the continent. - In our own country although we possess some works of the highest order in point of importance, as well as for the moral and physical effort by which they have been achieved; we can boast very few if any that could be adopted as models for the professional student; and if to this deficiency of domestic examples, and of practical memoirs, both foreign and domestic, we add the consideration, that Engineering depends particularly upon experimental knowledge, we shall at once perceive that there exists no other way of pursuing the subject thoroughly and with effect, but by the actual inspection and study of the works of Foreign Countries.

----- It would therefore be a special object of the proposed mission to examine with care, all the most important Fortresses, Canals Railways Roads, Bridges, Tunnels, Docks, Harbours and Light Houses; and as it is known that several important works of the various kinds mentioned are now in progress; these in particular should be taken advantage of as a means of cultivating the executive part of the profession.

It would also be an object to improve the manner as well as the matter of the course. ----- The Department of Engineering in the Military Academy is peculiarly situated in respect that there exists no similar department in any other Institution in the country. The Instructor is therefore deprived of those advantages of professional intercourse and comparison which other professions afford, and it cannot be doubted that the instruction suffers thereby. This evil would be remedied by the opportunity of studying Foreign Institutions of a similar character, from which without doubt many useful hints would be drawn for the improvement of the instruction as well as the economy of the Department in general.

Another object, closely allied to the preceeding would be the collection of the most important models for illustrating the subject of Engineering, and as a nucleus for a general cabinet of models for this Department.----These would comprise for example, models of the different systems and parts of Fortification, with the attack and defence, models of Architecture, Carpentry, Bridges; centering of Bridges, Canal construction Docks, and machinery of various kinds used in construction; all which it would be very easy for an interested person to procure in London and Paris, and difficult otherwise. --- ----- Another important object would be the formation of a cabinet of building materials, and as far as practicable, to illustrate by the selection of the specimens, object, of classical and professional interest. These would comprise building stone of every possible variety used in the principal cities and in public works.--marbles and other ornamental stones.--- materials of masonry generally, and timber of all sorts.---

The preceeding objects relate chiefly to the Engineering Department of the Academy but it is believed that in many respects the voyage could be made extremely useful to other departments and to the Institution at large. --- In the inspection of Foreign Institutions for example the observations would have in view the general welfare of the whole no less than the particular improvement of a part. - And again, in the selection and purchase of Books Maps Instruments and Apparatus for the Departments generally and of casts and models for that of drawing in particular, a very important and necessary duty will be performed which could not be performed satisfactorily by any other than a member of the Institution.

Passing now from the military Academy, I may be permitted a few remarks on the importance of such voyages as that now proposed, to the service of Civil Engineering generally. From its relation to Internal Improvements, this service it is believed will always recommend itself to the liberal patronage of the government; but at no time can the cultivation of professional skill be an object of greater moment are more loudly call for the exercise of that patronage than at present. -- The system of Internal Improvement, and the service in question are alike in their infancy; public opinion however has decided in favor of the former and the time is not far distant when that decision must be extensively acted upon----Even now several projects, involving circumstances of unusual difficulty compared with any thing yet undertaken, and requiring the aid of the most matured and disciplined judgment are before the public;-----under these circumstances it is respectfully submitted, whither, at this moment the cultivation of professional knowledge is not an object of high national concern, equally called for by considerations of the strictest economy, as by those of general policy.

The relations of our country with Foreign Powers, and the state of profound peace in Europe, conspire to render the present, a peculiarly favourable moment for this enterprise; and I may add, that having long entertained it, I have received various and very flattering offers of aid from distinguished individuals of the countries mentioned. The Duke of Saxe Weimar in particular with his characteristic liberality has taken an interest in it which alone would

furnish a sufficient motive for crossing the Atlantic.

In thus presenting my views on this subject, I am not unaware that my absence from the Mil. Academy, will be attended with some inconvenience to my department; but I am under the impression that by a judicious arrangement of the assistants, this inconvenience will not prove a very serious one; and being temporary will be very far outweighed by the prospect of permanent advantage to the Academy and to the service. I am very sincerely Your friend & obt sevt

D. B. DOUGLASS Professor of Engineers
U. S. Mil. Acady

*See Index

1. Omissions are indicated in file copy by these symbols.

TO Jacob Brown*

Military Academy
West Point 31st. Jany 1826

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th instant covering a Requisition for Books & Instruments for the use of the Artillery School of Practice with directions from the Secy of War that they be included in the next list of articles to be imported for the use of the Mil. Acady. It is probable that all the articles mentioned in the Requisition except Ramsdens Theodolite & perhaps the Sextant & Micrometer may, agreeably to your suggestion, be purchased in the United States. Very respectfully I am your most obed Servt S. THAYER

Lt Col Superd Mil Acady

Major General Jacob Brown Commander in Chief U.S. Army

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington January 31, 1826

Sir,

Within the present month several officers of the Military Academy have presented themselves, under leave of absence from that Institution, at the War Department, viz, Major Worth*, Professor Douglass*, and Chaplain McIlvaine*.

Captain Douglass and Mr McIlvaine have stated the objects of their visits as being connected with the interests of the Military Academy, besides as it regards the former, to make application for permission to go to Europe for the purposes of gaining additional professional knowledge. The appearance of Officers at the Seat of Government, during the Session of Congress, unless expressly required, has always been regarded in an unfavorable light, and disapproved by the Secretary of War: and he has in consequence directed that, whenever it may in your opinion be necessary for Officers under your command to proceed to the War Department for the purpose of making explanations of any particular views, which can be better given verbally than in writing, the permission of the Secretary of War must be first obtained, thro this Department, and also leave of absence, except during the period of Encampment, must in like manner be obtained, for any period longer than that permitted by the General Regulations. I have the honor to be very respectfully,
Sir Your Ob Servt. ALEXR. MACOMB M Genl

Inspector of the Mily Acdy

L. Col S Thayer Supt of the Mil Academy West Point

*See Index

FROM Agent of the "Grecian Ladies"*

New York. March. 1. 1826

Respected Sir

The agent of the "Grecian Ladies", is ordered by them to present their heartfelt gratitude, for your kindness in allowing them to transplant, from Brooklyn to West Point, the Cross erected to the cause of unhappy Greece, yes Sir, posterity shall know. that in the darkest hour of her struggle. Colonel Thayer gave protection to this frail emblem, of Religion, and Liberty.

The Cross will be shipped in a few days. and if a prominent situation could be made ready. no time will be lost in Erecting it.

(Note on cover of letter) Sir, The agent of the Saratoga has kindly volunteered to convey the Cross. its now shipped by that vessel.

*See Index

FROM the agent for the "Grecian Ladies"*

(New York) (March 7th 1826)

The enclosed is sent to Colonel Thayer to explain why the name of "Jarvis" is painted on the Cross.

If the Cross is planted in a suitable place and if, agreeable, to the Commander at West Point its the intention of the 'G.L.' to send a beautiful Lamp & Oil, to feed it for the Top of the Cross, - for a 'point of light;' to the numerous vessels which navigate the N. River,

all, which, is submitted with great Respect etc
March 8th

*See Index

FROM Winfield Scott* to Jacob Brown*

Washington March 30th 1826

Sir

As the incentive and reward of excellence the President; by and with the advice & consent of the Senate, is authorized to confer Brevet Rank on such officers of the Army as may distinguish themselves by, gallant actions or meritorious conduct.

With a view to this distinction I beg leave to bring under your notice the names of four officers who, it is believed, have entitled themselves, in a prominent degree to the notice of the Executive. To begin with them in the order of their rank.

1. Lieutenant Colonel (William) Eustis*. As the head of the Artillery School of Practice, not to speak of his previous Regimental duties, this officer has rendered the most important services to the Army and to the Country. The Institution has been organized and put into effective operation by him. Already more than a Regiment has passed through the school, and new troops are about to replace the old, to be thoroughly established in the elementary and practical duties of first rate Artillerists.

The Institution has now for more than two years been an object of curiosity and admiration, to thousands of our citizens, including many distinguished Officers all of whom bear testimony to the zeal and ability of Lieut. Colonel Eustis. The number of the Troops and the importance of the station, equally call for an officer who has the rank of a full Colonel; whilst it will be universally admitted that the present commander is better qualified for the station than any Colonel in the service.

As a further argument for raising the rank of this officer to the level of his station, and nearer to that of his merits, it may be added, that he has had very hard fortune in obtaining rank. He was appointed Captain in 1808: promoted to a Major in 1810: Brevetted for War Services, a Lieut. Colonel in 1813, and promoted to a Lieut. Colonelcy in 1822, in his Regiment. He has thus been thirteen years as a Lieut. Colonel and according to the present rate of promotion in the ordinary way, must remain in the same rank some 5 or 7 years longer. It is therefore respectfully suggested that his great services and merits, not less than his present responsible station give him the strongest claims to the rank of a full Colonel by brevet.

2d. Lieut. Colonel (Joseph G.) Totten*, was, for gallant conduct in the late War, successively made Major and Lieut. Colonel in both instances by brevet. He continued a Captain in his own Corps (Engineer) till 1818, when he was promoted to a Majority therein, vice McRee, who resigned. He has now been nearly 12 years a Lieut. Colonel by brevet and if left to ordinary promotion, cannot attain the rank of Colonel in all probability in twelve or fifteen years more. But this hardship is rendered the more striking when contrasted with the great merits and services of this officer. Since the resignation of Col. McRee in 1818, Lieut. Col. Totten has been the soul of the Board of Fortifications, and more recently, of the Board of Internal Improvements. This will be acknowledged by every intelligent officer in service, although that distinction has been injuriously accorded by the public to another individual of the Board. To him are the U. States mainly indebted for the general system of defence by fortifications, and also for the plans of

the works executed, in progress and in contemplation. For his great services in this way it is believed he has laid the most solid foundation to the gratitude of the present age and of posterity. The rank of full Colonel by Brevet, I humbly hope will not be longer withheld from him.

3. Lieutenant-Colonel Thayer, The Superintendent of the Military Academy, has, in that station given the highest development & effect to that admirable Institution. For more than eight years, he has devoted his great attainments and the most unwearied zeal and application to its duties. It is believed that he has at length given to the School, an excellence equal to the most celebrated in the world. All the young officers of the Army (now more than one Hundred & fifty) who have graduated in his time; all the persons who have been appointed to assist in the annual examinations, besides hundreds of the most distinguished persons natives & foreigners, who have, at different times, visited West Point, bear the highest testimony to the pre-eminent merits and services of Lieut. Colonel Thayer. The annual Boards of visitors, have frequently reported in favour of raising the rank of the Superintendent to that of full Colonel, - not only as an additional qualification (the only one which he wants) for his high station, but as a further reward for the distinguished services he has rendered in that Station. This act of justice and expediency, the Executive have the power to confer in the form of a full colonelcy by brevet.

4. Major (William J.) Worth*, also of the Military Academy the Professor of Tactics and the immediate commander of the Battalion of Cadets, is entitled to the highest praise for his distinguished devotion to the duties of his station. In the near relation, in which, for some seven years he has stood, to the whole body of Cadets, he has had a direct opportunity by precepts and example of imparting his own character of high chivalry and honour to those confided to his care. To this source may be attributed the fact that the graduates of the academy are as much for the moral excellence of good citizens as for their attainments of science and letters. The annual Boards of visitors have frequently noticed the distinguished services of Major Worth and have also recommended that additional rank be conferred on the Professor of tactics. It seems but an act of justice that he who has, by his abilities and good conduct, raised his office above his actual rank should have the latter brought to the same level. This may in part be done by conferring on Major W. the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by brevet.

If hardship in past promotions, can in any case give additional claims to the pretensions of an officer this is a case in which it applies with peculiar force. Lieutenant Worth served as my Aide de Camp in the campaign of 1814 - For his brilliant services in the battles of Chippewa & Niagara, not to speak of his wounds he was brevetted successively Captain and Major. But for the accident by which he did not receive the rank of Captain in his Regiment, till after the two Battles he would have been brevetted a Major for the first, and a Lieut. Colonel for the second action. Thus to that accident he owes the misfortune to this day of not being a Lieut Colonel of more than eleven years standing! Upon every ground then, it appears that he has the strongest claims to the rank solicited.

It may be asked, if brevets be granted to the above officers, why not to others? - I reply -- because others have not had the good fortune to be thrown into special situations, favourable to the development of special merits, over and above the general

excellence by which they are surrounded. Eustis, Totten, Thayer & Worth, have had that good fortune, and also possessing great merits have distinguished themselves in a peculiar manner. Each can easily be separated from the general excellence by which he is surrounded; after much reflection, I cannot add a fifth name to the list. In time of peace it falls to the lot of but few officers to be thrown into situations favourable to the development of extraordinary merit. It is only the few then, that can be specially rewarded. I have the honor to be Sir With great respect Yr. Mo. Obt. Servt. WINFIELD SCOTT
To Maj. Genl. Iac. Brown General-in Chief US Army

*See Index

FROM Benjamin Jarvis*

Altona near Hamburgh
April 20th 1826

Sir

In most due thanks to General Swift's* goodness - I yesterday had the pleasure to receive two Letters from New York - dated Feb. 10th & March 4th last, both, highly flattering to me, - because, doing so much honor, to my dear Son George*, in whose favor, I had solicited the General, for the "Golden Token" if not better bestowed: --

I am really happy to acknowledge Sir, that it is better-bestowed; the Pen having won it, instead of the Sword: - and the patriot "Grecian Ladies," who knew well, how to change, a disappointment to Joy, - have substituted a better thing for him, - by permitting his name, to be engraven, on the Grecian Cross, next those great Ones, of Washington, Lafayette & Bolivar. Allow me Sir, through your honored medium, to convey my most humble, grateful thanks, to the Grecian Ladies, - for this high honor done my son, - which I know, he himself, will rank among the greatest - that can happen in his Life. - The Sympathy which is so pre-eminent in their superior Sex - will I dare say, move the Ladies, on the fate of Missolonghi, - & I am persuaded too, - they well feel for the hard Career of War, - of the Young Soldier - they have so deigned to notice. - The enclosed Letter of mine, of this date to Washington - contains a copy of One from the said Youth - dated at Syra, in the Archipelago, March 7th last; - which, I have left purposely open Sir, that it may become known to the Ladies & your goodself, if you shall deem its contents of sufficient Interest. - more than a Year had elapsed, - without my having received a Single Letter of this affectionate Son - (owing to the Cut off Communications) But to whom I have written since 17th december last - four Letters - two via Marseilles & two over England via Malta & Zante.

I am happy Sir, to inform you, that the Ladies of Paris track in the Path, of those of New York in Demonstrations for unhappy Greece; - they have been gone, (Ladies of the first Rank have,) from Street to Street, & house to house, & made Collections, of large amount, - that have been transmitted, for that suffering people; and I have no doubt - But good old England, through Mr. Canning's able measures, - is working hard, in the complicated machinery of European Politics, to bring Greece well out; And rewarded may she be, in proportion to her good Works. - I shall, by first opportunity, communicate the two Letters to my Son - who will certainly feel himself highly honored - in being permitted to write you himself - when anything worth while, shall occur in Greece - with considerations of the greatest Respect - I remain - Sir! Your most hble & obt. Servt. BENJAMIN JARVIS
Colo. Thayer West Point New York

P.S. Please seal & forward the enclosed to Washington - as soon as convenient. --

April 22nd - We have at this date, - thank God, received the news that Missolonghi, up to the 25th ultimo, had not yet surrendered; though, in France, England & here, given up for lost - The fall of Basiladio a post near it, - is supposed, to have given Rise to the premature News; - and I hope, those worn out - day & night=watching=Heroes will, have soon, been relieved, by a general Cessation of Arms; - and at a future

day, by the ample Rewards of a grateful Country. To the Agent of the "Grecian Ladies," who wrote the two Letters, to which, This gives answer, - I pray my cordial thanks for his goodness, - though the two Acts of it - are unsigned with his name Ut Supra B. JARVIS

*See Index

FROM S. V. R. Ryan*

Paris April 26th 1826

Sir

I left Paris the 15th of March for the purpose of making a tour in the Western Departments and to visit the civil and military works in the different cities of that part of the kingdom, I finished my tour on the 21st of this month by returning to Paris. during my absence I visited Roun from there crossed on the Paris & Cherbourg road by which route I had a fine chance of examining a road of the second class at Caen. I examined the Castle of William the Conqueror between Caen & Charenton. I passed over the celebrated field of Formigny at which place British power in Normandy received its death blow, the battle ground is passed by a small river and the ground on both sides rises very slowly forming a delightful and similar landscape, neither side presenting any advantage of position in a military point of view, this ground which was once the scene of so much bloodshed and carnage is now divided into small fields surrounded with high hedges and ditches (this is custom in the whole of the Western Normandy) and the hedges planted with large trees, the fields were covered with different kinds of wheat, the ground is very rich, from here to Charenton a small town surrounded by bastions but that is about all that can be said for its fortifications. At Cherbourg I saw the artificial basin which was constructed by Buoneparte they are also constructing another basin at this place and there are several hundred men employed in the work. The harbour of Cherbourg is defended by two fine forts on two isleands and a fort on the Continent besides several smaller fortifications which are distributed along the heights which surround the plain on which the city is situated, from here I went to Granville which is also fortified, from here to St. Malo a handsome and strongly fortified city of 20,000 inhabitants. Frome here to Dinan a city surrounded by antient fortifications and containing an antient castle all of which and in a perfect state of preservation this was the place which the great Du Guesclin so bravely defended against the attacks of the English under Lancaster, from here to Lamballe which has antient fortifications in about the same state of preservation as those at Dinan. from this place to Brest I passed through through several places containing remains of fortifications and at Morlaix I had a chance of seeing a fine port. Its fortifications (which are modern) I did not see as they are situated on a small isle 7 miles from the city at the mouth of the harbour; I had always been under the impression that Brest was a strong place but I had never thought of a place so strong as this in every point of view nature and art have here combined their efforts and have rendered Brest what may with propriety be called impregnable, situated on an extensive bay whose entrance is narrow and dangerous, surrounded with barren mountains which are almost litterally covered with strong fortifications which receive reciprocal support from each other and which cross their fires in every direction, the shores of the bay, which are naturally dangerous on account of the many hidden rocks which protect their approach are rendered still more so by the great number of masked batteries which line its whole extent, the small port which is in the city and where the ships can ly in case of a siege by a supuriour naval force is absolutely safe being flanked by two high hills on which the

city stands it is also large enough, as there were in the port at the time that I was there more than Forty ships, the docks of this port are built of cut granite and are surrounded with immense warehouses which are built of the same kind of material the gally slaves are continually employed in some kind of work all having for its end to render the place still stronger I counted on the docks nearly five thousand pieces of cannon none less than 18 and more than half 36 besides these there is a large arsenal nearly full also there are but few which are mounted on the walls at present from here to L'Orient, whose fortifications bear the marks of having been made by a Company of Merchants, the port is poor though immense sums of money have been expended on it to render it more commodious from here to Nantes I passed through several towns containing antient fortifications but those at Vannes are the most perfect it was at this place that the Emigrants who were taken at Quiberon were executed, Nantes is a beautiful city but it does not appear to have much trade, it has a fine antient castle surrounded by deep and wide ditches which were formerly filled with the waters of the Loire but at present they are dry and cultivated like most of the antient ditches of this part of the country. being converted into gardens for the use of Commodant of the city, from here I passed through Angers a dirty city with narrow streets its antient works have nearly disappeared. La Bernard is well preserved. at Nogent a fortified castle which was formerly the property of the great Sully I was told that it had stood for nine centuries it is now sold and is to be destroyed. my health is something better than it was when I commenced my tour, the distance which I passed over is more than 890 miles English in which extent of country I have observed a great variety of manners and customs etc. I will now give you all the information that I can as it regards the bust and Engravings. I requested Mr. Killian* to send you the busts and the folio of the Gladiator, having first ascertained the prices of the different articles their being rather delicate to carry is the reason why I took this course and also as you told me to do in this manner, the prices of the Engravings are as follows for the first impressions, "The last Supper" 1000 to 1200 francs, "the Transfiguration 500 francs, "Battle of Austerlitz 800 francs", the Battle of Alexandria I can not find in Paris each of these engravings can be had much lower for impressions with the lettre for instance I can get the battle of Austerlitz for 160 francs, the last supper for 200 to 250 francs, and the transfiguration for 80 francs, the prices being so high I thought that I ought to let you know the same before I purchased them I am about commencing a tour for Switzerland and Italy and having learnt that the prices for the same engravings are much less at Florence (which is reasonable to suppose as they are the works of a Florentine artist) I have taken the liberty of drawing 400 francs of the money of the Academy for the purpose of purchasing the Battle of Austerlitz as I suppose that that will be the one that you will prefer to the others. I hope to be able to get a first impression for about 250 or 300 francs in that city if you shall not be pleased to take the Engraving at the price for which I shall obtain it I will keep it and refund the money to you as the Engraving is not very plentiful, I thought the prices of the busts and figures were very moderate indeed

and therefore I shall have them sent, as to the surveying instruments Mr Warden took upon himself to ascertain the prices for them as he is acquainted with the head of the Engineering Department at this Place I saw Mr Warden Monday and spoke to him about them but he told me that he had not received the required information as yet but that he would write you a letter on the subject as soon as he might, if you write to me please to direct your letter to the care of Mr. Barnet, and he will forward your letter, I expect to leave Paris tomorrow morning for Orleans and from there to Bourges where I am meet my traveling companion Lt. Goldsborough of the U. S. Navy please to make my respects to those who may have the interest to inquire about me and tell them that my health is better though that fever gave it a shock that I am afraid that I shall feel sometime longer Very respectfully Your obedient servant

S. V. R. RYAN

To Col. S. Thayer Superdt U. S. Academy

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 26 April 1826

Sir.

As the Cadets have not marched since 1821 it is the opinion of the Secy. of War (James Barbour) that they ought to make an excursion this summer and that some rule should be adopted as to the periods of marching so as to give to each cadet an opportunity of performing one or two marches at least during the course. It is therefore desirable that you take the subject into your consideration and recommend the years & routes most proper & convenient and particularly the route for the present year. I have the honor to be Sir Your Mo.
Obt. Svt. ALEXR MACOMB Maj Genl Inspector of the Mil. Acy
To Lt. Col: Thayer Superintendent of the Mily Acy

*See Index

TO George Ticknor*

Military Academy West Point
1t. May 1826

Dear friend

I have recd your letter of the 25th ultimo informing me that you had made up your mind to accept of the invitation to attend our annual Examination in June & I need not say how rejoiced I was to receive this information. During my Excursions to the East the Summer before the last I made arrangements to spend a few days with you at Boston & was sadly disappointed to find when I called that you had gone into the country. I also made the same calculation last Summer but was prevented from paying you a visit by unforeseen occurrences. Military men may, in a certain sense, be called slaves their time & movements being under the control of a Master. In answer to your several enquiries I have to say that it is not at all unusual for Members of the Board of Visitors to bring their families with them. Many of them every year have so done. The rooms appropriated to the use of the Board in addition to a Parlour & a Dining Room are Three large bed rooms about 20 feet square & Seven of smaller dimensions I am unable at this time to say whether these accommodations will be found sufficient as I am not informed of the number of Visitors who will attend. At all events one of the Three large rooms shall be reserved for Mrs. Ticknor & you may rest assured that we shall do all in our power to accommodate in a suitable manner the rest of the family. Your traveling expenses to & from West Point as well as your expenses here will, agreeably to invariable usage, be paid by the Quarter Master of the Mil Acady.

Indulging the pleasing hope of soon taking you by the hand I remain as ever Your faithfull & affectionate friend

S. THAYER

George Ticknor Esquire Professor etc.

*See Index

FROM Andrew J. Donelson*

Davidson County near Nashville
May 6th 1826

Dear Sir,

This will be handed to you by Cadet (James G.) Overton*, a young friend and neighbour of mine, who has just recd his appointment, and for whom allow me to ask your friendly attention- He is the Brother of the Mr (William) Overton* who died while at the Academy a few years back, and if not prevented by a similar fate, will I trust realise the fond hopes that are cherished by his friends for his future success - His father was in the war of our Revolution, and having learned in the struggles of those days the value of science in directing the arms of his country, was for a long time desirous of having one of his children educated at West Point - disappointed by the death of his son William, he has since died - But recollecting the wishes of his father, this young gentleman repairs to the post, where I hope, by his correct and honorable deportment, he will prove the wisdom of his father's advice.

Your attention, Sir, to this young gentleman will add another to the many favors which you have already conferred upon me -

Your's acknowledging the receipt of the remittance on account of Mr (William D.) Chappel*, came to hand a few days ago - & I feel happy that the indiscretion of this young gentleman has occasioned you no inconvenience. Yours very
Respectfully ANDREW J. DONELSON
Col S Thayer Supt of the M. A.

*See Index

FROM Andrew J. Donelson*

Nashville May 14th 1826

Dear Sir,

Allow me to present to your favorable notice, the bearer Mr John T Collinsworth*, who has been recently appointed to the service of Cadet at West Point - I am not personally acquainted with this young gentleman but from the recommendation which obtained his appointment, place the fullest confidence in his capacity, and in his moral and upright deportment. Since the death of his father he has been chiefly under the direction of an Elder Brother who is at the bar of Nashville and promises, thus far, great success in that department of science.

Feeling much solicitude for the welfare of those young gentlemen who receive appointments from this section of county, to the Military School, I have taken the liberty to solicit your attention to Mr Collinsworth & Mr (James G.) Overton*, confident that they will acquit themselves well - With great respect, Sir, I am your mo obt servt

ANDREW J. DONELSON

Col S. Thayer superintendent M.A.

*See Index

FROM Jonathan Adams*

Brutus 22nd May 1826

Dear Sir

It was with the regrets of a Parent, that I received my Son, O. M. Adams* at home in the Low State of health in which he arrived on the 12 May. He has had since that time all the aid and attention Possible to very Little use as yet. I have therefore ventured to have him disobey your orders to return to W. Point, at the expiration of his leave of absence. Presuming that you would not be dissatisfied (with) my Proceedings, when you were made acquainted (with) the circumstances. As a parent I couldnot consent to have him Leave home in the Low State of health in which he is in at present and from which he will not recover (as his Physicians say) without the Strictest Attention, I do not feel willing to have him resign, after having been to so much trouble to have him enter there, or at least untill we shall have Satisfied ourselves that he will not be able to resume his studies, which we shall be able to ascertain in very Short time under the attention which he now is. His case is without doubt an affection of the Liver. his nerves are also at present much affected. Please to write an answer to this and Let me know your wishes on the Subject and also how it is necessary to proceed. We can obtain Certificates from a number of Skillful Physicians if it should be necessary for your Satisfaction of his case. It is my request that he be Permitted to Stay under our Care for a Short time under such regulations as you shall Se fit to dictate to us He is at present unable to travel without manifest injury to his health, and Totally incapable of attending to duty at, W. Point, I feel very anxious to have him return as Soon as possible, and could not have consented to have him overstaid his time, unless I had considered it absolutely necessary for the the recovery of his health, which I have found by sad experience an important consideration ~~in the-less-of-my-own-health~~ He has Besides our own attentions two Noted Physicians to attend him alternately as his case may require With due Respect & Submission Sir, I am your most Obedient and humble Servant JONA. ADAMS
Col. Thayer Supt. Mil Academy West Point

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy West Point
25th May 1826

Dear General

I send for your friend James Cooper* Esquire a letter of introduction to my friend Doctor David B. Warden* at Paris. Doctr. W. is a corresponding Member of the Royal Academy (Institute) of France & is on a footing of intimate acquaintance with the distinguished Members of that Body & is highly esteemed by them. He will be highly usefull to Mr. C by making him acquainted with the Literate at Paris. I should have sent other letters but for want of leisure to write them Much of my time being occupied by official business & the remainder devoted to strangers who call to see the Academy. I remain your friend & obed servt S. THAYER
N. B. I will write in a day or two on the subject of the Wine

*See Index

COPY

A GLIMPSE OF GENERAL SYLVANUS THAYER

When Superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy

(By Mr. Ticknor's daughter)

From the Memoirs of Hon. George Ticknor, (Dartmouth College, 1807) his lifelong friend. (Life, Letters and Journals,

Vol. 1, p. 372

TO MRS. TICKNOR

West Point, June 5, 1826.

This morning the Board met; nine on the ground. General Houston was chosen President, and, as usual, the honor of doing the work fell to me, as Secretary. We have been nine hours at the examination to-day. This evening Governor Morrow, of Ohio, President Bligh, formerly of Transylvania University, and Mr. Van Buren have arrived; a salute has been fired, and all is in motion.

When I arrived last evening, I walked up to our old friend Cozzens's; meantime Thayer had gone to the boat to meet me, and we missed one another. In a few moments, however, he came in, and ordered my luggage to his house, where I am established in great comfort and quiet. . . . The examination is a very laborious business, and will prove, no doubt, tedious to most of those concerned in it. To me, who must keep the records and write the reports, it will give too much occupation to permit me to be very dull. What we have done to-day has been rather interesting.

Precisely at nine o'clock the whole Staff of the Academy assembled at Thayer's house, in full uniform. I was presented to them, and when this little ceremony was over we all went to Cozzens's, where all were presented to the rest of the Board of Examiners. The Board then went to a room by itself, and was called to order by Commodore Bainbridge, and General Houston, being the chief military personage on the ground, was chosen President; though for the rest, he is a pretty coarse Tennessean, who tries to be kind, good-natured, and even elegant. . . . The other members are pleasant enough, particularly the three commodores, Bainbridge, Chauncey, and Jones, who are very agreeable indeed, and Colonel White of Florida, who proves an amiable, gentleman-like man.

We went forthwith to the examination, which was extremely thorough. Thirteen young men under the screw four hours, on a single branch, and never less than four on the floor, either drawing on the blackboard or answering questions every moment, so that each one had above an hour's work to go through; and, as I said, in a single branch. It was the lowest section of the upper class, but no mistake was made, except by one Cadet. Of course it was as nearly perfect as anything of the kind ever was. The manner, too, was quite remarkable. The young men do not rise when they answer; they are all addressed as Mr. So-and-so; and when the drum beat outside for one o'clock, Colonel Thayer adjourned the examination while a Cadet was speaking, so exactly is everything done here. We dined at Cozzens's, and the examination was continued in the afternoon till seven o'clock.

My residence at Thayer's is extremely agreeable; that is, the little time I pass there. He seems to feel toward me just as he did nineteen years ago, just as if we had never been separated. The house is perfectly quiet, and there is a good deal of dignity in the sort of solitude in which he lives,

and without any female attendant, yet with the most perfect neatness, order, and comfort, in all his arrangements. There is nothing at all either repulsive or stiff in his manner to the officers and teachers under him, or to the Cadets. All the members of the Board seem to have the most thorough admiration for him

June 10.

I delight exceedingly in the exactness with which everything is done here. The morning gun is fired exactly at sunrise, though I am free to say I sleep well enough to hear it rarely, and as there never seems to be the least noise in Thayer's house, the first thing I hear is the full band, when, precisely at six, the manoeuvring being over, the corps of Cadets begins its marching. I get up immediately, and when Thayer comes home, at half past six, from parade, he brings me your letter. You will hardly believe how welcome his step is to me, and how perfectly I have learnt to distinguish it from that of his Adjutant, his Orderly, or his servant, none of whom ever gives me my letters. I sometimes think he takes a pleasure in doing it himself, - at any rate, he always calls me by my Christian name when he brings them. [Breakfast precisely at seven; then we have all the newspapers, and, a little before eight o'clock, Thayer puts on his full-dress coat and sword, and when the bugle sounds we are always at Mr. Cozzens's, where Thayer takes off his hat and inquires if the President of the Board is ready to attend at the examination-room; if he is, the Commandant conducts him to it with great ceremony, followed by the Board. If he is not ready, Thayer goes without him; he waits for no man.]

[In the examination-room Thayer presides at one table, surrounded by the Academic Staff; General Houston at the other, surrounded by the Visitors. In front of the last table two enormous blackboards, eight feet by five, are placed on easels; and at each of these boards stand two Cadets, one answering questions or demonstrating, and the other three preparing the problems that are given to them. In this way, if an examination of sixteen young men lasts four hours on one subject, each of them will have had one hour's public examination on it; and the fact is, that each of the forty Cadets in the upper class will tonight have had about five hours' personal examination. While the examination goes on, one person sits between the tables and asks questions, but other members of the Staff and of the Board join in the examination frequently, as their interest moves them. The young men have that composure which comes from thoroughness, and unite, to a remarkable degree, ease with respectful manners towards their teachers.] . . .

Yesterday (Sunday) afternoon I stayed at home, and had a solid talk of three hours with Thayer, concerning his whole management of this institution from the time he took it in hand. It was very interesting, and satisfied me, more and more, of the value and efficiency of his system. One proof of it which I have just learned, is very striking. Before Thayer came here it was not generally easy to find young men enough to take Cadet's warrants to keep the Academy full. But for the last two or three years there have been, annually, more than a thousand applications for warrants, and there is at this moment not a small number of the sons of both the richest and the most considerable men of the country at the Academy, to the great gratification of

of their families. I think this state of things gratifies Thayer very much, and consoles him for the considerable privations, and the great and increasing labor he is obliged to undergo. . . .

17th.- Thayer is a wonderful man. In the course of the fortnight I have been here, he has every morning been in his office doing business from six to seven o'clock; from seven to eight he breakfasts, generally with company; then goes to the examination-room, and for five complete hours never so much as rises from his chair. From one to three he has his dinner-party; from three to seven again unmoved in his chair, though he is neither stiff nor pretending about it. At seven he goes on parade; from half past seven to eight does business with the Cadets, and from eight to nine, or even till eleven, he is liable to have meetings with the Academic Staff. Yet with all his labor, and the whole responsibility of the institution, the examination, and the accommodation of the Visitors, on his hands, he is always fresh, prompt, ready, and pleasant; never fails to receive me under all circumstances with the same unencumbered and affectionate manner, and seems, in short, as if he were more of a spectator than I am. I do not believe there are three persons in the country who could fill his place; and Totten said very well the other day, when somebody told him, - which is no doubt true, - that if Thayer were to resign, he would be the only man who could take his place, - "No: no man would be indiscreet enough to take the place after Thayer; it would be as bad as being President of the Royal Society, after Newton." . . .

[The examination, the exhibition of the institution, has gratified me beyond my expectations, and this feeling I believe I share with the rest of the Visitors. There is a thoroughness, promptness, and efficiency in the knowledge of the Cadets which I have never seen before, and which I did not expect to find here.] . . .

GEN. SYLVANUS THAYER, Founder of The Thayer School of Civil Engineering- Born in Braintree, Mass., June 9, 1785. Graduated from Dartmouth College in 1807, -B.K. A.M. Dartmouth and Harvard Colleges, 1825. LL.D. Dartmouth, 1846, also from St. Johns, 1830, Kenyon, 1847, and Harvard, 1851. Fellow American Academy of Arts and Sciences and American Philosophical Society. Graduated from U. S. Military Academy, Feb. 23, 1808, whence he was promoted in the Corps of Engineers, in which, after serving in all the successive grades to that of Colonel, he continued until June 1, 1863, when his active career of usefulness for more than half a century was ended by age and feeble health. In the war of 1812 Chief Engineer on Niagara frontier, on the Champlain lines, and in defence of Norfolk, Va. On mission to Europe, 1815-17 to study military operations and military schools. Superintendent of the Military Academy, 1817-33, and its great organizer and "father." Designed and constructed the permanent defences of Boston Harbor, 1833-63. Bvt. Brig. Gen., U. S. Army, May 31, 1863, for long and faithful service. Four instruments of gift to the Trustees of Dartmouth College, 1867-1871. Presented the nucleus of the Thayer School library, a collection of above 2,000 volumes of works on military science, architecture, and civil engineering. Died at South Braintree, Mass., Sept. 7, 1872.

FROM Patrick H. Galt*

G. I. June 5 1826

My Dear Colonel

I have a high gratification in enclosing the copy of an effort recently made by the General for an addition to your rank, which all concede at its best estimate, but an illy proportioned reward to your Services and untiring devotion to the best interests of the government & Army. I would to Heaven that I had been enabled to add any evidence or indeed definite prospect of its consummation.

You would have recd it sooner but that I only recd a copy of the original from Washington three days ago, and have had much other pressing official matter for the Clerks. I have addressed a copy for Col Gratiot to the Point. I am
dear Sir As ever very truly P. H. GALT
To Col Thayer.

*See Index

FROM Benjamin Jarvis*

Altona-near Hamburg
July 15th 1826.

Colo. Thayer
~~Commandant of West Point~~
State of New York

Sir

On the 20th & 22nd April last - I had the honor to write you, of which, the annexed, is duplicate, and you will no doubt have seen, by the public papers, how my fears became realised with respect to the fate of Missolonghi. But disastrous, as may have been its fall - consolations of a most gratifying nature followed the Event. - for, if we had to mourn the lamented victims, in the aged, & the women & children - we must cease to count them! & turn ourselves to the brave Garrison!! - who cut their way through, to their Brethren in Arms! - and we must reflect, on the manifest Impression it has made on all Greece - and the wonder-working contributions of the hearts & purses of the Europeans (Austria aside) - as it were, magic struck (even Royal families) in the cause of the brave Hellenes!! - Missolonghi - besides, was not conquered, but obliged to be abandoned by Starvation! - and the right owners - I predict, will soon have it again. The Enemy on the other hand - are no more masters of Greece - than the Land under their feet & the present variable tenure of its nature - makes it very irksome & of unwelcome production - and Since Lord Cochrane* with a considerable marine force - may be counted to be in the Grecian Waters - without the least doubt, from the beginning of this month - Something important - we may hope, will be achieved-! And God, of his infinite mercy grant it! --

The enclosed small volume is the production & present - of a Grecian Colo. Alexander Negris* - now here - who collected or condensed it, as an elemental help Book, to the young officers of his Country - & with the same thought, I beg leave to pass it - under your acceptance & protection Sir - for my young countrymen at West Point * - The Colonel, who is a grecian born & a family Relation both to Prince Ypsilanti and Morocorda to, has written something in Greek in it - (i.e. in the Book which went by my original Letter) and served a campagne in Acarnania in Western Greece with my Son - whom he honors to call his

*Two of these small volumes now accompany this duplicate & in the same Envelop - or cover.

friend. - In the hope to be soon able to communicate - some very good news from Greece - in unison with the wishes of the patriot Band of Ladies of New York - I remain - Sir - with respectful consideration - Your mst Hble & obt Servt

BENJAMIN JARVIS

Duplicate, original by the Chase - Capt. George Bacon*. -

Altona near Hamburg August 13th 1826.

Colo Thayer

Sir:

With the foregoing duplicate of my Last Respects of the the 15th Ultimo - I have, the pleasure to enclose you - two more volumes of the small Book of Colo. Négris - therein

mentioned - least the first should miscarry and in another parcel, in blue paper, by this same vessel to your address - I take the Liberty to send - for a corner at West Point - two copper plate likenesses - of a lamented Cousin of his - & intend to avail myself of another Opportunity to repeat the Sending, once more. You will not - Sir! perhaps think these portraits so unimportant when I assure - that there is not a single Grecian officer but who loves our Country, nor a Nation of the World - of a more growing attachment than that of Greece for America - because she knows of the honesty & trustworthiness of our Politics - more especially compared to the wiley ones of Europe. - I wish she were nearer to us; and even years ago - I suggested to my Son - of forming a Colonial Asylum - on the mosquito shore where Lands, cheap & healthy & similar to the grecian clime, could have been had as a point for Greece to resort to in case Turkey had succeeded - or mad Europe sh. have permitted the Success!! - But thank God! the attitude of that country is now getting formidable, & it will stand its Ground!!! --

We have undoubted accounts of the arrival of Lord Cochrane, with two of his Ships at Napoli di Romania - where the others were hourly expected! - Large, money contributions have been sent from Europe to Greece (the holy cause - by Austria undefiled) moved by a spontaneous love of man's Liberty & Rights (an occurrence, by the way that does not set very well upon the tender Stomach of the Governments) and the strongholds are now well manned. & provisioned for ten or twelve months - and the grecian Troops disciplining with spirit. But I have not yet the happiness to hear further of my Son. Believe me Sir - with most respectful Regard - Your most obt. Servant

BENJAMIN JARVIS

*See Index

FROM Daniel Webster*

Boston July 24 1826

Sir

Will you allow me the honor to introduce to you Col McDougall, of the British Service. He is a Gentleman of respectability & character, who has seen service, on both Continents, & has a desire to visit West Point.

Allow me, Sir, to seize the occasion, also, to congratulate you on the continued success & growing respectability of the Institution under your care, and on the universal sentiment, so favorable to your character & merits, in regard to the manner in which you conduct the Seminary. I have the honor to be, with great regard, Your Ob. Svt.

DANL. WEBSTER

Col. Thayer

*See Index

TO William J. Worth*

Washington 7th August 1826

Sir,

Enclosed herewith are orders No^s 48 & 49 issued from the Adjutant Generals office & Military Academy order No 26 accepting the Resignation of Cadet (Ebenezer) Dwight* The President of the United States has approved ~~of~~ the Report of the Academic Board recommending the discharge of Cadets Charles Haywood* of Maine Jonathan C. Clark* & Walter Patterson* of New York John L. Keffer* of Pennsylvania, Nicholas H. Wyse* of Maryland, Archibald S. Hall* & James N. Forsyth* of North Carolina, James E. B. Findlay* & John J. Salley* of South Carolina & Hampton Hunter* of Illinois. The order for their discharge will be issued on my return to the Mil Academy in the mean time you will direct them after settling their account to proceed to their respective homes. Instructions to the Treasurer & Quarter Master to advance their pay & transportation are herewith enclosed. Very respectfully I am your obed servt

S. THAYER Lt Col
Super^d Mil Acady

Major W. J. Worth
Comm^dg West Point

N.B. I wrote to you yesterday

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington September 18, th 1826

Lt. Col. S. Thayer
Supdt. Mil. Academy
West Point, New York.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 13th instant transmitting a roll of Cadets who were members of the Military Academy on the 1st of July last made out in conformity to the 1369th paragraph of the regulations.

I concur with you in your suggestion that the paragraph of the regulations just mentioned be so modified as that the rolls required to be furnished on the 1st of February and 1st of July may be made out on the 1st of February and 1st of September. The last mentioned roll will then embrace the cadets who may be admitted according to the regulations after the general examination in the last week of August.

The Department is anxious to receive a report of the Cadets who may have been admitted upon a re-examination in August last, and of such, if any, as did not report themselves in June but may have arrived and been examined within the time just mentioned. I am very respectfully Your obt. servt.

ALEXR. MACOMB Maj Gen Ch E I.M.A.

*See Index

TO Peter Force*

Military Academy
West Point 22 Sept. 1826

Sir,

I have understood that the Report of the Board of Visitors appointed to attend the General Examination of the Cadets at West Point in June last will soon be handed to you for publication. If so I have to request that you will send me Twenty copies of the paper containing the Report & charge them in your next Bill for my subscription to the National Journal. Very respectfully I am your obed Servt

S. THAYER

Peter Force Esq.

*See Index

FROM James Bankhead*

New York 27. Septr 1826

My dear Col,

My particular friend Mr. Magruder, of Baltimore, intends to pay a short visit, with his family to West Point, and any attentions from you will be an additional obligation, to your friend. & obt St JAS BANKHEAD

Col: S. Thayer

*See Index

FROM Benjamin Jarvis*

Altona 30th September 1826

Colo Thayer commandant of West Point in the State of New York.

Sir!

Since my last Respects to you of the 13th Ultimo - there has been a letter received from my son in Greece dated at Napoli di Romania July 1/13 last, from which the following is an extract:

"A young Englishman by the name of H. W. Humphreys Eqr. has, passing through Greece, thought proper to join his remarks to those of Emmerson Esqr. and Count Pechio, and in a work entitled: "Picture of Greece in 1825" etc etc Vol: 2. page 280 - 281 has thoughtlessly, or premeditatedly, committed the rashness and imprudence to say:

"A Captain Fenton according to his own account a British officer, a native of Scotland, and at that time a Captain of Uliasses to whom Trelawney had given the command of some artillery he had taken for him from Messolonghy (Missolonghi), commenced an intrigue within the month of September, with Mavrocordatos in which he engaged to assassinate Uliasses and his own countryman Trelawney. Whoever first made this infamous proposal, an argument used by Mavrocordatos was, that Trelawney as a native of Great Britain, being in the service of the Greeks was out of the pale of his country's laws, and an American by the name of Jarvis, now a Greek Lieutenant General was Mavrocordatos agent in the affair and negotiated between them. The entire development of this affair is yet a mystery, but Trelawney's attempted assassination by Fenton has taken place."

"I herewith declare in testimony of the truth to my relations and friends in Europe & America and to the litterary world in General:

that the referred to paragraph is not only full of duplicity, nonsense and void of truth, but that it is in the whole a calumnious imposition and a scandalous fiction and the author is herewith to bring full and clear proof of all he asserted either before a Commission of neutral, disinterested gentlemen in England, or in Greece, or on board of H. B. M. Ship Cambrian, Captn Hammilton, or immediately to recall, what he falsely asserted, if not, I shall pursue him (or them) or the bookseller, as far as the laws permit. I am resolved to have the affair fully explained and, calling my adversary with his own arms, am not instigated by any passion whatsoever, but go to work, with the greatest cool deliberation possible, as in a letter expressed and addressed, in the month of May a. c. to Captn Hammilton & Officers of H. B. M. Ship Cambrian. I suppose this sufficient to say what I say, and cannot be induced to think it necessary, whilst in and for Greece employed, to take notice of all nonsensical publications that appear in Europe:"

"All this, my dear Sir, I beg you to have inserted in the most current prints of London and, if you possibly can in the Gallignany Gazette of Paris, beginning with "A young Englishman and terminating" in Europe." I have written to the Greek Committee in Boston, but as occasions here are very uncertain and scarce, if you should have occasion, please send the same paragraph to be published in the New York paper."

(signed) GEORGE JARVIS

As the defamatory tendency of what has been sent forth to the World, on my Son's Subject, ought not from its baseless fabric - to remain uncontradicted I pray you will have the goodness - Sir - to cause such general publicity of the Extract - in the New York & other papers - as the Editors, respectively, may please see fit to favor, - in conformity to the wish of my Son now actually & bravely (since Several Years) engaged in the Sacred Cause of Greece - But, who has not been spared, it seems, by the Splashing Pen of a gossiping - History-Maker.

I have the honor to remain truly & respectfully - Sir!
Your most obt. Servant BENJAMIN JARVIS
P.S. The news for Greece is generally very favorable. The Turks are said to have retired from before Athens & have certainly for the fourth time, been beaten at (Sarnes) - and Ibrahim Pacha is now kept in good check in the Morea - where his dashing attempts in the mountains of Maina-have cost him very dear & been attended with complete defeat. -At Constantinople the bold changes made by the Sultan have been done with such unexampled cruelties as to cause universal tremor & mistrust - and there seems to be a dreadful Pause & doubt in the affairs of State: - While at Akarman the conferences between the Russian & Turkish Deputies seem at a Stand & on the point of breaking up: - And the Persian (supposed, under foreign Impulsion) has actually commenced hostilities with Russia. Lord Cochrane though arrived in the mediterranean - has from countless & unaccountable causes - no assemblage of his _____ - & I fear - one of the finest opportunities ever presentable will pass by - where - otherwise he might have taken and destroyed the scattered & ill maneuvered Ships of the Turks & Egyptians - who are even dismayed at the sound of his name. Ut Supra B. JARVIS

*See Index

TO George Ticknor*

Military Academy West Point
12th Oct. 1826

Dear Ticknor

Your favor of the 6th ult. the box containing the pamphlets & wine & the books from Cummings & (Hilliard) have all been recd. For these tokens of your kind remembrance please to accept my grateful acknowledgements.

I did not return to the Acady untill the 2d of Sept. having been detained Two weeks in Newyork by a bilious fever I spent the first 3 weeks of July most agreeably on a tour to the falls of Niagara & returned to the Point just in time to meet there your friends from Cambridge. I then proceeded to Washington which I reached on the 3d of August. I had intended so to time my visit to the City as to find the President (John Quincy Adams) the Secy of War (James Barbour) & Genl (Alexander) Macomb* all present but this was impracticable & it so turned out that when I arrived all were absent. I followed the Secy to his (seat) in Virginia & was recd by him with true Virginia hospitality. He approved some new Regulations touching the discipline of the Institution apologised for the errors into which he had been led by Genl Macomb & promised that all the Regulations should hereafter be enforced etc etc. for all which we are indebted to the firmness & independence of the late Board of Visitors But the Secy rarely looks into the details of his Department, & habitually yields to the suggestions of the Chiefs of Bureaux. My only hope therefore rests upon the success of the proposition to separate the Academy from the Corps of Engineers Until this be done the genius of Evil will continue to afflict us. While at Washington I read your Report with the most lively satisfaction. It is the only complete & accurate exposition of our System I have ever seen & I wait with impatience for its publication. I was told at the Department that it would be handed to the printer so soon as copied but I fear the delay has been intentional. If so the reason is obvious & evinces great weakness inasmuch as this Document will be called for & must be forthcoming at the next session of Congress.

The sentiments of (Joseph Gilbert) Totten* as stated in your letter are truly characteristick. He is always noble & magnanimous Were I compelled to leave he is the very person I would to have appointed as my successor.

I remember to have heard you say that Mr. Bowdwich (Nathaniel Bowditch)* was about to purchase a Mathematical Library for the use of your Atheneum. I would be glad if you would avail yourself of some leisure moment to compare his Catalogue with ours & to send me a List of such of his books as are not in our Library.

It is understood that we come together next Summer either in Boston or at West Point & as I trust in both places In the mean time I hope to hear from you _____tly by mail & thro your friends who may be _____lling this way Your affectionate friend

S. THAYER

George Ticknor Esqur.

P.S. All the volumes of the Massts. Hist. Collections have been recd.

*See Index

FROM James Monroe*

Oaks Hill, Virginia
Nov^r. 1, 1826

Sir -

Having had an interesting relation with you, while in the office which I lately held, & which commenc'd in the late war, in which, your conduct, inspir'd me with great confidence, in your capacity, to manage a military institution, embracing the sciences, you will oblige me, by communicating such views as your experience may have suggested, for the management of a literary one, in which the military will form a part, but subordinate, to the others. The institution to which I refer, is the university of this state, which is established near Charlottesville.

The great object is, to keep the institution in good order, the youth steadily to their studies, free from gambling, intemperance, and dissipation of every kind. Expulsion is, it is presumed, the highest punishment that can be inflicted for youthful offenses. The criminal code of the country takes cognizance of crimes so that those of that character, need not be looked to. youthful offenses have their degrees. The government is parental. What intermediate regulations, short of expulsion, will best promote the success of the institution and prevent the necessity of resorting to that extremity, is an interesting branch, in such a system.

I am aware that the attainment of these objects is more practicable & easy in a military institution than in a literary one, because subordination and discipline are more prominent features in it, but still I think that it may be accomplished in the latter, and that the introduction of a military branch in it, will contribute much to its success. The idea in contemplation is, to appoint a military instructor whose duty it shall be to train the young men, in every branch of the military exercises and in performing that duty, to afford a powerful aid to the faculty in maintaining their authority over the students, in every branch of the institution. It is not proposed to make this instructor a professor, but an officer under the professors. The salary will also be inconsiderable at this time. The young man however, who may be appointed, by attending the lectures of the professors, may qualify himself for other preferment.

To give effect to such an appointment, the duties of the instructor should be defined with great minuteness, as to the discipline to be taught; the times at which the exercises should be performed, paying regard to the hours at which attendance on the professors, in their lectures, will be necessary; how often the roll shall be called, at what hours, with every other circumstance meriting attention.

My object in this is, to invite your attention to the subject generally, & to request such views on it as you may think may be useful, in their application, to our university.

A young man, formerly a cadet at W. Point, of the name of Matthews*, who lives near the university, is a candidate for the office of military instructor. He was removed from the academy, either by compulsory resignation or expulsion, but has presented documents in his favor, one from yourself, which place him on less objectionable ground. His situation excites the sympathy of some very respectable friends, because he is poor. The question is, is he competent to the trust? You well know, that to give effect to it, he must possess em-

inently useful qualities, and that to introduce one who does not possess them, might do to the university an essential injury. I ask this, in confidence, to be communicated to the other visitors, in like confidence, at our meeting on the first of December next. If he is not one whom you can recommend, as every way qualified, do you know one whom you can? Should this young man be put aside, can he be restored to the Academy, on the interposition of his friends, in the hope that on another trial, he may have better success and thereby lay the foundation of good fortune in life. You will oblige me by giving an early answer to this letter. with great respect & esteem I am yours --- JAMES MONROE

*See Index

FROM George Catlin*

New York. Nov. 2nd 1826

Dear Sir,

I am stipulating with the Corporation of this City for a copy of the full length portrait of Jefferson which is in your Academy, and which, through the kindness of Yourself & Maj. Worth*, I have been allowed to copy-- as the picture has never been exhibited in this City, but few, if any of the Corporation have ever seen it, and are therefore incapable of judging of its Superiour merits.

If you will be kind enough to drop a line to R. Riker Esq (Recorder of this City) speaking of the merits of the picture and of your permission for me to make a copy, you will render me a Service for which I shall feel under a peculiar obligation.

The Board meets on monday evening and I wd be glad if he could get your note before that time. I desire that you will tell him at what age or time the picture was painted and at what price- I have been selected by Clinton* to paint his full length ordered by the Corporation & shall start for Albany in a week or so for that purpose. I have already sent my canvass to W. Point in anticipation of copying that portrait which I shall probably commence on my way to Albany.
Very Respectfully Your Servant GEO. CATLIN

*See Index

TO Ichabod Rollins Chadbourne*

Military Academy West Point
12th Nov. 1826

My Dear friend

Yours of the 10th has this moment come to hand. Enclosed herein is a letter to Col. Van De Venter*, Chief Clerk in the Department of War who was a Cadet with me at West Point some nineteen years ago & is a particular friend. You will find him much occupied in the forenoons but I hope you will be satisfied with his reception of you. I shall expect to see you on your return & that you will stay with me at least Three or Four days. Recollect that a Steam-boat will bring you to West Point from New York in less than Four hours & that I shall never forgive you if you return home without calling to see me. Yours most affectionately S. THAYER

*See Index

TO Christopher Van De Venter*

Military Academy West Point
12th Nov. 1826

Dear Van De Venter

This will be handed to you by Mr Ichabod Chadbourne* of the State of Maine. I flatter myself that I cannot better ensure him a kind reception than by informing you that he was among my most intimate & most beloved friends at College & that age has not in the least degree impaired the warm friendship contracted in youth. I remain your very affectionate friend S. THAYER

Col. Christopher Van De Venter Washington (War Dept)

*See Index

TO James Monroe*

Military Academy
West Point 23^d Nov. 1826

Sir

Owing to pressing engagements I have not been able to return an earlier answer to your kind letter of the 1^t instant in which you did me the honor to request a communication of such views as my experience may have suggested in the management of this Institution as might seem useful in their application to your University.

The great objects, as you justly remark, in every Seminary for the education of youth ought to be 1^t. to keep the pupils steadily to their studies 2^d to prevent gambling, intemperance & dissipation of every kind. Indeed if either of these objects be accomplished the other follows almost of course. The first may, I think, be most effectually secured by creating a high degree of emulation. Time will not permit me to enter into a detail of the means adopted with that view in this Academy nor is it necessary as they are sufficiently described in the reports of the Board of Visitors in 1825 & 1826 & in the Regulations about to be printed of which a copy will be forwarded to you. How far this system may be applicable to your Institution I am not prepared to express an opinion. The essential features of it have however been recently introduced in Harvard University* with a fair prospect of success.

The government of your University is & ought to be paternal. Severe punishments if of frequent occurrence would discredit the Institution & would indeed clearly indicate that the system was defective or not properly administered. The great object should therefore be to devise such a system as would in a great measure obviate the necessity of punishments or in other words to establish a perfect police or system of prevention. The particulars of such a system are various but I need mention those only which are deemed of the greatest importance 1^t. To leave no idle time on the hands of the students to this end 1^t. let there be assigned to each student a task of study proportioned to his capacity & let there be daily thorough examinations to ascertain whether such task has been accomplished & secondly let the residue of his time not appropriated to sleep, meals &c be filled up with bodily exercise such as Dancing, Fencing, Equitation, Gymnastics or those of a military nature. I think it would not be difficult so to distribute those exercises according to the tastes of individuals as that all would be content to employ in that manner such portions of their time as at our Colleges are usually spent in idleness or something worse.

2^d. Roll calls or other measures to verify the presence of the students. This object is usually accomplished in part at our Colleges by Monitors who note the absence from the halls of study or lectures & from morning & evening prayers.

3^d. Inspections or visits not only to ascertain whether the students are in their rooms at the times appointed for private study & particularly at night but also to see that the laws respecting gambling, entertainment, spirituous liquors &c are duly observed.

4th It may be worthy of consideration whether all pecuniary means for improper indulgences should not as far as practicable be taken away from the students by forbidding them to

contract debts or to receive money or other supplies except thro' or by permission of the executive government. The expenses of the students to be paid from funds deposited in the hands of the Treasurer.

5th It is also suggested whether it may not be advisable to apply to the State Legislature for a law imposing restrictions on Tavern-keepers & others within a limited distance of the University.

It is hardly necessary to remark that these or any other measures would be futile without a vigilant active & energetic executive nor would I feel much confidence in the success of any system unless the individual placed at the head of the immediate government were not only a person of high character & attainments but also possessed peculiar qualifications for governing youth. In the police of the Institution he might be assisted by the Instructor or Professor of Tactics who should be placed on a footing of equality with the other Professors & be a member of their Board. You inform me that it is not proposed to make the military instructor a professor but an officer under the professors & that his salary will be inconsiderate. I apprehend that a military instructor thus circumstanced would find his situation very unpleasant that he would be little respected & that he would not be able to render much service.

Some of the senior students might be selected to assist the Professor of Tactics in many of his duties in case it shall be deemed advisable to organize the students as a Military Corps.

In presenting these five general remarks which are all that occur to me at this time I act in compliance with your request & not from a belief that you will find them of value.

With respect to the young gentleman who is a candidate for the office of military Instructor in the University I am sincerely of opinion that he is as well qualified for it as any one you would be able to procure for the small salary allowed. He was only a short time at West Point but he was diligent & promising. By reference to the records I find that his age would disqualify him for re-admission into this Institution. I cannot close this communication without availing myself of the occasion to express my deep sense of the many obligations I am under to you & the veneration with which I am Your faithfull & obed servant S. THAYER

To his excellency James Monroe

*See Index

FROM Christopher Van Deventer* to Peter Force*

(Dec. 1826)

Dr Sir,

By perusal of Col. Thayer's letter to me within, you will perceive that he wishes the correction alluded to made by you without the publication of his note to you herewith - Have the goodness to do so, & return to me Col. T's letter to me. Yours truly C. VAN DEVENTER
P. Force Esqr.

*See Index

FROM Christopher Van De Venter* to Peter Force*

(Dec. 1826)

Sir,

The enclosed are from Col. Thayer relative to the Subject of his late communication which I handed to you. & upon which we conversed. Very truly yours C. VANDEVENTER

P. Force Esq

Edr. N. Journal

*See Index

TO Peter Force*

Military Academy
West Point 28th Decr 1826

Mr. Force

Sir,

An article under the editorial head in your Journal of the 18th instant referring to the Report of a Committee of the Board of Visitors on the Military Academy which was published in the same paper contains the following remark viz "It (the Report) suggests the abolition of the Department of English grammar, Rhetorick Constitutional Law & Political Economy on account of its being so imperfectly filled & these branches being so superficially taught" It will evidently appear by a reference to the Report that the words "imperfectly filled" were not warranted by any thing contained in the remarks of the Committee. The superficial manner in which those subjects are taught is spoken of by the Committee as the necessary consequence of the limited time & means at the disposal of the Professor. No allusion of a personal character is expressed & I am persuaded that none was intended in the smallest degree disrespectful to the learned professor who so ably fills the Chair of the Department in question. As the editorial remark adverted to is highly injurious to that officer I trust you will loose no time in correcting it. I am respectfully Your obedt. Servant S. THAYER

*See Index

TO Christopher Van Deventer*

Military Academy
West Point 28th Decr. 1826

Dear Van De Venter

I enclose herewith a Note to the Publisher of the National Journal & would be greatly obliged if you would take the trouble to hand it to him yourself & see that the error I have pointed out in one of his articles is properly corrected. It was probably committed thro' inadvertance & will doubtless be corrected with pleasure. I hope it may be done by the publisher or editor himself & that there will be no necessity of publishing my note. Please to suggest to Mr. Force* the propriety of his requesting those editors who have copied the objectionable remark to insert the correction in their papers. I should be very glad if you would inform me why the Report of the Board of Visitors has not been published as heretofore. The Report which has been selected for publication in the Journal was made by a Committee to The Board of Visitors on certain departments of the Academy committed to this examination & not being intended for publication was loosely & carelessly written. As it presents only a partial view of the condition of the Academy its publication does great injustice to the Institution & those attached it. I hope that the general report will yet appear in the Journal or in the Intelligencer if not in both. The Semiannual Examination commences in a day or two & as I am extremely busy in making arrangements for it you must excuse the haste in which I write. Please to remember me to Mrs. Van De Venter & believe me as ever your faithful friend.

S. THAYER

*See Index

TO Peter Force*

Mr. Force

Military Academy
West Point 28th Decr. 1826

Sir,

An article under the editorial head in your Journal of the 18th instant refering to the Report of a Committee of the Board of Visitors on the Military Academy which was published in the same paper contains the following remark viz. "It (the Report) suggests the abolition of the Department of English Grammar, Rhetorick, Constitutional law & Political Economy on account of its being so imperfectly filled & these branches being so superficially taught" The words "imperfectly filled" were certainly not warranted by any thing contained in the Report of the Visitors. The language of this report is that the branches alluded to were superficially taught because the time allotted to them & the means furnished by the government were insufficient & not because the Department was imperfectly filled As the remark adverted to is highly injurious to the learned professor who so ably fills the Chair of Rhetorick & Moral Philosophy in this institution I hope you will loose no time in correcting it. I am very respectfully Your obedt. Servant S. THAYER

*See Index

TO Peter Force*

Military Academy West Point
10th Jany 1827

Mr. Force

Sir

An article under the editorial head in your Journal of the 18th of December last referring to the Report of a Committee of the Board of Visitors on the Military Academy which was published in the same paper contains the following remark viz "It (the Report) suggests the abolition of the Department of English Grammar, Rhetorick, Constitutional Law & Political Economy on account of its being so imperfectly filled & these branches being so imperfectly taught" The words "imperfectly filled" were certainly not warranted by any thing contained in the Report of the Committee. The superficial manner in which the above mentioned branches were taught is spoken of by the Committee as the necessary consequence of the limited time & means at the disposal of the Professor; no allusion of a personal character is expressed & I am persuaded that none was intended in the smallest degree disrespectful to the learned professor who so ably fills the Chair of the Department in question. As the remark adverted to is highly injurious to that officer I trust you will loose no time in correcting it. I am with respect yr obedt servant S. THAYER

*See Index

TO Christopher Van Deventer*

Military Academy 14th Jany 1827

Dear Van De Venter,

On the 28th of Decr. I took the liberty to enclose a note addressed to Mr. Peter Force* & to request that you would take the trouble to hand it to him yourself & see that the error pointed out in his paper was properly corrected or should he refuse to make the desired correction then & in that case only to require him to publish my note. As I have not heard from you on the subject & as no notice had been taken of it in the Journal so late as the 11th instant I am left to conjecture that my communication miscarried. Under that impression I enclose another note to Mr. Force & will thank you to hand it to him & to attend to my other requests with as little delay as possible. If my former note has been recd please to destroy it as that now sent is a little different & better expresses my views. Recollect that I do not wish my name to appear only in case Mr. F. shall refuse to do ample justice to Mr. McIlvaine*.

I beg you to suggest to Mr. Force the propriety of his requesting those editors of papers who have copied his paragraph to copy also his correction of it. Your attention to this matter will much oblige Your old friend S. THAYER

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy West Point
28th Jany 1827

Dear General

I this moment recd the National Intelligencer announcing the appointment of Mr Stagg* as Surveyor & Inspector for the Port of New York. I am not less surprised than distressed at this news. All my previous apprehensions had been quieted by your late honourable acquittal an acquittal too which, as I have always understood, gave universal satisfaction. It appeared to me therefore that your late unfortunate connection with the insurance company would afford neither cause or pretext for removing you. It is impossible for me to imagine what have been the grounds for this step on the part of the Executive but you will of course explain the mystery in due time.

Your misfortunes, general, have been great indeed & call forth the deep sympathy of those who know the purity, generosity & benevolence of your heart. Adversity will only serve to draw them closer to you & to quicken into action that friendship which lay dormant during the period of your prosperity.

I shall be down to see you so soon as the river shall be open. I remain your faithful & affectionate friend

S. THAYER

*See Index

FROM Lardner Vanuxem*

South Carolina College Feby 16, 1827

Col. Thayer

My dear Sir

I have just received a letter from Dr Ma_____ who informs me that Dr (John) Torrey* is about to leave West Point by which a vacancy will take place in your Chemical department. Should this information be correct you will much oblige me by writing a line as I am desirous of applying for it.

Dr Cooper has written to the Secretary of War (James Barbour) in my favour & so soon as I have the pleasure of hearing from you confirming the assertion of Dr M - I shall make an application- I know not if you have any other in view for the situation in question if so it is well if not I shall feel much obligated to you for your good word -

Dr Stevenson & myself regretted extremely that we could not pay the visit which we contemplated when we met at the opera in August last. The Doctor is very desirous of being better acquainted with you. When you know him as well as I do you will truly say to me an army phrase that he is a "fine fellow".

Hoping soon to have the pleasure of hearing from you I am with great esteem yours truly L. VANUXEM

*See Index

FROM Robert F. W. Allston*

Surv. Genl's Office
S. Carolina Columbia 17 Feb. 1827

Col. S. Thayer,

Dear Sir,

Allow me to introduce to your acquaintance my friend James A. Black Esqr late an officer in the 8th Infantry of the war Establishment -

Mr. Black is about procuring an appointment to the Academy for his protogé - a nephew - In the event of his success, I take the liberty of requesting him to address you in behalf of his charge -

With best wishes, my Dear Sir, for the continued prosperity & gradual improvement of our valuable Institution - I have the honor to remain. Very Respectfully Your Obt. Servt. ROBT. F. W. ALLSTON

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy West Point
24th Feby 1827

Dear General

Alexander (Swift) arrived yesterday & handed me your favor of the 22d. Your departure from New York at so early a day will of course deprive me of the interview which I had promised myself & which would have afforded me great satisfaction but I fully appreciate & approved the reasons you have assigned for the step. On Wednesday last I forwarded Mr Cozzin's Draft drawn in my favor & payable to your order for Five Hundred dollars on the Franklin Bank. It should have reached you on the morning of the 23d & of course prior to your departure. At a suitable time & when you find yourself at leisure I would be glad to be made acquainted with your plans & intentions. It cannot be necessary for me to assure you that I shall follow your movements with deep interest. In serenity of heart I can say that there is no man living whose prosperity & happiness I more ardently desire & pray for I have not much leisure for private correspondence but I would be glad to know always where to address you in case I shall have any thing to communicate. Yours as ever

S. THAYER

Genl. Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

TO Peter Force*

Military Academy
West Point 4th March 1827

Sir

A little more than Two months ago Major Van De Venter* handed to you a communication from me on the subject of a Paragraph which had appeared in your paper & which contained an allusion highly injurious to an officer of this Institution & recd an assurance from you that the error pointed out by me should be corrected without delay. About the 20th of Jany. the Major again called your attention to the subject & recd a renewed assurance of the same tenor as the first. On the 4th or 5th of Feby, a copy of my communication was delivered to you by my friend Col. Abert* who informed me that you apologized for the delay & said that you would forthwith publish an editorial article which should do ample justice to the injured party. I am therefore not a little surprised that the promised article had not appeared so late as the 27th ultimo which was the Date of the last Journal recd. If, Sir, anything have occurred to change your determination on this subject I beg that you will advise me of it. I remain very respectfully Your obdt servant S. THAYER
Peter Force Esquire
Publisher of the National Journal

*See Index

FROM Peter Schenck*

New York 28th. March 1827

Col. S. Thayer

Dear Sir

I observed when at your Quarters at the Point, that you had a likeness of the immortal Washington, hanging over your mantle piece in his civil dress as President of the United States. Having myself a likeness of him as Commander in Chief during the War of the revolution, & which, is esteemed as one of the best likenesses of him, a Picture which has become very Scarce - I thought it would particularly grace your parlor as a Military Man, and you would be gratified to have it.

I have therefore taken the liberty of sending it to you by Cadet (Edwin) Schenck*, and beg your acceptance, as a mark of my particular respect and Esteem. I remain Dear Sir Yours very Sincerely PETER _ SCHENCK

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington May 3, 1827.

Sir,

The following named gentlemen have been invited by the Secretary of War (James Barbour) to attend the approaching nomination of the Cadets which will commence on the first Monday in next month, to whom on their arrival at West Point you will extend the usual civilities and accommodation:

G(eorge) Eustis*, Esquire, of New Orleans,
Honb. Joseph Ritner*, Speaker of the Pena. Assembly
Colonel Andrew M. Prevost*, of Philadelphia
Hon. R. C. Mallary*, of Vermont,
Colonel Daniel Breck*, of Richmond, Kentucky,
Honb. Joseph Vance*, of Ohio.
Honb. Thos. B. (uck) Reed*, of Mississippi
formerly Profsr. in Georgetown College now of New
York

Rev. Mr. ~~Professe~~ (Thomas C.) Levins*, ~~of-the-Georgetown~~
~~College-D--G-~~

Honb. A. (lfred) H. Powell*, of Virginia
Honb. John Barney*, of Maryland.
Honb. Geo. C. (orbin) Washington*, of Maryland.
Honb. Albert H. (aller) Tracy*, of Massachusetts.
Major R. (ene) E. (dward) DeRussy*, Corps of Engineers.
Major Henry Stanton*, Q. Master, New York.
Major Thos. Stockton*, late of the Army.
Honl. E (lijah) H. (unt) Mills*, of Massachusetts)
George Blake* Esquire of Philadelphia)

I am very respectfully your obt servt. ALEXR. MACOMB

Maj Genl Inspector of the M A

Lt. Col. S. Thayer Supdt. Mil. Acdy. West Point New York

*See Index

FROM Benjamin Jarvis* (with copy of letter from son, George Jarvis*, enclosed)

Camp before Athens on the Syraeus
May 14/26 1827.

My dear Father

Many Letters I have written without, since a long time, having received any answer nor the slightest news of you & of our beloved family. Often have I been absorbed in thought - but always in vain trying to know the Reason & to what to attribute the Silence. But no Spark of Light has as yet in this mysterious affair given me the slightest insight. In strict pursuance of my duty to God & mankind, on Him only are fixed my hopes and to him in fervent prayers I address those wishes - which your Benediction gave me hopes to form. But meditating on the infinite Goodness & Justice of the Almighty who would have heard some of my many Prayers, I, regarding the unjust proceedings of men or some of them - am forced to cast my Suspicions; - again, when I even admit the safe arrival of Intelligence on our Shores, I fear the parties which exist, the factions created amongst them, and the manner they would wish me implicated prevents the facility of that communication which I do much wish for. I consequently once more address these Lines with the hope of their safe arrival and beg you my dearest father to address with all possible precaution to Greece - as here it is - I fear they miscarry.- Please then not to address to former Gentlemen - I advised - but, via Marseilles, Malta, etc - all to be deliver'd either to the Commanders of the American or British Squadrons, with whom I have the honor to be acquainted; or at Smyrna Care of Mr. Offley Junr. American - or at Zante to that of Samuel Barff Esqr.--Napoly and Hydra have both lost their former importance - & as Government no more resides in the first - the latter place has been abandon'd by the principal Ship Owners - who are now on the Island of Poros. --- I have, to continue my Career, been pretty much engaged in the Warfare which tended to relieve or defend the Country: - Under the direct orders of our glorious Chief "George Karaisko" after the termination of our memorable winter campaign - I was present at his Death - occasioned by a wound in a skirmishing affair before Athens - and now have the honor to be under Genl. Sir Richard Church, Generalissimo of all the Landforces of Greece. - I command a small body of men in the Karaisko Division which has been created the first of Greece - bearing the motto of the immortal Division. Many misfortunes have befallen us - and Greece - since Karaisko's death and, it is natural to suppose, that General Church with the best intentions still, before getting properly initiated, may or might have committed some errors. - We lost about a fortnight ago a capital battle wherein above fifteen hundred of our best men were cut up by the turkish cavalry and both Lord Cochrane and General Church were driven into the Sea. - By this Loss and the Subsequent disbanding of the Armies, - all hopes of relieving the Citadel of Athens are gone, at least for the present - and we occupy in Attica only the harbors of Athens known by the name of the Pyraeus and Phalareus where the Corps of Karaisko lays. - However hope is still remaining and Lord Cochrane proposes to perform some Coup de main, notwithstanding he'll find it a much more difficult task - to succeed in Greece than in South America. In the Pelopannesus - Ibraim Pacha is

marching at leisure and much disorder has done great Injury to our cause. - However as this cause has been embraced as a Sacred one, "Philanthrops" from all parts are sending out provisions etc here - and four cargoes are expected from the U. S. of which one has arrived here. - As probably, as soon as our affairs gain a more consolidated State, I propose to go to the U. S. or to be sent there for a certain short period; I may go through Europe and then embrace those my heart is sighing for! - at all Events I beg you, my dearest father, to write as many Letters of Recommendation there as you possibly can and mention all our near & distant Relations which will prove of great advantage in the Business I propose. All these Letters must be left either at Bordeaux or at Marseilles (the Latter place in Preference) in the hands of our consuls deliverable to me or my Order, as it might happen that I leave & return from the U. S. in great haste. - I shall write in a few days after - and with my filial most affectionate attachment to you, my good father and to dear Mama, I embrace dear Paulina and Manon - being always - my dearest father! Your truly affect & loving Son (Signed) GEORGE JARVIS
Reply of the Athenians, closely besieged in the Acropolis (Citadel) to the french commander who tryed to obtain a capitulation for them by the consent of the Turk --
de Blanc!

We are obliged to you for the trouble which you have taken for us. - Conditions offered to us by Ki_tachy Pasha, through your Excellency - cannot be accepted here. We are Hellens, resolved, either to die or to live free. Ki_tachy if he wants our Arms; let him come if he is able, to take them with his power (by force) - we have the honor to salute you.

Acropolis of Athens, 30th April - 6 (St). 1827.

Signed NICOLOS GRIZIOTIS

Stathis Katzikojanis. D. Efmor opulos. Janymamwies.
Gerasimas Fokas. - N. Sacharitsas. Z. Ulochostusos. Mitro Lokas.

P. S. I dispatch this Letter by Lord Cochrane's Schooner sailing this moment for Marseilles - G. J.
Benjamin Jarvis Esqr

care of John Cuthbert, American U. S. Consul, Hamburgh
Esqr --

Col Thayer commandant - West Point- State of New York
Altona near Hamburgh August 18th 1827.

Sir

I transmit this Letter with the foregoing copies of two from my Son in Greece - via Stratford - Connecticut through my Relations there - that they may see their friend & Relative in Greece still lives! - these Letters are dated the first, from Argos 3/15 february last & the 2nd Camp before Athens on the Pyraeus May 14/26 1827 - as we know the troops were safely embark'd thence - my Son was doubtless of the happy number. Would humbly pray you Sir to send a copy of the last above Letter to Daniel Webster* Esqr. - Boston - with my high Respects & and of both - if you please - to the Secretary of State (Henry Clay) Washington for though the news is stale, it is authentic & that is a scarce thing from Greece. I have desired my Son in a particular manner to make communications of noteworthy occurrances in Greece to the Secretariat & to Mr. Webster - & I ardently pray God, that the combined marine force now gone, going, & there of England - France & Russia (the Latter was a few days ago so far on its way as Portsmouth) may arrive timely in Greece to stop farther Effusion of Blood -

& check the cruelties & devastations of the overpowering & merciless hords. I remain respectfully - Sir Your most obt
Servt BENJAMIN JARVIS

P. S. Greece has lost a firm & great Friend-(perhaps none had she greater) in the late prime minister of England Mr Canning - But I trust in God, that the Super Structure he has laid is Such as that the Building must go up - & heaven grant - it may be both good & lasting - It is said his Successor will tread in his Steps - Yes! but the Leader is gone!! - Ut Supra The Greeks - it is believed by last accounts are fortifying a Position by Argos -

*See Index

FROM James Monroe*

Oak hill (Virg^a) June 6 1827

Dear sir

Mr. King the professor of Mathematics in the university of this state, has resigned his office, to take effect in Augt. The visitors will meet, early in the ensuing month, when a successor to him will be appointed. Can you recommend to me, for the consideration of the board, a person, every way qualified, to fill the vacant chair? I have thought it very probable, that such a person might be found, among the Alumni, either of our Academy at West Point, or of the college of some sister states, & in case we should fail, to procure one here, I should take much pleasure, in bringing his pretensions, to the view of the board, at our next meeting. I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as convenient, on this subject. I presume you already know, that the compensation is \$1500 per an^m, with a fee of 25. from each student, to each professor, & a larger one in certain cases, with the accomodations also, of a house, for his residence, With great respect & esteem I am yr. ob^t servant

JAMES MONROE

*See Index

FROM Edward H. Courtenay*

Newport June 17th 1827

Lt Col. S. Thayer
U. S. Engrs

D Sir,

I have been apprised by Prof. (Charles) Davies* that you have been requested by Mr Monroe, to recommend to him for the consideration of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, a person qualified to fill the Mathematical chair in that Institution, and that you had kindly offered to present my name, if I wished to be considered a candidate for the situation - Aware of the many & great advantages attendant upon such a situation, I could not have hesitated as to the course most proper for me to adopt, had I not been sensible of my own inability to do justice to the station. My friends, however, so far as I have had an opportunity of consulting them, are unanimous in the opinion that I should avail myself of your flattering offer, and I will therefore feel under a particular obligation to you, if named to Mr Monroe*. Notwithstanding I anticipate many & able competitors, & consequently entertain but slight hopes of success. I am induced to believe that it will be highly serviceable to me to be brought forward under such favorable auspices whatever may be the result of the selection. With many thanks for your kindness on this & former occasions, I am. Respectfully yours; ED. H COURTENAY

*See Index

FROM Charles Davies*

Military Academy
West Point June 22^d, 1827

Sir

In answer to your inquiries with regard to the capabilities and qualifications of Mr. Edward H. Courtenay*, to fill the Mathematical Chair of the University of Virginia, I have the honor to state, that while a student in the Mathematical Department here, his talents were considered of the highest order, and that he held the first place in his class, almost without competition - His success as an instructor, after he was graduated, in the Department of Philosophy and Engineering, are too well known to you, to require to be mentioned by me, and yet I would add, that my intimacy with him, made me particularly acquainted with the extent of his researches and acquirements - Mr. Courtenay is thoroughly versed in the exact sciences, and has the clear and amiable manner of communicating his knowledge to others, which renders an instructor both useful, and acceptable to his pupils.

I know of no one, among the graduates of this Institution better, if as well, qualified to be useful to the University of Virginia, and should he be selected, I am confident he will give entire satisfaction, and do credit to his alma mater. I am with respect & esteem your. obt servant

CHARLES DAVIES

To Lt. Col. S. Thayer S. M. A.

*See Index

TO James Monroe*

Military Academy
West Point 23^d 1827

Sir

In compliance with the request contained in your communication of the 6th instant I have now the honor to recommend a person who, in my opinion, is "in every respect well qualified to fill the vacant Chair of Mathematics in the University of Virginia". The person to whom I allude is Lieutenant Edward Courtenay* of the U. S. Corps of Engineers & one of the "Distinguished" alumni of this Institution. He is a native of Maryland & is about Twenty Five years of age. He was graduated at the Military Academy in 1821 having from the time of his admission to that of his graduation maintained the highest standing in every branch of study pursued at the Institution. After he was graduated he was retained as an Instructor for Three years & would have been permanently attached to the Academic Staff but for the exigencies of the public service which called him to the active duties of his profession.

Mr. Courtenay already possesses a greater stock of Mathematical sciences than a professor is required to teach in any of our Universities & when his fine genius his habit of intense application to study & his age are taken into consideration it can surely be doubted that should his mind be directed that way he would in a very few years place himself by the side of the most eminent Mathematicians of our Country. In addition to his scientific attainments Mr. Courtenay possesses those other advantages which are calculated to render him the most extensively usefull. He has rec^d an excellent classical education His manners are refined, polished & dignified. He possesses a most amiable disposition & an unblemished moral character. On the whole I feel proud as an American in being able to recommend to your notice & protection a young gentleman of so high promise & one who bids so fair to add lustre to the character of Country. With sentiments of perfect respects & gratutude I remain your obed^t Servant

S. THAYER

His Excellency James Monroe

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy Examination Hall
6th July 1827

Dear General

The examination of the 4th Class has just been completed & I hasten to inform you that Cadet Alexander Swift* stands at its head. This is so much the more honorable to him as the Class is a large one & many of his competitors are highly talented, much older & were at least as well prepared when admitted. I remain as ever Your friend S. THAYER
Genl. Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

FROM DeWitt Clinton*

Albany 5 September 1827

Sir

Desirous of seeing the establishment under your superintendence, which I have not visited for a long time I shall tomorrow on one of the Day Boats (if the weather is fair) undertake this pleasing _____ accompanied by my wife and some friends. In doing this I hope that I will not interfere with any regulations of the Institution. I am very respectfully your most Obedt Servt DEWITT CLINTON
Col Thayer

*See Index

FROM Dewitt Clinton*

Albany 10 Sept. 1827

Dear Sir

We reached home after a very quick and pleasant passage, with no other regret than that of leaving a place so interesting and associations so intellectual and estimable.

I avail myself of this early occasion to express to you my high sense of your kind reception, my admiration of the pre-eminent merits of the institution under your care and my great appreciation of the science & talents associated with you in its direction and springing up into usefulness and honor under your auspices.

It will always afford me pleasure to promote the prosperity of this great establishment and to assure you in person, as I now do in writing, of my high regard.

Mrs. Clinton unites with me in sentiments of friendship

DEWITT CLINTON

Col. Thayer

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington City Nov 9th 1827

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith Military Academy Orders No 45 accepting the resignation of the Revd Chas P McIlvaine*, Chaplain & Professor of Ethicks in the U. S. Military Academy. and a letter to that gentleman notifying him of the same, and granting him leave of absence until the 31st of December the time at which his resignation is to take effect; the latter you will please transmit to Mr McIlvaine-

The Revd Thomas Warner* of New York has been appointed to succeed Mr McI. and will be directed to report himself to you by the 1st Jany 1828. Respectfully Your Obedt Servt

ALEXR MACOMB

Maj Genl I M A

Lieut Col. Syl. Thayer. Supt of Mily Academy West Point (N Y)

*See Index

TO George Ticknor*

Military Academy West Point
Feb'y 8th 1828

My dear Sir

Yours of the 2d instant came to hand this morning. The lad for whom you have so kindly interested yourself is not inadmissible on the score of age altho' few enter so young as 15. If he seeks to be admitted in June next he should not loose a moment in transmitting his application to the Secy of War (James Barbour) as it is (usual) to make out the List of appointments on or before the 1t of March.

The number of (Cadet) appointments to which Massachusetts is this year entitled is 10 which is at least twice as great as the average annual number appointed from that State but it must unfortunately happen that nearly all the Cadets belonging to the State, who will remain in the Academy after the promotion of the 1t Class in June, are from the County of Suffolk viz. (Ivers James)Austin*, (James)Barnes*, W(illiam) R. Lee (Jr.)*, & George Sullivan*. There are 3 others from the State of whom Two are from Middlesex & the other from Worcester. But can you not contrive to locate your protege somewhere in the Interior say in the Congressional District of some member who would be willing to adopt him? Desiring my respectful regards to Mrs. Ticknor I remain Yr affectionate friend
S. THAYER
George Ticknor Esquire

*See Index

FROM James Barbour* to John B _____ F _____ Russell*

WAR DEPARTMENT
14th March 1828

SIR:

You are hereby informed, that on the fourteenth inst^t
The President of the United States (John Quincy Adams)
appointed you an Assistant ~~in the~~ Quarter ~~regiment of~~
Master _____ in the service of the United States:
~~should the Senate, at their next session, advise and consent~~
~~thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.~~

You will, immediately on receipt hereof, please to
communicate to this Department, through the Adjutant General's
Office, your acceptance or non-acceptance of said appointment;
and, in case of accepting, you will report yourself to
Brigadier General Jesup Quarter Master General at Washington. -

JAMES BARBOUR Secretary of War.

For

~~Lieut~~

J. B. F. Russell

5: Infy Ass: Q^t Master

*See Index

FROM James W. Burbridge* to W. G. Hawkins, Esq.

West Point March 18th 1828

Dear Friend

I had the pleasure of receiving your favour of 2d instant. I suppose from your manner of writing that you think there is nothing necessary to do well here but close application. I can assure that it is not the case a person entering this Institution must have something besides a taste for military life. If there was nothing requisite to have a good standing but to learn military tactics I could do as well as any man in my class. Tactics has nothing to do with standing until the last year. I am well aware that engineering at this time is one of the most lucrative and honourable professions that a young man can get into, but on the other hand it takes man of superior talents to get into that body. There is not more than 10 out of 100 of the graduates of this place who immediately get into that Corps. The class that graduated last spring was supposed to have as much talent as any that has graduated for several years and amongs them there was not one at that time put in that Corps five is the maximum of any class a cadet who can stand amongs the first five must be man of superior talents

One of my class mates departed this life on this day week & on the next day his remains was entered in a military manner the procession was very mournfull His name was (Marks J. B.) Wood* he was from Georgia he was a very worthy member on Saturday the class held a meeting & agreed to erect over him a marble tomb Stone which will cost a bout 200 Dollars & besides that there is a monument in the burying ground that cost 1500 Dolls which was erected by & for the Cadets, There is at this time a great number of the Corps arrested of which I have no doubt there will be a great number of them dismissed it requires great precaution indeed for the most trifling offence will send a fellow off John H Barney* son of the Hon John Barney one of my room mates came in the room the other evening in company with another cadet who had a deck of cards the commenced to play in the window & _____ (William A.) Thornton* stepped in caught them they were both arrested tried & I supposed dismissed but Barney thinks he will be reinstated by his fathers influence the other fellow will be dismissed no doubt of it at all his conduct has formerly been very bad I have roomed with Barney 7 months I think that is second time I ever saw him play cards he showed me a letter from his father which old man reprimands him severely tells him that he would use his influence for him.

Cadet Guard from Ohio was caught the other evening with liquour in his room in company with 8 or ten more. he was the only one that was arrested he is in first class & would have graduated in a bout 2 months for fear of being dismissed has resigned Col Thayer told him his class had always conducted themselves badly & he wished to make an example he was as prominent a one as any he must suffer. If a cadet has friends of influence or acquainted with the officers there is no danger but he can do well. as to myself the Col has always treated me very well I have never asked for a favour but he has granted it to me though my conduct has been good that makes a great deal of difference. I believe there is not more 8 or 10 who is higher in conduct than me (when we say high in conduct we mean few reports) I cant say so of my french Professor for I think he is the most open partial man that I ever saw I don't believe I am deficient by any means but

it principle lays on the proffesor who instructs us & I am
afraid to risque him for if he gives it as his opinion that
I am deficient I will most ceartainly be dismissed -

please excuse my bad writeing I have for got the use
entirely & let me hear from you. I am yours JAMES W. BURBRIDGE
W. G. Hawkins, Esq

*See Index

FROM Joseph Vance*

Washington March 27th - 1828

Dear Sir

You will perceive from a perusal of the debates that your institution has withstood every assault, levelled against it, and that with increased majorities. It is well that the reflecting Jacksonians could not be drawn into the views of those disorganizing demagogues who appeared determined to break down all the valuable institutions of the country.

It is uncertain whether we will reach the bill for the establishment of a professorship in your academy this Session - Indeed we appear to be in a State t(orphic) and in action as legislators that is altogether unknown in our political history - Legislation is swallowed up in the excitement of electioneering and the distribution of political pamphlets - handbills etc and what is to be the final result and mischief to the country time alone - must determine - My own opinion is that the administration is Steadily gaining on the good Sense and affections of the people - In Virginia and North Carolina we have many disinterested ardent and sincere friends; but the Slave question is wielded with such tremendous force and is a lever so much more potent than any that we can bring to bear, - to countervail its effect upon Society, that the chances in those States are strongly against us, - but with proper exertion we can do without either of them, all that is wanting is for the friends of the administration to will that it shall be so, and my word for it, our triumph will be complete - You of course feel some (solicitude) relative to the commander in chief of the Army - and who shall be the man - This I am not able to tell you - but will State that if it is kept in the Army I hope it will be, Scott, If I was to make a Major Genl. I would make (William) (McRea*) the Surveyor-Genl-of-Missouri, and I know one member of the administration that would do the same thing, Genl (William Henry)Harrison* of our State is spoken of and pressed by many good and worthy men. What will be his prospects of Success, I am unable to say - but from all that I can learn Genl Scott* will be the man - at least such is my opinion -

I have very little hopes of anything, being done to foster the domestic industry of the country this session. The game that has been played and is now playing on that subject is of the most insincere character, but this you will be more fully apprised of when you shall see our old Friend (Peter) Schenck*, now at this place. Cadet (Benjamin F.)Gard*, that was, called on me yesterday in much trouble at his late resignation. I told him that I could not nor would not interfere in his behalf in any other manner than such as should be satisfactory to the academic board - and that his restoration must depend intirely on them, as I was convinced that the Secretary of War (Peter B. Porter) would take no step in this matter without consulting the board on the subject; He appears penitent and is much distressed if he could be restored without endangering the discipline of the institution it would be an act of charity to him and consolation to his parents; but of this you must be the judge - as I assure - you it is foreign from My wish to do any thing that shall go in the slightest degree to impair the discipline of the institution I will at all times be glad to hear from you and will close this letter by describing myself your most obedient servant

JOSEPH VANCE

Col. S Thayer

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 3d April 1828.

Sir,

Your letter dated the 18 ult. stating that Lieut. (Harvey) Brown*, who had been detailed for a tour of duty, at the Artillery School of Practice, at Old Point Comfort, by General Order No 11, dated the 6th ultimo; is discharging important and necessary duties at the Military Academy; and that his removal at this time would be highly injurious to the Institution, has been received, and I have now to inform you that the detail of Lt Brown has been reconsidered by the Secretary of War (Peter B. Porter) and that he will be permitted to remain at the Military Academy. An order to that effect will be issued this day. I am Sir very respectfully Yr. Ob. Servt. ALEXR. MACOMB M Genl

Chief Engineer

L. Col. S Thayer Supt of the Mil. Academy West Point.

*See Index

FROM William Eustis* to Ivers James Austin*

(May 1828)

Sir,

I desire to express to you that I am sensible of having been wrong in striking a Cadet, and that passion induced me to it. Your obedt Servt WM. EUSTIS

*See Index

FROM James J. Austin* to William J. Worth*

(8th May 1828)

Sir

The accompanying note having been sent to me by Cadet (William) Eustis*, I hope that you will allow me to intercede for him and to request that all farther proceedings may be stopped. Respectfully etc JAMES J AUSTIN
To/Major W. J. Worth

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department Washington
May 19. 1828

Sir

The following named gentlemen have been invited by the Secretary of War (Peter B. Porter) to attend the approaching examination of the Cadets which will commence on the first Monday in June next, to whom on their arrival at West Point you will extend the usual civilities and accommodations.

General William Carroll* of Tennessee
Col Daniel Breck* of Kentucky
Capt A Larrabee* of Connecticut
Henry A Bullard* Esqr of Louisiana
Col Isaac Andruss* of New Jersey
James Kent* Esqr of New York
Doctor (David) Hosack* of Ditto
Col Hugh Mercer* of Virginia
Daniel Treadwell* Esqr of Massachusetts
Col. G. W. Ritter* of Pennsylvania
Professor Vethake* of Ditto
Hon John H Bryan* of North Carolina
Col Thomas Emory* of Maryland
Wm Q Ashley* Esqr " Kentucky
John Pitman* Esqr " Rhode Island

I have to advise you also that in addition to the Cadet appointments made for the present year, of which you were informed on the 2nd Instant, the following appointments have been made.

William Crawford* of Georgia
John Beach* of New Hampshire
Robert H Archer* of Maryland
Henry K Burgwyn* of North Carolina

with great Respect I remain your Obt Sevt ALEXR MACOMB
Maj Genl Ch Engr

Lt Col Thayer Supt of the M. Acady West Point

*See Index

FROM John Barney*

Baltimore June 7th 1828

My dear Sir,

A letter just received from my hopeful Son (Cadet J. H. Barney) detailing recent events at West Point, in which he was a conspicuous performer, leaves me no hope that he can be permitted to remain longer at an Institution which his insubordination and rash conduct render him unworthy of.

I shall be with you the last of the week and have only to request that you will detain him there until my arrival - as even were the President (John Quincy Adams) willing to reinstate him, I could not consent a second time to appeal to his clemency.

My only hope now is, that it may be practicable to save him the disgrace of a dismissal, which I would regret inasmuch as it would exclude him from college where he might complete his education. With esteem and regard I remain your much obliged friend & Servt. JOHN BARNEY
Col S Thayer

*See Index

FROM James Monroe*

New York June 11 1828

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to inclose to you, a copy of my memoir, on the subject of my claims, and which treats also on the services, on which they are founded. You will perceive that I have sought nothing, to which I did not think that I was entitled, by the strict rules of justice, & by the withholding of which, I have been greatly injured. It is also my wish, if on a full view of the subject, impartial minds should not be convinced, of the justice of these claims, that nothing further should ever be granted. I am satisfied that you will take an interest, in the perusal of this paper, in both its views, in what relates to service as well as claims. It is in this sentiment that I request your acceptance of it.

As I wish the documents relating to my public service in some portions of which, I did not escape censure, to be preserved, I send you a copy to be deposited, in the academy. I should be more full, in this letter, but owing to the call of some friends, have it not in my power. Present my friendly regards to Major (William) Worth*, to whom, be so kind as, afford the opportunity of perusing the memoir, which I send you. with great respect & sincere regard I am Dear sir JAMES MONROE

*See Index

FROM Samuel L. Gouverneur*

26 June 1828

My Dear Friend.

I have this moment recd. your very kind letter. When I see you, will converse freely with you. Of the extent of my loss I can't say. It is enough however to double all the miseries against which I have been working for several years & over which I had a prospect of a triumph. Be that as it may - I will push along - It is a long lane, they say which has no turn to it - Mine now presents a pretty long line in perspective, but if there is no turn to it - I think as they say in the country, that I shall cut across fields. I have nothing to say, worth saying. I am as miserable as a poor devil can be, who is surrounded by all who want & has nothing to give -

Mr. (James) Monroe*, went off this morning for the South. He will be in Baltimore on Saturday. Do see him. He has mentioned you to me in the kindest terms; & will be glad to see you. Do if you can, come & spend a day with me. I want to moralize more than ever. It's a damned hard world - when a man who works as hard as I do, cant get on - but "I'll try"
Yrs in haste SLG

*See Index

FROM John Barney* to John Quincy Adams*

Baltimore July 6th 1828

Sir,

Having heretofore been one of the most strenuous supporters of the Military Academy at West Point, it becomes my duty to apprise you in detail of an occurrence which has recently transpired, calculated in my judgment materially to diminish the confidence reposed in the exact distribution of justice by those appointed to superintend it.

Early in the month of June, one of the junior Cadets was arrested, tried and sentenced to confinement in the dark and light prisons, in consequence of information given by a brother Cadet (acting as a Lieutenant) that he had used disrespectful language towards him, three Cadets passing the Prison, and finding the door open, or insecurely fastened, entered and were found conversing with him by the same officer who caused his arrest, who immediately confined them also. The Class Mates of the Prisoners assembled near the Prison and my son was attracted there to know the cause of the gathering; standing on the outer edge of the Circle, he was accosted by the acting Lieutenant as follows:

"Cadet Barney, you are engaged in this Mutiny; consider yourself under arrest" astonished at the unfounded charge, he replied "You may consider your nose as pulled" and this the testimony of the Witnesses proved was said smilingly. On the succeeding day he wrote to me expressing his regret at the indiscretion, and acknowledging that he was to blame in thus placing him in the power of a malicious young man, whose sole merit consisted in his prying into the actions of his fellows, and turning informer general, and States evidence on all occasions, and who had stood at the foot of his Class on every examination. Within forty eight hours after the offense was given, my son was tried and dismissed and the Acting Secretary of War apprised me that my request for permission for him to resign, whereby he would be enabled to complete his education elsewhere, could not be granted, that the good of the Service, and the character of the Institution imperiously demanded that the sentence should be carried into effect, and the President had accordingly approved the proceedings in the case. However severe the operation of a decision which excludes a youth from the walls of every college in the Union, and thereby debars him of the advantages which a liberal education confers, I acquiesced without a murmur, and repaired forthwith to West Point to bring my son home.

I met Colonel Thayer with the utmost cordiality & continued to feel perfect confidence in the correctness of the proceedings until I accidentally learnt that the General Court Martial which tried my son had been specially convened by order of the Secretary of War for the trial of Cadet (William) Eustis*, charged with the offense of striking with his fists, and abusing his Captain in presence of a large number of Cadets, and who, instead of being arraigned for trial, was not even reduced to the ranks, but actually marched as Corporal of the guard who conducted my son to his trial. Astonished that one cadet should be permitted to inflict with impunity a blow on his commanding officer, which by every Military law is punished with death. I immediately waited on Col Thayer and demanded to know by what rule of justice Cadet Eustis could be exempt from

even the formalities of a trial, while my son was ignominiously dismissed for a trivial offense. He at first denied that he owed any accountability to me as to the manner in which he had thought proper to acquit the one and to arraign the other, but finally condescended to say that Cadet Eustis had merely struck a Brother Cadet, when neither were on duty, consequently it could not be construed into disrespect to his superior officer, but when the cause of the offence is known, this explanation does not extenuate the outrage.

The Captain in the discharge of his duty reports Cadet Eustis for improper conduct, and he to deter him from a repetition of the same, determines to take revenge; and in presence of a large number of Cadets, proceeds to assail and beat him.

Col Thayer also stated in mitigation that Cadet Eustis had apologized, and therefore he considered himself at liberty to remove him from the cognizance of the Court, after allowing him 5 or 6 weeks to reflect, repent, and atone for his offence.

How different was his course towards my son. within 48 hours after his transgression, without allowing him time to consult with a human being, he is put on his trial. Determined not to screen himself by any pitiful evasion he pleaded guilty to the language imputed to him; not aware that by military technicalities mutiny and rebellion are engrafted on the charge and the highest penalty of crime visited on him for a mere indiscretion.

Had "the good of the service been promoted and the character of the Institution" sustained by his condign punishment, I should not have complained, but how are the facts.

Indignation glows in the bosom of every Cadet acquainted with these results, they behold the Son of a Brother Officer screened by Col Thayer from even the formalities of a trial, retaining his rank, after the commission of the most inexplicable offense known to the Military Code while another is dismissed for an act comparatively trivial.

I wish Sir distinctly to be understood as not repining at the sentence approved by you, but as discharging my duty in apprizing you of the system of favoritism, which seems to threaten the existence of an institution heretofore the pride of the Nation.

I doubt the power of Col. Thayer thus to withdraw a prisoner from before a tribunal specially convened to try him - if he does possess by existing regulations this authority - it is in my judgment high time an investigation should take place as to the manner in which it is exercised.

Having submitted these facts for your consideration I cheerfully consign them to your arbitrament. With high consideration I have the honor to be Your Obedt Servt

JOHN BARNEY

To the President of the United States

*See Index

FROM Robiquet and A. Boyveau, Chemical mfgrs., Paris¹

(7 July 1828)

Invoice of one case of Chemical preparations purchased by order of Col S Thayer, Superintendent of the Military Academy, West Point, New York, and to him consigned; forwarded to Mssrs Welles and Greene. It was to be shipped aboard the Bayard, Captain Batman bound for New York, marked and numbered as per margin. -

ROBIQUET

Titular member of the Royal Academy of Medicine
Pharmacist, Manufacturer of Chemical Products and A. Boyveau
Rue des Fosses St Germanin &
Auxerrois No 3

N^o 8, to Mr Paris, 7 July 182

Welles & Greene

at LeHavre

to be sent to

Mr Thayer

at New York

We, the undersigned, declare to have sent to New York, via Le Havre, a parcel marked as indicated in the margin hereon, containing the following:

17 lt Acids (sulphuric, nitric, citric, etc)	
total cost.....	35 fr
2 oz Protoxide of copper	2
6 gr oxide of silver, platinum, and gold	30
2 gr platinum	5
5 gr sulphur carbide	10
3 oz phosphorus, tin, and lime chloride	10
1 lt pure soda	20
6 lt sulfate of aluminum, manganese, aluminum, ammonia, and copper	6
1 oz 2 gr cobalt nitrate	10
1 oz potassium carbonate	5
1 oz hydrosulphate of ammonia	8
Glassware	40
Total cost	<u>151</u>

I certify that the above is for the use of the US Mil Academy at West Point.

S. THAYER, Lt Col
Superintendent

¹ Original in French and English

FROM Robiquet and A. Boyveau, Chemical mfgs., Paris.¹

(8 July 1828)

Invoice

Articles received from N Niles* for Chem. Dep. M. A. 1828

Rue des Fosses St Germain L'auxerrois No 3
ROBIQUET, Professor of the School of Pharmacy and A Boyveau,
Manufacturers of Chemical Products
Paris, 8 July 1828
Sold and delivered to Mr N Niles:

WP No 6	4 lt 14 oz Chlorine @ 25 -7	1.25
	2 gr platinum @4	8
	5 gr sulphur carbide @3	15
	2 oz phosphorus protochloride @5	10
	1 oz phosphorus deutochloride	5
	1 oz tin chloride	3
	1 lt chloride of lime	1
	1 lt sulphur of antimony	2
	1 lt hydrosulphate of ammonia	12
	4 lt 10 oz pure sulphuric acid @2	9.25
	5 lt pure nitric acid 40° @3.50	17.50
	4 lt 12 oz pure hydrochloric acid @2	9.50
	1 lt crystallized acetic acid	18
	4 oz pure citric acid @1.50	6
	1 oz tannic acid	12
	1 oz pure tartaric acid	4
	1 lt pure soda	24
	2 oz protonide of copper	5
	4 gr silver oxide @2	8
	Sub-total	170.50
	Sub-total brought forward	170.50
	1 gr platinum oxide	8
	1 gr gold oxide	20
	3 lt native caryte carbonate @2	6
	14 oz aluminum sulphate	.90
	5 lt pure sulphate of aluminum & ammonia @1.50	7.50
	4 oz manganese sulphate	30
	8 oz copper sulphate	60
	2 gr crystallized cobalt nitrate @3	6
	1 gr crystallized silver nitrate	6
	1 oz potassium	6
	8 oz proto hydrochloride of tin	1
	4 gr hydrochlorate of cobalt (concentrated)	4
	8 oz caryte acetate	7
	8 oz potassium acetate acid	3.50
	4 oz potassium nitrate acetate	4
	1 oz concentrated ammoniac amber	8
	6 capsules of porcelain	5.70
	2 graduated bell jars @6	12
	1 graduated tube	5
	1 bell jar with faucet	18
	cheese container lids	5.35
	2 flacons (2 liter size) @2	4
	3 " (1 liter size) @1	3
	2 " (half-pint size) @ .75	1.50
	3 half-pint, narrow-neck flacons @.25	.75
	1 wide-mouth flacon	2
	4 test tubes @.20	.80

1 half-pint bottle (wide-mouth)	2
1 1-oz bottle	1.25
4 test tubes @.15	.60
9 small test tubes @.10	.90
5 flacons @.30	<u>1.50</u>
	323.85

I certify that the articles mentioned in this invoice are for the use of the US Mil. Academy. S. THAYER

*See Index

¹ Original in French

FROM Nathaniel Niles*¹

(12 July 1828)

Portfolio p 323 - 5

Paris, 12 July 1828
Nathaniel Niles

Dear Sir,

I have not found the sodium already purchased or the Acide Sulpurique sufficiently pure - both of these articles will, however, be forwarded with the Brome on the next packet. With the most respectful consideration N NILES
Rue d'Artois No 12

*See Index

¹Original in French

FROM Peter B. Porter*

Department of War July 25, 1828

Sir,

In compliance with instructions from the President (John Quincy Adams) I herewith enclose to you the copy of a letter, recently addressed to him by the Hon Mr. (John) Barney*, on the subject of the dismissal of his son (John Hondman Barney)* from the Military Academy; with an expectation of receiving from you, in reply, such explanations and remarks, as its contents may, in your opinion, demand. I am Sir respectfully
Your Obt Svt (Signed) P. B. PORTER

To Col. Thayer
Supt Mil Academy

*See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun*

Pendleton 28th July 1828

Dear Sir

There is a flourishing academy in this neighbourhood, the superintendent of which, Mr McClintock is desirous of introducing into it, certain branches of military (education). For this purpose he is anxious to obtain as an assistant, some suitable individual who has been educated at West Point, with a view to which I now write to you at his request. He authorizes me to say that the emoluments would be from \$800 to \$1000 per annum. The section of country is perfectly healthy as much so as any portion of the northern states. If you should know of one of the graduates of the Point, who should feel disposed to engage as a teacher and whom you could recommend, I would take it as a favour to be informed thereof. The school is in my immediate neighbourhood, and I take much interest in its success. I would thank you for an early answer, as may be convenient. With great respect I am etc etc

J. C. CALHOUN

Col S. Thayer

*See Index

FROM Alfred Mordecai*

Engineer Department
Washington August 7th 1828.

To Lieut. Col. S. Thayer
Supt. U. S. Mily Acady.
New York -

Sir

Your letter of the 1st August with the enclosures relating to the arrest of Capt. (Aeneas) Mackay* at West Point, has been received - On the application of Major (William J.) Worth* made previously to the receipt of your letter, a court martial for the trial of Capt Mackay was requested by the Chief Engineer & ordered accordingly -

Two other letters of the same date were also received from you, one requesting the detail of Lt. (William) Palmer* as asst Instructor of Tactics at the Mily. Acady which has been referred to Major Genl. (Alexander) Macomb*, & the other requesting that some asst. Surgeon having no family may be assigned to West Point in place of Asst Surgeon Dr Camp, which has been referred to the surgeon General with a request that such an arrangement may be made - By order of Col. Gratiot* A. MORDECAI Lt. Engrs Asst to Chf Engr.

*See Index

FROM James Monroe*

Oak hill, Virg^a Aug^t 25, 1828

Dear Sir

At the last meeting of the board of visitors of the University of this state, I was appointed a member of a committee, on whom it was enjoined, to prepare and report to the board, at its next meetings, which will be on the first of Oct^r, a plan of Executive gov^t. for the university. It would afford me great plasure, to receive, in confidence, of course, your sentiments of that subject. You have, I presume, a pretty correct idea, of the organization of the institution, and of the kind of gov^t, which now exists over it. The active gov^t. has been, and still is, in the board of visitors. A certain portion of power, is vested in the faculty, which is composed of the professors-but that is limited, as to the controul, over disbursements, supplies, and the general administration, and likewise in the gov^t. of the youth, the infliction of the highest penalties being made, to depend, on the sanction of the board of visitors. The power of this board, in the current Executive Administration, is vested, in a committee of two members, of whom the Rector is one. My idea is, that there is no institutions, in the Ustates, of this kind, by which I mean, University, or College, whose gov^t. is complete. I have not the draught of many, & may therefore be mistaken, but my impression is, that the power is not sufficiently concentrated, at the head, nor are adequate means afforded in aid of that head, & under it, to secure an efficient gov^t. of the youth, in any of them. The gov^t. of the youth appears to me to be a distinct & separate concern, from that of education, and to which the board of visitors, & faculty, are equally imcompetant. The gov^t. must be present with the institution, which the visitors, who are dispersed over the state, can not be, and the faculty can not spare the time, from their other duties. The whole time of the professors, must be employed, in studying & lecturing. I am inclined to think, that there ought to be, an intimediate character, between the visitors & professor, who should, under the direction of the visitors, overlook, the whole institution, Professor, Youth, Military Instructor, Procter, _____ . The professor, as the faculty, should have a certain degree of power, for the support of their authority over the youth, & in aid of the visitors & superintendant, who in such an institution may be called, either by that name, or President, or warden. Some think, that the office alluded to, may be vested in one of the Professors, who may be appointed either by the visitors, or elected by a majority of their own corps, and be permanent, or elected annually, or for a shorter term. An objection to this has been already stated, that it would interfere to much with his other duties. A rivalry might also be apprehended, whether the appointment was made, by themselves, or the visitors, which might have an injurious effect. If made for a short term, there would be no gov^t. at all. It seems probable therefore, that to secure an efficient gov^t. over the institution, it would be most advisable, to vest the power, in an officer, of the character above described, and to appoint under him, a military instructor whose duty it should be, to call the roll, & parade the youth at such times, as should be appointed, to instruct them in military tacticks & see that they are in place to educate the youth, in all the

sciences & rear them to elevated and useful purposes, an appeal must be made to generous and noble sentiments, but at the same time, the discipline, must be exact, and strict. Their duty should be regulated by the hour, and they should always be in place, at the time, appointed. A departure from rule, is sure to degenerate into _____.

These are general remarks which I suggest merely for your consideration. You will find, I think, that they go to support the idea, at our academy at West Point, is better organized, for the gov^t of the institution, in all its branches, than any university or college in the Ustates; and as well, if not better than any in Europe. It affords me real delight, to be able to add, that I think, that the administration, corresponds with the organization _____ information which you can give me, founded on your experience, as to organization, and the duties, to be prescribed in detail, to each branch, will be kindly recieved. Let me hear from you, as soon, as you may find it convenient. Present my best regards to Major (William J.) Worth*, and be assured of my best wishes for your welfare, very sincerely I am dear sir
yours JAMES MONROE

A difficiency of adequate funds, may prevent the adoption of the most elegible plan, but I still wish, the analysis, of the subject, on principal. It is desirable also, to ascertain, how far the military instructor may be able, by powers to be given to him, to supply any defect, in the organization, of the other character alluded to, and what would be the smallest sum, for which a competant one might be procured.

*See Index

FROM William Jenkins Worth*

U.S. Mil Academy
West Point August 26th 1828

Sir,

In obedience to the directions expressed in your note of this date, I have the honor herewith to report the circumstances connected with: "1st The arrest and trial of the late Cadet John (H.) Barney*" on the 31st of May last, the officer on duty for the day, was attracted by a disorderly and riotous assemblage of Cadets at the door of the prison room where a Cadet was confined, undergoing the sentence of a court martial. He found the door of the room forced open and a very insubordinate disposition manifested by the assembled cadets, classmates of the prisoner; conspicuous in this assemblage was Cadet Barney. The Officer repeatedly ordered the Cadets to disperse and retire to their rooms. The order was generally obeyed; several however remained, and the order being repeated, Barney very grossly insulted the officer in the execution of his duty. defied his authority and refused to obey his order placing him in arrest. The circumstances were immediately reported to me whereupon I placed Barney in arrest and preferred the charges on which he was tried, convicted and dismissed. this young man was detected playing at cards in quarters sometime in the preceeding February and tried and sentenced to be dismissed; but the sentence was remitted, as appears by the order in the case, on the recommendation of the Superintendent. I remember that you informed me at the time of his trial that you should so recommend in consideration of its being his first considerable offence. His conduct however from the period of his first, down to that of his second trial was exceedingly bad, and manifested an utter disregard of the regulations. from frequent conversations with this young man, I became satisfied and so expressed my opinion to you, that he ought to be dismissed, his father (John Barney)* having refused permission to him to resign; from my knowledge of the existence of this disposition, added to a knowledge of the conspicuous part he took in the riot alluded to, I was satisfied that he had aimed at the reputation of a leader in the transaction; and that his conduct was designedly bad. this, together with the consideration of his former misconduct induced me to present the charges and urge upon you his trial and punishment if proven guilty.

2ndly As regards the case of Cadet (William) Eustis*: on the 1st of May Cadet (Ivers James) Austin* reported to me that, after the Mess Parade was dismissed, Cadet Eustis had assaulted him, in consequence, as he understood, of some supposed private grievance. In the report Mr. Austin expressed his belief, that Eustis had acted under the influence of passion and perhaps been instigated by bad advisers: he also expressed the wish that no serious consequences might fall upon Eustis. In a conversation with both parties I became satisfied that a misunderstanding had long existed between them and that it had now found vent in the suddenly excited passion of Eustis. I placed him however in confinement and reported the circumstances to you, at the same time recalling to your recollection the previous meritorious conduct of the delinquent, and added the opinion that he would doubtless on reflection from a sense of honor and of the unmerited indignity that he had attempted to put upon Mr. Austin, make ample atonement, and I was not disappointed. He expressed his regret and sense of error which was

received by the injured party, who warmly and repeatedly interceded in his behalf; yielding to the wishes of Mr. Austin, believing that the discipline of the Corps had received no injury, and that the good of the Service could in no wise be promoted by his trial and consequent dismissal, I begged of you not to have him arraigned before the Court and, as you may remember, did not exhibit charges, as usual. You yielded to my solicitations, and the good conduct since, and fair promise of Eustis, prove him to have been worthy of the lenity extended to him. I have the honor to be, Very respectfully
Yr Most Obt Svt (Signed) W. J. WORTH
To Lt. Col. Thayer Supt. etc. Mil Academy

*See Index

TO Peter B. Porter*

Military Academy
West Point August 26th 1828

Sir,

On my return to West Point several days ago, I had the honor to receive your communication of the 23rd ultimo, enclosing a copy of a letter to the President, from the Hon John Barney on the subject of the dismissal of his son from the Military Academy, and agreeably to your instructions have now the honor to submit for the consideration of the President (John Quincy Adams) such explanations and remarks as its contents have appeared to me to demand.

The statements contained in Mr. Barneys letter so far as they bear against me, may be expressed in substance as follows.

1st That the misconduct of which Cadet (John H.) Barney* was guilty, was of rather a trivial nature, or at all events not of so serious a character as to justify me in arraigning him before a Court Martial. This if not expressly stated is clearly implied.

2nd That the Court which tried his son was "specially ordered for the trial of another cadet", leaving it to be inferred that it was not competent to try his son.

3rd That in causing his son to be tried while Cadet (William) Eustis* charged with a similar offense was allowed to escape without a trial, I was guilty of an act of gross partiality. I will reply to these several allegations in the order in which they stand.

1st The affair out of which grew the charges preferred against Cadet Barney, may briefly be described as follows. The cadet who was acting as officer of the day, hearing a noise near the prison in which a Cadet was confined by sentence of a court martial, and proceeding to the Spot, found the door forced open, and a number of the prisoners classmates assembled in and about the place. As in duty bound he endeavoured to disperse the multitude, but his authority was disregarded, and himself grossly insulted, nor was the riot suppressed, till some of the commissioned officers repaired to the scene of it. In this riot Cadet Barney made himself principally conspicuous, and was therefore naturally regarded as the ringleader. His prompt arrest and trial were matters of course, and deemed the more necessary as there was good reason to believe that the attempt to rescue the Prisoner was the result of a combination, and would not fail to be repeated without the adoption of some strong repressive measure. Of the necessity of Cadet Barneys arrest and trial, no impartial person acquainted with all the circumstances of the case can entertain a doubt, and indeed none was entertained by Mr. Barney himself until after the trial took place as appears from his letter to me of June 7th (a certified copy of which is hereto annexed) wherein he says "A Letter just received from my hopeful son detailing recent events at West Point, in which he was a conspicuous performer leaves no hope that he can be permitted to remain longer at an Institution which his insubordination and rash conduct renders him unworthy of. I shall be with you the last of this week, and have only to request that you will detain him there, until my arrival as even were the President willing to reinstate him I could not consent a second time to appeal to his clemency". I deem it proper here to notice the remarks of Mr. Barney in

relation to the Cadet who, at the time of the riot acted as officer of the day; whom he has not scrupled to stigmatize as "a malicious young man, whose sole merit consisted in prying into the actions of his fellows and turning informer general and States evidence" and whom he goes so far as to reproach with his low standing as a scholar. I know not where Mr. Barney derived his information, but it is due to truth and justice to say, that he was egregiously deceived himself, with respect to the conduct and character of this young man, who has since been graduated, and now holds a commission in the Army. No cadet was considered more honorable, and no one possessed a more amiable disposition, altho' as usually happens in like cases, he incurred the ill will of some of his comrades by the faithful and comparatively rigid manner in which he was accustomed to discharge his duties when acting as an officer. On the subject of his scholarship, not wishing to institute comparisons which might prove unacceptable to Mr. Barney, I will simply remark that a Cadet who completes the course of studies at West Point, and receives a Diploma from the Academic Staff, need not blush on account of any numerical standing which may have been assigned him in his class.

2nd A reference to the order constituting the Court Martial which tried Cadet Barney, will shew that the Court was convened for the trial not of Cadet Eustis only, but of such other prisoners as should be brought before it. The Court was therefore bound to try every Prisoner whom I might see fit to arraign before it, whether his name was or was not included in the order.

3rd Were it true that I have been guilty of any undue lenity in the case of Cadet Eustis, this would be an affair between the government and myself, but would not, as I humbly conceive, be a proper subject of complaint on the part of Mr. Barney. The President to whom I am accountable for all my official acts, has however a right to know my reasons for not bringing Cadet Eustis to a trial, and for his satisfaction I will proceed to state them as fully but as concisely as possible.

Sometime in April or May last, Cadet Eustis was arrested for striking or attempting to strike Cadet A, both being officers, but the latter holding an office of higher grade. It can hardly be necessary for me to remark that the appointment of a Cadet to an office, does not confer on him any real rank, or any claim to superiority, or any authority to command except when he is actually performing the duties of the office. At other times all the Cadets are, in a Military point of view, on a footing of perfect equality. now when the difference occurred between Cadet E and Cadet A. neither was on duty. It was therefore an affair between equals and not as Mr. Barney supposes an attack committed by a Cadet on his "Superior" or on his "Commanding Officer" as no investigation took place I am unable to state when, or how the quarrel originated, but as it broke out when the parties were not on duty, I could not with propriety consider it but as a purely private affair, as a breach of the rules of good order and nothing more. I made application for a Court Martial in order that there might be no delay in case a trial should be deemed necessary as the last resort, but it was never my intention to bring the delinquent before the Court should he evince a due sense of his error. From the notes hereto annexed it will be seen that Cadet Eustis

made suitable acknowledgments, that Cadet A expressed himself satisfied, and requested that all further proceedings might be stayed. In subsequent conversations with me they more fully communicated these sentiments on the subject, from which I became satisfied that their reconciliation was sincere and cordial, and that to carry the matter before a Court was inexpedient and would not be conducive to the good of the Service. Cadet Eustis was therefore released from arrest. after a close confinement to his room during six weeks.

Mr. Barney is of opinion that I had no right to "remove" or "withdraw" a prisoner (meaning Cadet Eustis) from before the Court, but had he taken the trouble to enquire, he would have found that Cadet Eustis was not, and could not have been "removed" or "withdrawn" inasmuch as he was never before the Court or within its cognizance. He was not tried, simply because no charges were preferred against him.

It is believed that enough has been said to shew that the cases of Cadets Eustis and Barney were essentially different. The one under excited feelings, committed merely a disorderly act, for which he made every atonement in his power. The other was charged with disorderly, riotous, insubordinate and mutinous conduct accompanied by many aggravating circumstances. The one had never been known previously to violate any of the rules of the Institution. The other not long before had been tried by a court martial and sentenced to be dismissed the service. but was pardoned at the intercession of the Superintendent. The general conduct of the one had ever been correct and exemplary; that of the other, especially during the last few months, was, to say the most of it, far from meritorious.

I now leave it for the President to decide whether there has been any partiality in the case, and whether the complaints of Mr. Barney are not destitute of the shadows of a foundation. As to the charge of "screening the son of a brother officer" respect for the high functionary addressed and for myself, equally forbid indulging in terms adequate to express the scorn with which I repel the imputation. Were I capable of undue bias it would, as it seems to me, have been much more likely to shew itself in favor of the distinguished representative of a great city, who had honored me with professions of personal regard, and who, in his own words, had, up to the time of his son's dismissal, been "one of the most strenuous supporters of the Military Academy". Had he done me more justice, and calculated less on the influences of his official situation, he would perhaps have saved himself some disappointment. He states that when he came to West Point to take away his son, he met me with the utmost cordiality. Such was my impression at the time. On that occasion he expressed a strong desire that his son might be permitted to resign, and seemed to expect that I would intercede with the President to obtain the permission. It should here be borne in mind that Mr. Barney had previously written to the President for the same permission, and had received for answer that "his request could not be granted, that the good of the service, and the character of the Institution imperiously demanded that the sentence of the Court Martial should be carried into effect". It is also proper to mention that the order for the dismissal of Cadet Barney had been issued from the War Department, and was received at West Point on the day here alluded to. Being therefore no longer a Cadet, it is evident that he could not resign without first being reinstated; but by one of the established Regulations of the

Institution "no Cadet who has been dismissed by virtue of the sentence of a Court Martial can ever afterwards be reinstated". It was not therefore at this time in the power of the President to grant Mr. Barney's request, without setting aside an important regulation of the Academy which I presumed he would not do in favor of any person whomsoever. For me therefore to have been the medium of a request which I was morally certain the President would not grant, and which but a few days before he had positively refused to grant, would (had I been restrained by no other considerations) have been not less indecorous than useless. Altho' feeling the strongest desire to gratify Mr. Barney in every thing not inconsistent with my duty as he ought to have been convinced by what I had done on a former occasion, I was now under the painful necessity of telling him that I could not again address the Department in behalf of his son. Whether this will account in any degree for the sudden change which took place at this time in the sentiments of Mr. Barney respecting the management of the Academy, or whether the "discovery" which he made about the same time be the real cause, or only the pretext of that change it is not my present purpose to enquire, nor is it deemed of much consequence. He remained at West Point after this about two days; during which he gave vent to his feelings in the presence of strangers, of Officers of the Institution, of Cadets, and of the members of the Board of Visitors, who were present; making use, as I was informed of many intemperate expressions, and threatening to blow up the Institution. Two of the Board of Visitors who had probably heard him, came (whether on the part of Mr. Barney I know not) to advise me to write to the War Department, to ask permission for his son to resign, saying that if I did, so Mr. Barney would be appeased, and that if I did not, an explosion would take place which would be unpleasant to me and perhaps injurious to the Institution. To these gentlemen I made a full exposition of the case, and have reason to believe that they approved of every step I had taken, and were satisfied that nothing more remained for me to do.

I will only add (in reference to an intimation of Mr. Barney,) that however flattering and gratifying the personal good opinion of individuals in or out of Congress may be, I have ever been in the habit of believing that the preservation and welfare of the Academy mainly depend on the opinion which may be entertained of its utility as one of the great institutions of the country; that so long as its proper administration recommends it to the collective wisdom of Congress, no apprehension need be entertained that it will not receive the fostering care of those by whose will it exists. In regard to its administration it will be understood that I seek no concealment, and think that I cannot better consult my own reputation than by inviting at all times the closest scrutiny.

Since the foregoing was written, I have received the subjoined communication from Major (William J.) Worth*, which will be found to confirm all the statements I have made touching the cases of Cadet Eustis and the late Cadet Barney. I am Sir, With perfect respect
Your obt & humble Svt (THAYER)
Hon. Peter B. Porter
Secy of war

*See Index

FROM General Lallemand¹

New York, 31 August (1828)

My dear Colonel,

I recall very distinctly your courtesy and your thoughtfulness in wishing not to appear to be rushing me in the matter of sending you the prospectus of the establishment of which we spoke at the time of your visit in New York. In that conversation, which, to my regret, could not be longer, it was a question of the principles which should govern the direction which education should take - depending on the needs and the institutions of the country. I should be most interested in taking up with you again this subject which offers so much. On the day when it will be possible for me to create an opportunity to do this, by seeking it at West Point, I shall certainly not ill-treat myself by postponing the satisfaction which I promised myself in accepting your very kind invitation.

Most sincerely, your very humble and obedient servant
LALLEMAND

Colonel Thayer

¹ Original in French

Note on cover: Distinguished under Napoleon who left him in his will 100,000 francs.

FROM Alfred Mordecai*

Engineer Department
Washington 23 Sept. 1828

Sir,

Your letter dated the 19th instant, requesting, that in consequence of the death of Lieut Saml S. Smith* assistant Professor of Philosophy, Lieutenant Robert E. Temple* be detailed for duty at the Military Academy, has been received, and an application has been made to the Secretary of War (Peter B. Porter) for his detail, as required. I am Sir very respectfully Yr. Ob. Servt. By order: A. MORDECAI

Lt. Engrs. Asst to Ch Engr
Lt. Col. S. Thayer Supt. Mil. Academy West Point.

*See Index

TO James Monroe*1

Military Academy
West Point Oct. 10th 1828

Dear Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your communication it is proper that I state the circumstances which have prevented an earlier reply. The last and the present month is the season which strangers usually take to visit West Point, especially those from the South who are there returning from their Northern excursions. This summer the number of visitors has been greater than in any former year. Public characters, foreigners of distinction, and respectable citizens bringing letters of introduction have continued to arrive without the interruption of a single day so that I have been compelled to devote to them every moment of my time which could be spared from official duties. The crowd has not yet much abated, but I have concluded to wait no longer altho' I am sensible that what I shall be able to say at this time will not, in any respect, suit your wishes and expectations. To do anything like justice to the subject even if I felt myself competent to the task would require more leisure than is not at my command.

What ever changes may take place in the organization of your University, I suppose 1st. That the control over the supplies, disbursements & fiscal concerns generally will continue to be exercised by the Visitors & that in these respects little discretionary powers must be delegated to others
2^d That all the officers of the Institution are appointed by the Visitors & are removable by them at pleasure
3^d. That the general Regulations for the Government of the University are framed by the visitors or must receive their approbation.

4th That the Visitors exercise a vigilant supervision over the University in order that all abuses may be corrected

I entirely concur in opinion with those who think that a President or a single efficient responsible head is indispensably necessary to the permanent prosperity of the University.--That the president should not be a professor -- that he should be vested with extensive power -- be entitled to the advice of the professors, but not shackled by them or controlled by their votes, except in a few specified cases such, for instance, as the infliction of the highest penalties, but even in these cases the decisions of the faculty should be subject to the absolute acts of the President who alone should be held responsible

I cannot but think it unwise that the infliction of punishment in any case should be made to depend on the Board of visitors. If injustice be done in any instance, the removal of those who committed it would, as it seems to me, be the lesser evil.

With respect to the means which should be placed in the hands of the executive, the organization of these means, and the minor details of the system, permit me to suggest whether it is not advisable to leave them undetermined until after the appointment of a President. If the appointment be a fortunate one his opinions after some experience would be of the greatest assistance in drawing up a system of Regulations embracing the internal economy, discipline and policies of the Institution.

I presume the funds of the University would not admit of the appointment of officers to perform merely executive duties.

It must be very desirable, for the reasons mentioned in your letters, to relieve the professors from these duties. This may be done ¹ by employing a number of young graduates who would not only act as assistant professors but also under the Instruction of the President would perform the more active executive duties. This class of persons would as teachers be eminently useful even now but will be found indispensable whenever the number of students shall amount to several hundreds. A professor can deliver lectures to many more than he can thoroughly teach. I will illustrate the idea I would convey by supposing a case. A class of 80 students is to be taught Mathematics or Natural Philosophy devoting three hours of each day to the study of the subject at their rooms and three other hours with the Professor. One hour is taken up in the Lecture but this alone is not sufficient. Each student should demonstrate a proposition or explain an investigation at the Black-board and also be interrogated to see that he thoroughly understands the principles. This will require, as experience proves, not less than 15 minutes on an average for each student. Now it is evident that only eight students can be examined in the remaining few hours so that each can be examined only about once a fortnight which in effect is merely equivalent to no examination at all. What is to be done? Let the class be divided into at least four parts or sections and let each section attend 3 hours daily with an assistant professor to be examined upon the subject of the Lecture or lesson given on the preceeding day. The Professor besides lecturing may either have the recitations of one Section himself or what would be the better practice, he might without taking the immediate charge, be present at the recitations, visiting each section in turn and only occasionally putting questions and giving explanations. You know that this is the system of instruction which has been practiced at West Point during the last ten years with what success I leave it for others to say. These assistant professors might doubtless be engaged for small salaries say \$500 per annum or such other sum as would barely support them; their principal inducement to accept of those situations being the opportunity of prosecuting their studies under able professors.

2^d. Whether assistant professors be employed or not the appointment of a suitable person as military instructor would do much to give efficiency to the executive government. Under the direction of the President or, if there be no President, under that of the Rector he would be charged with the details of police and discipline, would watch over the conduct of the students, inspect the public rooms, dormitories and boarding houses or Hotels etc. It would of course be the duty of the professors to report the students who might be absent from their lectures. The presence of the students at all other times might be ascertained by the Military Instructor whether by calling the rolls or by visits to their rooms His duties as instructor may embrace military exercises in the field, lectures on military sciences, civil architecture & engineering & drawing any or all of these branches according to his qualifications. Those would probably

*See Index

¹Original not available for proofing

TO Col. Thomas Aspinwall*

(copy)

Military Academy West Point
Oct. 27. 1828

My dear Sir,

Your several communications of June 16th August 30th & Sept. 13th were duly received. Your suggestions with respect to the remittance of funds will be adopted but I shall be compelled to delay the first remittance until Jany or Feby next. In the meantime, you can draw upon me for the amount of our purchases. The List which you sent me is returned herewith. I have divided the books into two classes as denoted by the figures. prefixed to each title. The first class may be sent as soon as they can be conveniently purchased. The second class need not be purchased until funds shall be remitted for the purpose unless by availing yourself of favorable opportunities they can be bought at very low prices. You will please to consider yourself authorized to forward at discretion without waiting for orders new publications on the following subjects viz. Military History or any branch of the Military art or science. Mathematics Mechanics Nat Philosophy - Astronomy - Civil Engineering also plans and descriptions of Machines. Public edifices & Public Works in general - Mudgetts maps (we have them up to 1823) & all other maps executed at the Tower or under the direction of the Government - All Parliamentary Reports & estimates relative to the army, Navy, roads canals bridges & other Public works - The Transactions of the Royal Society (we have them up to 1826) & every thing relative to the Military Schools - The London Catalogue & all other catalogues of books, instruments, maps, apparatus etc which you may deem useful. You will receive herewith a catalogue of Philosophical apparatus for the purchase of which an appropriation of six thousand dollars will doubtless be made in the course of next winter. In the meantime I am anxious to procure all the requisite information to enable me to give definitive orders for their purchase early next spring. It is probable that a part of them will be procured from France & the remainder in England. To enable me to judge of this I shall cause suitable enquiries to be made at Paris. I have to request that you will, after you shall have obtained the requisite information, send me a catalogue minutely descriptive of each instrument & of all its parts so that I can form a pretty correct idea of its quality & of the value of the work put upon it mentioning the name of the maker and the time he will require to execute it after the order shall have been given also the cost with any other information you may deem useful. It is to be understood that each instrument or article must be the best of its kind which can be procured. It is not improbable that I have omitted many things which would be highly useful to a professor of Philosophy - If so please to insert them. I hope to receive your Report on this subject by the 1st of March at the latest.

Two plain Tables, two good field compasses & a mining compass are wanted immediately & you are accordingly desired to send them by the first opportunity

We are desirous of procuring models of machines & other objects for the demonstrations in Engineering, Natural Philosophy & Artillery & you would greatly oblige me by communicating information on that subject. There are excellent

models & modellers at Woolwich & I have no doubt that you might have similar ones made there if the authorities of the School would permit it. If permission can be obtained you are authorized to order the models to be made. The artillery models most wanted are the following. A Field piece (say 6 pounder) mounted on its carriage with its limber - A Caisson or ammunition carriage for do. A Ballistic pendulum as used at Woolwich for ascertaining the initial velocity of shot

A suspended gun for the same purpose

Revolving disks for the same purpose

Any Models of Fortification would be acceptable

With my next letter you will receive a list of Books to be purchased for our Library. I remain dear Sir Sincerely your friend (Signed) S. THAYER

Col. Thomas Aspinwall London

*See Index

FROM Charles Gratiot*

Engineer Department Washington
October 28th 1828.

To Lieut. Col. S. Thayer
Supt. U. S. Military
West Point N. Y.

Sir

Your letter of the 26th ult enclosing one from Dr
Wheaton in relation to the enlistment of a suitable person
for a Hospital Steward has been laid before the Secretary
of War (Peter B. Porter) who does not consider himself
authorized under existing Laws to allow the enlistment of
any soldier unless he is to be attached, in the usual
manner, to a company; & therefore the hospital steward must
be taken, as heretofore, from the company of artillery
stationed at West Point - respectfully yr obd Servt

C GRATIOT

Col of Engr & Insp of the M. A.

*See Index

FROM Nathaniel Niles*

Paris Oct 30 1828

Dear Sir

You will herewith receive a letter from me containing my account up to the date therein mentioned & an invoice of two cases- one of Models in Geometry - in the other the temple of P_t, most beautifully & most perfectly executed on the scale of one fiftieth of its original size. Your letter referring to the scale of the Models in Architecture, authorised me to cause them to be made on the same scale as those executed for the french & other governments, but at the same time expressed the wish that they should be made upon a uniform scale, if it could be done without essentially varying the conditions of the purchase. It was found that a series of Grecian monuments could be procured on the scale of 1/50th for exactly the same sum that they would cost if made on the irregular scale of those in the french Institute, besides having the advantage of being, in every respect, perfectly exact. I led the Artist to believe that I should have occasion to order duplicates of these models to be made for other institutions. Otherwise, the price would have been considerably greater than the sum for which they will now be had. This scale is so large & the order so simple as to save the necessity of having fragments. As this scale was adopted for me the difference between a whole temple and one with one end removed would have been very little as to price; besides the model would not have reached you in so perfect a state as I trust it will now do. The object of these models being to form the taste as well as to illustrate particular orders in Architecture, the entire building will be infinitely better than any fragment, however near it may approach a whole. For these reasons the whole building has been executed instead of leaving one end off, as mentioned in the order. Should it be desirable to have a better view of the interior that is now afforded, the model can be cut in two between any of the columns. The Artist will continue to work at the most important models mentioned in the Second List of Models in Geometry which I have now the honour to send you.

I have ordered this to be done in conformity to the terms & meaning of your letter which enclosed the order for the first list. Shall however expect particular orders by return Packet on this subject. I will mention that all the models mentioned on this & the previous list have been made for several of the northern nations. The inclosed paper A refers to the List sent you last Spring all of which are now made & forwarded with the exceptions noted at the bottom I(n) the hope that all my doings will have met your approbation I have the honor to subscribe myself with renewed (assurances) of respect & devotion Your obedient St N NILES

*See Index

FROM Charles Gratiot*

Engineer Department Washington
Nov 6. 1828

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 1st & 2nd Insts, the first submitting the project of a uniform over coat for the Cadets at the Military Academy, the latter enclosing a list of the distinguished Cadets for 1828.

I transmit herewith Military Academy Order No 41 directing the adoption of the over-coat as recommended. Also orders No 131 & 132 issued from the Adjutant Genls) I have

Office

the honor to be Your Obt Servt C GRATIOT

Col of Eng & Insp M. A.

Lt Col Thayer Supt M Acady West Point

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Washington. Nov. 6th. 1828

My dear Sir,

The indisposition of Mrs. P. prevented my seeing you when you were last in this city- At the time you called at my house I had gone with my daughter to the Nuns Academy, in Georgetown, which is almost the extent of my walks for several months past - As the subject of education is interesting to you I enclose the prospectus of this female academy - it will at least make your friends wonder how it has found its way to your card rack - You will say there is danger that my daughter may become a Catholic - I must run that risk for the other advantages, at present, as I fear Mrs. P. will never be able to superintend the child's education and I have very great objections to all our boarding schools for girls -

The immediate object of this letter is to ask your opinion on a suggestion I have just made to a friend of a young gentleman of Va who holds by kinship two swords of Washington - The grandfather of this man was a favorite nephew of Genl. Washington and rec'd from him these two swords - One the Genl. wore at the battle of Monmouth - the other was the gift of Frederick and has this inscription - "From the oldest soldier in Europe to the greatest soldier in the world." I have suggested that Mr. (Lewis) deposit the Monmouth sword at the Mily Academy, or rather that he write to the Secy of War (Peter B. Porter) proposing to do so on condition that it be made by regulation the reward of merit to the Cadets to be allowed to buckle it on - Say the Cadet of each section in each and every class, who stands first in merit in each monthly report - repair to the Library, or some other place of deposit for the sword (which shall be kept locked in a casket for that purpose) and there in presence of some officer who keeps the key for that purpose, be allowed to buckle it on - I mention these details only to illustrate my idea of making it a stimulus to exertion and an object for ambition - I think it should be within the reach of all good soldiers, and not a mark of the highest merit, while it might be a disgrace, to a certain extent, never to have seen and worn it during the Academic career - If the suggestion strikes you favorably although I have never seen the owner of these swords I think I can by the assistance of his schoolfellow and friend induce him to make the offer to the Secy of War - I beg you not to think that I have a wish to say how it shall be used, farther than to have it deposited at the Academy to be preserved and made to contribute to the interest of the institution - I will make our friend W. forward this as public service so that whatever you may think of it I will only tax your leisure for an answer without delicacy or reserve, as I have only this moment asked the friend of Mr. Lewis if it would not be well for him to suggest such deposit and he readily offered his influence without knowing my intention to write you on the subject. With great respect and regard Your mo. ob. Servt. and friend

D. PARKER

To Colonel S. Thayer U. S. Army Supt Mil Academy West Point

*See Index

TO Charles Gratiot*

(copy)

Military Academy. West Point
Dec^r 2^d 1828.

Sir:

The Cadets of the Military Academy hearing that Major (William J.) Worth was about to leave the Institution have requested my permission to present him with a sword as a testimonial of their high respect & regard. This request which I am called upon either to grant or refuse involves a question of military propriety which I beg leave to submit for the decision of the Department. The question submitted may be stated as follows. Is an address (or other act of similar character) expressive of the thanks and good will of a military Corps to their commander sanctioned by the usages of the services or consistent with sound military principles? Doubtless no one will contend that a military Corps can in any case be permitted to censure the conduct of their Commander, but the right of approving seems to involve that of condemning. Indeed the omission in an individual case would of itself be a virtual censure. It involves by necessary implication the right of discussing the merits & demerits of a commander as well as that of assembling, together for the purpose. were the practice tolerated at the Military Academy it cannot be doubted that the conduct & character of every commander would on his leaving the Institution, be canvassed & passed upon by the Corps of Cadets & is it to be supposed that the desire of obtaining the suffrages on the fear of being singled out for the marked displeasure of such a Corps would have no influence upon the official conduct of their commanders? I am not aware that there has been any case or precedent in our service which would furnish any light for the decision of the question here submitted, but in the British service there was a like case noticed in Samuels account of the British army page 262 as follows "Sir James Creig when in the command of Canada announced, in public orders, an address expressive of the thanks of the non-commissioned officers of a Regiment to their adjutant on his retiring from his office; as an unjustifiable and an irregular proceeding & the order of that commander was very highly applauded by his Majesty & held up to the admiration of the Army". Before closing I must remark in Justice to Major Worth that he has not rec^d the slightest intimation of the complement intended him & that his views on this subject as expressed to me on many former occasions concur entirely with my own. On the receipt of your reply a copy thereof & of this communication will be handed to Major Worth. Very respectfully I am your obedt servant.

S. THAYER

Lt. Col. Superintendent

Col. Chas Gratiot Chief Engineer
Inspector of the Military Academy

*See Index

TO Charles Gratiot*

Private

Military Academy West Point

Dec. 5th 1828

My dear Colonel

Permit me to express my gratefull acknowledgements for your kind attention to my wishes respecting Major (William J.) Worths* successor. I was of opinion, as you may have perceived from my letter on the subject, that the appointment of Captain (Ethan A.) Hitchcock* should not have been announced in order until after he had been consulted, but you had, doubtless, good reason for not concurring in that opinion. There is however one circumstance connected with the order in question which is to me a cause of some regret. I allude to the clause appointing Captain Hitchcock "Commandant of the Corps of Cadets". This is the first instance in which a Commandant of the Corps has been appointed by the War Department. The Superintendent being solely responsible for the correct administration & discipline of the Academy it has been left optional with him either to reserve to himself the exclusive command of the cadets or to confer the immediate command on a subordinate officer. In the selection of that officer he felt himself entirely unrestricted. He might call to his aid in that capacity either the instructor of Infantry Tactics or the Instructor of Artillery or his own Adjutant or any other officer of his command assigning him such duties as he deemed proper While therefore the office of instructor of Tactics was permanent & not liable to be abolished without the sanction of the War Department; that of Comm'dt of cadets depended for its continuance on the will of the Superintendent. Such being the tenure of the offices there was no room for collisions and jealousies. Ready obedience & zealous performance of duty followed as matters of course. Will this state of things continue? I think not. The commandant of cadets no longer holding his appointment at the pleasure of the Superintendent, will probably conceive that he ought to be vested with the same degree of power & authority as a Col. of the Army exercises over his regiment. Such a pretension has hitherto never been set up & would be utterly inadmissible. The officer bearing the title of commandant of the Corps is in reality only the 2^d in command. He gives no order of any importance but by directions or with the sanction of the Superintendent. Were it otherwise the principal responsibilities of the Superintendent would, with the power, be transferred from him to the commandant of Cadets, & then it would be advisable to transfer the whole at once as they are, from their nature indivisible. I hope, my dear Colonel, that these forebodings will not be realised & can assure you that as far as it depends on me the machine shall move on with regularity & if possible without friction. I remain most sincerely & truly yours (signed) S. THAYER
Col Charles Gratiot Chief Engineer
Inspector of the Military Academy.

*See Index

FROM Charles Gratiot*

Engineer Department Washington
Decr 11th 1828.

To Lieut. Col. S. Thayer
Supt. U. S. Mily Acady.
West Point N. Y.

Sir

I transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Secretary of War (Peter B. Porter), in reply to one addressed to him from this Department, in relation to the request of the cadets of the Mily Acady for permission to present a sword to Major (William J.) Worth*, as a testimonial of respect & regard on his retiring from the command of them, and am respectfully yr obed servt. C GRATIOT

Col of Engr & Insp. M. A.

*See Index

BOOKS ORDERED FOR THE WAR DEPT¹

Congreve's Treatise on the General Principles of the Rocket System
Regulations for the General Staff & Regimental Officers of the British Army
Crawford's Standing Orders
Jackson's Systematic View of the Formation, Discipline, and Economy of Armies
Roberts on Regimental Courts
Chitty's Law of Nations
United Service Journal
Allix, Field Artillery System
Regulation re Instruction of and Service by the Troops of the Royal Artillery Corps in the Schools
Artillery School Program
Programs of Instruction of the Ecole Polytechnique
Regulation for the Service of Construction Arsenals
Collection of 188 engravings of uniforms
Laroche Ayman, Introduction to the Study of War
Dissertation on Cavalry
Reostat, New Military Hygiene
Lebouterel, Manual for Infantry Officers
Manual for Non-Commissioned Officers and Corporals
Statute of Service Regulations for Fortifications & Quarters
Regulations for Mounted Troops in the Field
Regulations for Mounted Troops in Garrison
Regulations for Infantry Forces in Garrison
Benoit, Complete Course in Topography and Geodesy
Periodicals: Engineer Officer Report
Journal of Military Science
Allant, History of the Corps of Engineers
Kennedy on Courts Martial
Preval, Service of Armies in the Field
Charlevoix's Letters

The following books are out of print and cannot be obtained -

Historical Account of an Expedition against the Ohio Indians in 1764 - under Bouquet
Colden's History of the Five Nations
Adair's History of the American Indians
Bossu's Travels in Louisiana
Historical Journal of an Expedition to California in 1768, '69, and '70
Pittman's Present State of the European Settlements on the Mississippi (1770)
Lahontan's New Voyages to North America from 1683 to 1694
Jones' Journal of Two Visits to the Indians
J. Long's Travels among the Indians
Michaux's Travels in the United States
Bartram's Travels in the United States
Le Beau - Travels among the Savages of North America

¹ Original in French and English

FROM Nathaniel Niles*¹

Colonel S Thayer
Supt of the Military College
WEST POINT

Paris, 29th Dec 1828

Dear Sir,

I enclose your Invoice of Seven cases shipped by the Don Quixotte, amounting to 1393.50 francs. L'ecorchie, Castor & Pollux & specimen of Cartons are moulded but were not dry enough to be sent without liability to injury.

By the France you will have received my Invoice of Case No 12 to which is to be added 60 francs for the 12 Numbers of Choix d'Edifices public en France. I Remain, Dear Sir,
Your most obedient N NILES

*See Index

¹ Original in French

Invoice of Seven Cases of articles purchased by N Niles-Paris, for the drawing department of the United States Military Academy, West Point, in conformity to an order from Col S Thayer, Superintendent & to him consigned, per the Don Quixote, Captain Whitall bound for New York.¹

ST	One case containing		
WP	the Apollo Belvedere	150 f	
#13			
#14	One case containing		
	The Germanicus	140	
#15	One case containing		
	Bust of Roma Colossale	25	
	Bust of Juno "	12	
	Bust of Brutus "	12	
	Bust of Euripides "	7.50	
	Mask of Jupiter Olympia	<u>8</u>	64.50
#16	One case containing		
	Bust of Escupale de la ville	15	
	Bust of Alexander the Great	12	
	Bust of Ariadne of the Capital	12	
	Bust of two Hygies @ 10 f	<u>20</u>	59
#17	One case containing		
	Bust of Bacchus	9	
	Bust of Diana	9	
	Bust of Venue of Arles	7.50	
	Bust of Augustus	<u>9</u>	
	to be Carried over	34.50	413.50
	Case #17 (continued) Brought over	34.50	413.50
	Bust of Italicus	6	
	Bust of Melpomene	8	
	Bust of Hippocrates	6	
	Bust of Antoninus of the Capital	<u>4</u>	58.50
#18	One case containing		
	Bust of Emosthenes	6	
	Bust of Homer	7.50	
	Bust of Laocoon father	12	
	Bust of Indian Bacchus	10	
	Bust of Maiden Niobe	3	
	Bust of Venus of Medicis	5	
	Bust of Greek Love	<u>5</u>	48.50
#19	One case containing		
	The Three Great Battles of Alexander		
	engraved by Audron, copies of note		
	of the Lebrun painting	300	
	The Battle of Austerlitz		
	engraved by Godfroy	150	
	The Transfiguration by Raphael		
	and Antoine Morghien	<u>75</u>	<u>525</u>
			1045.50
Charges			
	Case for Apollo	40	
	Case for Germanicus	36	
4	Cases for Busts	80	
	Case for Engravings	30	
	Packing cloths & straw	<u>162</u>	<u>343</u>
			1,393.50

DON QUIXOTTE
JAS. CAMPBELL

¹ Original in French