

CHRONOLOGICAL ARRANGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS
1834 - 1872

3244-44
6648

Post - 1833

No Date Data on expenditures at USMA.
No Date Cadets received USMA 1802 - 1833
No Date On ST's accts. as Supt.

1834

4 Mar. FROM Troughton & Simms to Thos. Aspinwall
7 Mar. FROM Chas. Gratiot to ST
29 Apr. FROM Wm. Channing to ST
6 Jul. FROM ST to Chas. Gratiot
11 Jul. FROM Troughton & Simms to J. Le Souéf
11 Jul. FROM Troughton & Simms to J. Le Souéf
26 Jul. FROM John Brereton to ST
29 Jul. FROM Troughton & Simms to J. Le Souéf
16 Aug. FROM Troughton & Simms to J. Le Souéf
31 Oct. FROM Chas. Gratiot to Geo. Cullum
29 Nov. FROM Wm. Simms to J. Le Souéf

1835

4 Mar. FROM Wm. Mather to ST

1836

14 Mar. FROM John Davis to ST
Jun. FROM Chas. Davies to ST
6 Jun. FROM R. D. Wainwright to ST

1837

31 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
13 Nov. FROM Joel Poinsett to G. Kemble
25 Dec. FROM ST to G. Kemble

1838

10 Jan. FROM ST to G. Kemble
21 Jan. FROM ST to G. Kemble
18 Feb. FROM ST to G. Kemble
21 May FROM Chas. Gratiot to ST
3 Jun. FROM ST to Chas. Gratiot
30 Jul. FROM G. Kemble(?) to ST
9 Aug. FROM ST to G. Kemble
15 Aug. FROM Chas. Gratiot to ST
6 Sept. FROM Chas. Gratiot to ST
19 Sept. FROM Chas. Gratiot to ST
2 Nov. FROM Roger Jones to ST
4 Nov. FROM Benj. Ewell to ST

1839

20 Feb. FROM ST & Jos. Totten to Joel Poinsett
 4 Sept. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 5 Sept. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 23 Oct FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 31 Oct FROM Fred Smith to ST

1840

4 Jan. FROM Geo. Welcker to ST
 28 Feb. Senate Bill S-246 (Sappers & Miners)
 1840? Sappers & Miners
 4 Apr. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 13 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 14 May FROM ST to Theo. Chadbourne
 23 Jun. FROM Jos. Totten - Engr. Order
 184- FROM Monsieur Colla

1841

18 Jan. Min. of Pub. Ed. to ST
 25 Jan. FROM Secy of War Joel Poinsett
 15 Mar. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 16 Mar. FROM Geo. Welcker to ST
 Jul. FROM Ormsby Mitchel to ST
 30 Aug. FROM Stephen Fuller to ST
 7 Oct. FROM (T. C. Graham) to ST
 15 Oct FROM James Graham to ST
 16 Oct FROM Chas. Bigelow to ST

1842

9 Feb. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 14 May FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 Jul. & Aug. Acct. of Thayer at Warren
 5 Nov FROM Roger Jones to ST War Dept. Order

1843

5 Feb. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 9 Jun. FROM Hugh Legare to U.S. Consuls
 13 Jun. FROM A. Thos. Smith to Cmdrs. of Navy
 15 Jun. FROM Chas. Hackley to ST
 4 Jul. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 14 Jul. FROM Hulsemann to ST
 17 Jul. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 21 Jul. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 8 Aug. FROM Wm. Lewis (?) to a "Baron"
 10 Sept. FROM Geo. Talcott to Jos. Totten
 16 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor
 31 Oct. FROM James Porter to ST
 1 Nov. FROM Geo. Talcott to James Porter (?)
 1 Nov. FROM Geo. Talcott to James Porter

1843

19 Nov. FROM (S.) Thompson to ST
 19 Nov. FROM Mrs. (S.) Thompson to Supt Ecole Militaire
 27 Nov. FROM Henry Greene to P. Kielchen
 27 Nov. FROM (Prosper) Ambrose to Capt. Byrie
 28 Nov. FROM (Prosper) Ambrose to ST
 28 Nov. FROM Abbott Laurence to Mr. Watson
 30 Nov. FROM Woodhull & Minburns
 Dec. FROM Secy of State Upshar
 4 Dec. FROM Chas. McIlvaine to Wm. Dealtry
 4 Dec. FROM Chas. McIlvaine to Wm. Dealtry
 4 Dec. FROM Chas. McIlvaine to Wm. Whewell
 8 Dec. FROM A. Pageot
 11 Dec. FROM Geo. Bomford to Geo. Erving
 13 Dec. FROM Alexr. Bache to Petty Vaughan
 16 Dec. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 19 Dec. FROM G. Kemble to Henry Gage
 19 Dec. FROM J. Cogswell to F. R. Forbes
 19 Dec. FROM G. Kemble to ST
 20 Dec. FROM John Hughes to Dr. Boggs
 20 Dec. FROM John Hamilton to ST
 20 Dec. FROM Prime Ward & King to ST
 20 Dec. FROM Nathaniel Niles to Edward Thayer

1844

11 Jan. FROM F. Welleyer to H. von Lengerke
 31 Jan. FROM (Lorenzo) Draper to ST
 15 Mar. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 16 Mar. FROM John Smith to ST
 23 Mar. FROM D. Warden to Payen
 27 Mar. FROM D. Warden to Arago
 28 Mar. FROM D. Warden to Dupin
 30 Mar. FROM Geo. Ticknor to F. R. Forbes
 30 Mar. FROM Geo. Ticknor to Edward Kenyon
 21 Apr. FROM Michel Chevalier to ST
 25 Apr. FROM War Ministry Secy
 26 Apr. FROM Dir. of Fortn. Ops. in Paris
 27 Apr. FROM Col. Daigremont
 28 Apr. FROM Col. Daigremont to ST
 30 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 1 May FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 2 May FROM Tell Poussin to ST
 16 May FROM Chirstopher Hughes to ST
 18 May FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor
 20 May FROM Geo. Sumner to Prof. Ackersdyk
 20 May FROM Geo. Sumner to Marcus Derkheim
 20 May FROM Geo. Sumner to Capt. Zimmerman
 24 May FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 30 May FROM ST to Jos. Totten (?)
 4 Jun. FROM Henry Hilliard to ST
 (5 Jun.) FROM H. Memminger to ST
 5 Jun. FROM H. Memminger to J. Hodson
 6 Jun. Sig. illeg. (Min of War)
 9 Jun. FROM C. Lederin to ST
 14 Jun. FROM ST to (J. Totten?)
 21 Jun. FROM Geo. Welcker to Geo. Talcott, Documents

1844

24 Jun. FROM Geo. Talcott to Jos. Totten
 29 Jun. FROM Gen. Bardenfletz to Wallace Irwin
 (29 Jun.) Hist. acct. Battle between Nelson & Fisher
 30 Jun. FROM ? to Wallace Irwin
 (5 Jul.) FROM Jonathan Wainwright to ST
 7/19 Jul. FROM Chas. Todd to James Wylie
 12/24 Jul. FROM Chas. Todd to ST
 26 Jul. FROM M. Knowlton to ST
 7 Aug. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 30 Aug. FROM Theo. Fay to ST
 1 Sept. FROM Daniel Parker to ST
 9 Sept. FROM Johann Flügel to ST
 1 Oct. FROM Theo. Fay to ST
 20 Oct. FROM S. Biedermann to ST
 3 Nov. FROM Louis to Chas. Moering
 4 Nov. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 5 Nov. FROM John Schwarz to ST
 5 Nov. FROM John Clay to ST
 20 Nov. FROM John Schwarz to ST
 15 Dec. FROM Edmund Johnson to FitzPatrick

1845

13 Jan. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 2 Feb. FROM M. Knowlton to Morion
 14 Feb. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 5 Mar. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 16 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 5 May FROM Geo. (Moore) to ST
 9 Jun. FROM R. W. Wickliffe to ST
 12 Jun. FROM M. Paluccio to ST
 20 Jul. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 23 Jul. FROM Edward Everett to ST
 24 Jul. FROM Edward Everett to ST
 24 Jul. FROM Lord Haddington to Edward Everett
 27 Jul. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 28 Jul. FROM Edward Everett to ST
 29 Jul. FROM James Dorr to ST
 25 Aug. FROM Geo. Welcker to ST
 11 Sept. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 4 Oct. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 4 Oct. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 18 Oct. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 (18 Oct.) 'Copy' - Invoice of Books
 20 Oct. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 22 Nov. Extract from invoice
 27 Nov. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 12 Dec. FROM Greene to ST
 18 Dec. FROM Hector Bossange to ST

Undated 1844 - 46

No Date Directions for travel in England & Scotland
 "Tuesday" FROM Hector Bossange to ST
 FROM Hector Bossange to ST

Undated 1844 - 46

29 Mar. ? FROM Dr. Cullen to ST
 13 Oct. ? FROM Geo. Putnam to ST
 21 Nov. FROM Mr. Ring (Rue St Dom.) to ST
 29 Nov. FROM Sir Edmund Lyons to ST
 "Saturday" FROM Gov. & Lady Stuart to ST
 "Tues. P.M." FROM Geo. Sumner to ST
 (Athens?) FROM John Hill to ST
 FROM John Schwarz to ST
 FROM Edmund Johnson to Sig. Casella
 (Malta?) FROM Capt. Tidy to ST
 FROM Henry Ledyard to ST
 FROM Wallace Irwin to ST
 FROM Chas. Todd to ST
 "Fri. Morn." FROM Joshua Bates to ST
 Remarks on Fortns of Germany

1846

26 Mar. FROM Theo. Fay to ST
 (15 Apr.) FROM Geo. Shattuck to ST
 18 May FROM Hector Bossange to ST
 28 Jun. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 28 Jun. FROM ST to Jos. Totten
 8 Dec. FROM Jos. Totten to ST

1847

14 Aug. FROM Jos. Totten to ST

1848

(15) Mar. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 (8 Apr.) FROM T. W. Ward to ST
 10 Jul. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 8 Aug. FROM Orange Clark to ST
 13 Sept. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 27 Oct. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 20 Nov. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 30 Dec. FROM Jos. Totten to ST

1849

5 Jan. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 31 Mar. FROM Orange Clark to ST
 28 Jul. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 2 Aug. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 6 Aug. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 13 Aug. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 23 Aug. FROM Jos. Totten to ST
 15 Sept. FROM Fred. Smith to ST
 20 Oct. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 29 Nov. FROM Geo. Cullum to ST

1850

10 Jan. FROM Orange Clark to ST
 10 Apr. FROM Geo. Cullum to ST
 1 May FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne

1851

10 May FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 30 Jul. FROM ST to Jos. Swift

1852

6 Mar. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 17 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 10 Jun. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 31 Jul. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 31 Jul. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 4 Dec. FROM ST to Benj. (Seaver) Mayor of Boston

1853

(1853?) FROM Geo. Cullum - to ST?
 8 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 11 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 12 Feb. FROM Richard Delafield to Geo. Cullum
 14 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 17 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 21 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 23 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 25 Feb. FROM St to Geo. Cullum
 2 Mar. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 2 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 3 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 4 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 8 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 13 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 14 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 16 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 18 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 19 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 24 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 2 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 4 Apr. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 4 Apr. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 5 Apr. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 6 Apr. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 7 Apr. FROM Robert Allston to ST
 9 Apr. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 11 Apr. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 12 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 14 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 20 Apr. FROM ST to Robert Allston
 29 Apr. FROM Robert Allston to ST
 2 May FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 9 Jun. FROM ST to Jos. Swift

1853

18 Jun. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 5 Jul. FROM Robert Allston to ST
 12 Jul. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 14 Jul. FROM Robert Allston & others to ST
 16 Jul. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 18 Jul. FROM Robert Allston to ST
 8 Oct. FROM Robert Allston to ST
 24 Oct. FROM ST to Robert Allston & others
 25 Oct. FROM Robert Allston to ST
 5 Nov. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 16 Nov. FROM Robert Allston to ST
 8 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 27 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift

1854

30 Jan. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 2 Feb. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 3 Feb. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 3 Feb. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 5 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 6 Feb. FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
 14 Feb. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 17 Feb. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 18 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 22 Feb. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 24 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 24 Mar. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 6 Aug. FROM ST to Jos. Swift

1855

(1855?) FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 15 May FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 15 Jun. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 28 Jun. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 28 Jun. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum Extracts
 16 Jul. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 20 Jul. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 1 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 (1 Aug.) FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 4 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 (5 Aug.) FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 18 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 30 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 26 Oct. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 18 Dec. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum

1856

2 Jun. FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor
 23 Jun. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 6 Aug. FROM ST to Jos. Swift

1856

8 Oct. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
1 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift

1857

22 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
17 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
25 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
27 Aug. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
14 Sept. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
21 Sept. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
26 Oct. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
28 Oct. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
14 Nov. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
7 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
8 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
12 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
18 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
20 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
28 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
31 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift

1858

2 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
7 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
21 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
23 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
24 Jan. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
28 Jan. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
29 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
5 Feb. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
13 Mar. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
13 Mar. Documents by Swift
18 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
19 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
22 Mar. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
25 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
26 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to St
28 Mar. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
28 Mar. Documents (No. 1 to John Saunders)
31 Mar. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
1 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
4 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
5 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
7 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
8 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
9 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
12 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
14 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
16 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
17 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
22 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
14 May FROM Geo. Cullum to ST
18 May FROM Jos. Swift to ST

1858

2 Jun. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 2 Jun. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 4 Jun. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 8 Jun. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 15 Jun. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 16 Jun. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 21 Jun. FROM Quincy Gillmore to ST
 24 Jun. FROM Geo. Cullum to ST
 29 Jun. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 30 Jun. FROM Geo. Cullum to ST
 2 Jul. FROM Geo. Cullum to ST
 6 Jul. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 26 Jul. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 16 Aug. FROM Horatio Wright to ST
 20 Aug. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 15 Sept. FROM ST to Horatio Wright
 12 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 14 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 17 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 17 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 17 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 22 Dec. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 29 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST

1859

1 Jan. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 3 Jan. FROM Jos. Mansfield to ST
 5 Jan. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 10 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 14 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 21 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 31 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 5 Feb. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 9 Feb. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 15 Feb. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 28 Feb. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 7 Jun. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 18 Jun. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 4 Jul. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 13 Jul. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 16 Jul. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 9 Sept. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 16 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 24 Dec. FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor

1860

(1860?) FROM Geo. Cullum to ST
 25 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 27 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 1 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 23 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 23 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum

1860

2 Apr. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 4 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 13 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 17 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 23 Apr. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 23 Apr. FROM ST to Jos. Swift
 30 Apr. FROM ST to Alfred Mordecai
 3 May FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 29 May FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 20 Sept. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 27 Nov. FROM Jos. Swift to ST

1861

9 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 18 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 19 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 11 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 9 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 19 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 8 Oct. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 31 Oct. FROM Jos. Swift to ST

1862

23 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 14 Feb. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 26 Feb. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 23 Jul. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 26 Sept. FROM Saml. Mansfield to ST
 26 Sept. FROM (Benj.?) Douglas to ST
 14 Oct. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 11 Nov. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 22 Dec. FROM Jos. Swift to ST

1863

14 Jan. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 9 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 19 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 13 Jun. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 21 Sept. FROM Jos. Swift to ST

1864

22 Feb. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 10 Mar. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 2 Apr. FROM (Edward Everett?) to Edwin Stanton
 22 Apr. FROM Edward Everett to Henry Wilson
 27 Apr. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 29 May FROM Geo. Ticknor to Geo. Cullum
 29 May FROM Geo. Ticknor to Geo. Cullum
 8 Jun. FROM Geo. Ticknor to Geo. Cullum
 5 Jul. FROM Geo. Ticknor to Geo. Cullum

1865

23 Jan. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 29 Jan. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 22 Feb. FROM Jos. Swift to ST
 20 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 11 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 16 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 18 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 22 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 25 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 28 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 30 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 1 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 2 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 4 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 12 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 15 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 20 Sept. FROM ST to John Barnard
 25 Sept. FROM ST to John Barnard
 30 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 11 Oct. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 13 Oct. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 18 Oct. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 27 Oct. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 30 Oct. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 Nov. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 7 Nov. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 8 Nov. FROM John Kurtz to ST
 18 Nov. FROM ST to John Barnard
 19 Nov. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 28 Nov. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 30 Nov. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 Dec. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 (4 Dec.) FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 5 Dec. FROM St to Geo. Cullum
 9 Dec. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 10 Dec. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 12 Dec. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 16 Dec. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum

1866

(1866?) FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor
 30 Jan. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 10 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 6 Mar. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 10 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor

1867

6 May. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 11 Jun. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 4 Jul. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 (7 Jul.) FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
 27 Jul. FROM John Fessenden to Geo. Cullum

1867

1 Aug. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
8 Nov. FROM Geo. Shattuck to Dr. ?

1868

17 Feb. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum
19 Sept. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum

1869

12 Feb. FROM ST to Robt. Anderson
26 Mar. FROM Dennis Mahan to Robt. Anderson
19 May FROM Horace Webster to ST

1870

8 Jan. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum

1871

19 Jun. FROM Justin Winsor to ST
9 Oct. FROM ST to Geo. Cullum

1872

9 Jul. FROM Emory Upton to ST
7 Sept. FROM Andrew Humphreys to Geo. Cullum
21 Sept. FROM Robt. Fletcher to Geo. Cullum
21 Sept. FROM Robt. Fletcher to Geo. Cullum
21 Oct. FROM Jonathan Moulton to Geo. Cullum

1876

10 Sept. FROM Geo. Thayer to Geo. Cullum

1877

20 Feb. FROM Orlando Poe to Geo. Cullum
24 Feb. FROM Alfred Mordecai to Geo. Cullum
5 May FROM Alfred Mordecai to Geo. Cullum
26 Sept. Notes by Geo. Cullum

1883

5 Jun. FROM John Latrobe to Geo. Cullum

1888

Apr. FROM Jonathan Moulton to Whomever it might concern

1927

7 Feb. FROM Lawyers to Supdt.
26 Apr. FROM Merch Stewart to Geo. Coit

No Date

(23 Sept.) FROM ST to ?
(16 Oct.) Regs. relative to adm. of Cadets
(20 Oct.) FROM Jos. Swift
FROM ST to Ichabod Chadbourne
FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor
FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor
FROM ST to Geo. Ticknor
Notes by Cullum
Notes by Cullum
Notes by Cullum
General Orders

FROM Troughton & Simms* to Thomas Aspinwall*

Fleet St. (London) 4th March. 1834

Sir

The order which we fully expected to be able to complete last week has occupied us till this morning.

We regret that a mistake should have been made respecting the Scale sent without graduation, the order was for a "plain" scale & we concluded that it was merely required as a rule for drawing lines. The scale we have now sent will, we believe, be found strictly according to order. the Scales are numerous but we do not think there will appear any crowding at the expense of perspicuity. there are five lines of Chords added for we found plenty of room.

This Scale, and indeed the Standard Scale also, we have made of the best Bristol Brass- our design was in the first instance to construct it of a new white metal, Electrum, but some trials have convinced us that it is not good for dividing upon, it does not receive so neat a division as brass & moreover the Arsenic which is used in its composition appears to exude, and, in some specimens that have passed through our hands, in a few days deprives it of whiteness & converts it into a nasty, dull, pale yellow - excepting Silver, Gold or Platina brass in our opinion has the decided preference.

The yard measure agrees with our Standard at 62° Fahrenheit as is engraven upon the surface. we have subdivided it throughout its whole length into inches & tenths & numbered the inches from 0 to 36 in the usual way.

Upon the Beam Compass we have inserted a steel pin & cut a division at every 6 inches. they are so cut that when the fiducial edges of the sliding boxes coincide with the lines, the corresponding distances may be given by the points: this, however, when great precision is required must be corrected by reference to the Standard. The divisions upon the steel pins were set off with the same care as those upon the Standard Yard. The order for a best Parallel Ruler left us in some doubt as to the kind of instrument that would be most approved, we have made a 24 inch Rolling Ruler, which, for expedition, we think superior to all & perhaps not inferior to any in accuracy. The 18 inch ivory Scale with lines of 25 & 50 in the inch is in all respects of the usual kind.

The Steel Rulers are according to order, but there were only 4 Steel Triangles in the Magazine Case of drawing Instruments referred to. 2 similar & 2 dissimilar, we have therefore supplied but 4 in the present instance. We remain, Sir Your most obedt. Ser

TROUGHTON & SIMMS

To Col. Aspinwall

*See Index

FROM C. Gratiot*

Engineer Department W. March 7, 1834

Sir,

The proposition communicated in your letter of the 8th February last to purchase in behalf of the Government a Stone quarry with a view to break down the monopoly among the owners of quarries in the vicinity of Boston, and which affects materially the public interest was laid before the Secretary of War (Lewis Cass)*. As the act of Congress of the 7th May 1821, offers impediments to the course proposed, the Secretary of War has this day authorized the purchase of the right to take from some quarry as much stone as you may deem necessary; and as the same end would be attained by this course you are at liberty to pursue it, and to employ a suitable force for the purpose. Very resptly &c Signed/ C. GRATIOT B. Genl. Lt. Col. S. Thayer Corps of Engs Boston, Mass.

* See Index

FROM William Ellery Channing*

(April 29, 1834?)

My dear Sir-

Mr Bryant P Tilden, a young parishioner of mine, informs me that he has applied to you for employment in the publick works under your superintendence in our harbour. I have lately written to the Secretary of War (Lewis Cass), recommending him for an appointment at West Point; but have received a reply, informing me that there are no vacancies in that institution. He is a young man of much energy of character, trustworthy, bent on improving himself, & rather remarkable for self-command & for the resolution with which he adheres to good purposes. The professor of mathematicks at Cambridge (Massachusetts), Mr Pierce, has borne most ample testimony to his love of that branch of service, & to his capacity. If you can find a sphere for him, in which he can improve himself, & do something for his own support, I shall be much gratified.

When your leisure will permit, I hope to see you - Very sincerely Yr

(WM.) E CHANNING

Tuesday evening-April 29 -

*See Index

TO Charles Gratiot*

Boston, July 6, 1834

General,

The interest which I may reasonably be supposed to feel in the Institution so long confided to my care would, I hope, be deemed a sufficient apology, if any were necessary, for the liberty I take in addressing you on the subject of this communication.

I have heard that the chair of Mathematics at West Point will probably soon become vacant by the resignation of Professor (Charles) Davies, and am solicitous that Lieut. Wm. H. Bartlett*, of the Corps of Engineers should be appointed his successor, believing, as I sincerely do, that his qualifications and fitness for the station are unquestionable, and decidedly superior to those of any other individual with whom I am acquainted. It would be superfluous to enlarge on the personal qualities or character of one so well known to you and the Secretary of War (Lewis Cass), and equally so to allude to the remarkable talents and meritorious conduct for which he was so highly distinguished as a Cadet. It may however not be amiss to recal to your recollection that Mr. Bartlett served five years at West Point as an assistant Professor, the duties of which he discharged with credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. Such indeed was his popularity as a Teacher, and such the respect and esteem in which his character was held by all, that his appointment to the Professorship of Mathematics on the occurrence of a vacancy, would not only gratify his many personal friends but would, I am confident, be hailed with pleasure by the members of the Institution generally. I have the honor to be Very respectfully, Your ob. Serv. (Signed) S. THAYER Bv Lt Col. U.S. Corps of Engs. Brigadier Charles Gratiot, Chief Engineers, Inspector of the Military Academy.

*See Index

FROM Troughton & Simms* to J. LeSouéf*

136 Fleet St. 11th July 1834

Sir

The letter of Lieut. Wilkes which you have been so good as to hand to us contains some serious complaints respecting the Sextants forwarded in the course of last year. allow us to request the favor of your communicating to that Gentleman our assurance that to the best of our judgment they were not in any respect inferior to other instruments of that class that have heretofore passed through our hands. To select glasses, both colored & transparent, that are as nearly parallel as possible (very few indeed are perfectly so) is an object to which we give particular attention the looseness in the cells was certainly an oversight

With respect to the Index Errors our aim is to get them in all cases within 10 Seconds, but any sudden jerk or shaking, a thing hardly to be avoided, might probably make a material alteration in that respect We remain Sir your most obedt. St.

TROUGHTON & SIMMS

J. LeSouef Esq

* See Index

FROM Troughton & Simms* to J. LeSouéf*

Fleet St. 11 July 1834

Sir

In reply to the observations of Col. Thayer we beg to observe 1st That the unequal alteration in the length of ivory scales after they have received division is we believe the principal cause of the errors complained of & against which we have no power to guard.

2d. The sectoral scale we fear must have met with some accident, as we can hardly conceive that such an instrument could be graduated at all, were it in the state represented.

3d. In the future Parallel Ruler care shall be taken to guard against any such degree of stiffness.

4th The Standard foot shall be divided upon a fiducial edge & we are quite willing to take back the Standard yard & replace it by one to Col. Thayer's liking.

5th A metallic Plotting Scale can be made & will not be exceedingly heavy, but, of course, much more so than ivory. the cost wd be about £3.3- We remain Sir Your most obdt. St

TROUGHTON & SIMMS

J. LeSouef Esqr

* See Index

FROM John A. Brereton*

Fort Independence 26th July 1834

Dear Col.

By the assistance of my friend (Capen) I have succeeded in obtaining the two microscopes, but for \$13 each. They are indeed very superior instruments & much more so than the one I saw in Washington, having an additional Lens with its requisite accompaniment. - You will observe, from the book of directions, that I was greatly within the limit of its magnifying power, that being 62,500 times. The ruse, of which I will hereafter inform you, we effected in obtaining them was not without a qualification; which is, that, we mention not the price they cost us, for it was said, that it might injure the sale of the remainder, & if asked, to say the cost was \$15.

There is no choice between the two, being in truth, real fac-similes. I hope you will be pleased with it, particularly at the amusement it affords. Respectfully & sincerely yrs.

J. BRERETON

Col. Thayer (No. 13 Allen Str.) Boston

* See Index

Notation on the cover:

This was written & sealed yesterday morning while you were at Castle Island but without my knowing it. However, when you next drive, or row, here, bring Montandon with you & I'll rectify it in a short time. Yrs. etc J. B.

FROM Troughton & Simms* to J. LeSouéf*

Fleet St. 29th July 1834

Sir

We believe that the only circumstance of which it is necessary to give an explanation with reference to the order now completed for Col. Thayer, is the charge of £1.11.6 for the ivory scale divided one (mile) or 1760 yards to a Foot. while one divided 80 & 96 parts to the inch is only charged £1.1.0 - The reason is simply that for the latter numbers we have patterns from which they were immediately copied, but the former required original division & which in reality would not be paid for by a charge of £2.2 - We remain Sir
Your most obed St

TROUGHTON & SIMMS

* See Index

FROM Troughton & Simms* to J. LeSouéf*

Fleet Street. 16th Augt /34

Sir

We have given the order with which you have favored us a full consideration & we do not think that it will be in our power to complete the philosophical apparatus before the latter end of October & we will make an effort to have the circle completed at the same time. We remn Sir your most
obdt St. TROUGHTON & SIMMS

J. LeSouef Esq

We have just recd. your note & beg to state that altho' the wheel Barometer is really a Syphon we do not conceive it to be the instrument intended.

* See Index

FROM Charles Gratiot* to George W. Cullum*

Engineer Order No. 2

Engineer Department
Washington Oct. 31 1834

Captain Wm. A. Eliason*, of the Corps of Engineers, is hereby assigned to duty in Hampton Roads, and is charged with the superintendence of operations at the Rip Raps. He will, accordingly, repair to Fort Calhoun, and relieve Lieut: R. E. Lee*, of the Corps of Engineers.

Lieut: Lee, on being relieved by Captain Eliason, will turn over to him all the books, papers, funds and public property appertaining to the command, when he will repair, without delay, to Washington City and report for duty to the Chief Engineer.

Br: 2d Lieut. Geo. W. Cullum*, of the Corps of Engineers, is hereby relieved from duty at Fort Adams, R. Island. He will repair without delay to Washington City and report for duty to the Chief Engineer.

Lieuts. Lee & Cullum will be attached, as assistants, to the office of the Chief Engineer, & will be respected accordingly.

C. GRATIOT

For Lt. G. W. Cullum

* See Index

FROM W. Simms* (of Troughton & Simms) to J. LeSouéf*

Fleet St. 29th Nov 1834

Sir

We have had a great deal of trouble with some of the Models & there is one that at present defies all our efforts to get it to work (The centrifugal Pump) we cannot learn that one has ever been constructed & begin to suspect that there is some fallacy about it. If you think proper we can at once pack the rest of the Philosophical apparatus & send the model hereafter if we ultimately succeed. The (Refecting) Circle will yet occupy us some time perhaps three weeks Your most obedt. Servt.

W. SIMMS

J. LeSouef Esqr etc etc

*See Index

FROM William Williams Mather*

West Point March 4th 1835

To Lt Col S Thayer

Sir.

There is a prospect of the establishment of a professorship of Chemistry in the U.S.M.A. I propose standing as a candidate for it. May I ask of you to write to the Secretary of War (Lewis Cass), & make such suggestions to him in relation to me as you may deem expedient, & for the good of the public service. One of the candidates understands, & has taught, but one of the three branches of Science embraced in the department, viz Chemistry.

Mr. Featherstonhaugh's* acquirements I am not acquainted with, farther, than that he is a pretty good geologist. I have the honor to be Sir your obedient Servant

W. W. MATHER
Lt 7th Infy.

To Lt Col S Thayer Corps of Engineers

*See Index

FROM John Davis*

Washington March 14-1836

Sir

Your favors have been recd with the documents and whatever I can do to promote your views you may rely on. The old man you know is hard in the mouth. Yours very truly

J DAVIS

Col. Thayer Boston

*See Index

FROM Charles Davies*

(June 1836)

To Lieutenant Colonel S. Thayer
Late Superintendent of the Military Academy

Dear Sir.

I take the liberty of inscribing to you the following Treatise on Analytical Geometry, though without flattering myself that the execution of the work will be found answerable to the utility and importance of the subject.

In the organization of the Military Academy under your immediate superintendence, the French methods of instruction in the exact sciences, were adopted, and near twenty years' experience has suggested few alterations in the original plan.

The introduction of these methods is considered an improvement worthy to form an era in the history of education in this country; and public opinion has justly appreciated the benefits which you have conferred, at once on the Military Academy, and on the cause of sciences.

These acknowledgements, prompted alike by a sense of justice and the dictates of private friendship, I have felt it a very grateful duty to make, in prefixing your name to the present work, and in subscribing myself With great respect and regards your friend and Obedient Servant

CHARLES DAVIES

Military Academy West Point June 1836

*See Index

FROM R. D. Wainwright*

June 6th 1836

My dear Sir

I am induced from the flattering notice you take of my son (Robert A. Wainwright)* to ask your interest to procure a transfer for him to the Corps of Ordnance should it be increased. With great Respect Sincerely Yours

R. D. WAINWRIGHT

Col Thayer

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Boston April 31st 1837

My dear friend

Your very welcome letter is recd. I am anxious to be with you a few hours before you leave Brooklyn & indeed promise myself that happiness should you be still there about the middle of next week. I am going South under orders & may detain Lieutenant (Frederic A.) Smith* till my return in which case he would not leave here earlier than the 20th of May. If you think that his detention till then would be prejudicial to the works of which he is to take charge, please drop me a line & he will proceed thither forthwith. I was informed some time last year that (Christopher) Van de Venter* had effected an advantageous sale of his farm & lands at Erie & was going South. Since then I have not heard of him & know not where he is. With most affectionate regards to Mrs. Swift I remain as ever your old friend

S. THAYER

General Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

FROM Joel R. Poinsett* to Gouverneur Kemble*

Washington 13th Novr 1837

My dear Sir -

After reflecting on the information contained in your letter I think it will be better to leave Col. (Rene Edward) de Russy* at the Academy until June, and you may if you please say that considerations of personal feeling towards him have induced the department to come to that conclusion. Col. Thayer labours under a mistake. He does not view the matter in the same light as I do. He thinks that another officer might be selected with a fair prospect of success - I am morally certain, that the experiment would fail & involve the academy in worse confusion and therefore decline trying it. I hope it may suit him better to remove there in June next when in all probability he will be directed to do so.

I think of taking the same course with Mr. (Thomas) Warner* as with the Superintendent - I hope his removal will not be unsatisfactory to Col. Thayer - There are very strong reasons why he should not be suffered to remain in his present situation -

I should be glad to know what officer our friend would prefer to have as Teacher of Tactics. Capt. (Ethan Allen) Hitchcock* would I know be glad to return - The choice will be left altogether to the Superintendent; but I ought to know it some time before that he may be brought near the Point in season -

What has got into _____ in Newyork - Yours truly

J. R. POINSETT

(addressed to Honble Govr. Kemble, care of Wm Kemble
91 Washington St. New York)

*See Index

TO Gouverneur Kemble*

Boston Dec^r 25 1837

My Dear Sir

Your favor of the 20th was duly rec^d together with Congressional document No. 3. The document containing the reports of the comm^dg General & of the Military bureaus is not I suppose yet published. You desire my opinions with respect to the plans which have been proposed for the increase & improvement of the Military establishment & I will proceed to indicate them in as few words as possible. In the first place let me promise that I am a conservative & do not wish to see any organic changes merely to carry out plausible theories ~~ex~~ for any other purpose than to cure permanent defects & evils. On this principle I am not in favor of an amalgamation of the Staff. It may be well to add a few officers to the Quarter Masters department & perhaps one or two to the Commissaries but the subordinate duties should continue to be performed by subalterns detailed from the line of the army. On this point I will enlarge hereafter if you desire me. I entirely concur in the suggestions of the Secy as to the increase of the Line. & I think it would be well to abolish the (offices) (officers) (affairs) of the inspector general. (John Ellis) Wool* & (George) Croghan* can be provided for as Colonels in the new regiments of Infantry. I am opposed to an increase of the topographical Corps because I wish to see it employed exclusively on the duties contemplated by the law which created it. duties which are highly important but which it has never yet even begun to discharge. It is not a little amusing to read the definition of the duties of the topographical officers as given in the report of the Secy of War (Joel R. Poinsett)* duties which he says - "require the combined knowledge of the civil & military engineers" viz "Surveys of positions of fortifications" - "The construction of military bridges" - "The position (meaning, no doubt, the laying out or tracing) & the construction of field works & of the defenses for encampments, fords, ferries & bridges" - "The superintending of the improvements of rivers, harbors, bays & water courses for commercial & other purposes & conducting all civil constructions connected with the (commerce) of the country & such international communications as Congress may direct" - "The direction of all the works above described both civil & military properly belongs to this branch of the service". A magnificent list of duties truly not a single one of which however comes within the sphere of the topographical engineer in any other country nor is a single one of them mentioned in any of our own regulations prescribing the duties of this Corps. For a similar reason I am not anxious for the increase of the Corps of which I am an unworthy member. Usually about one half of the officers are employed exclusively on civil works & most if not all of the remainder are more or less employed in the same way to the great detriment of the fortifications now in progress. An investigation into the affairs of this department would disclose a state of things such as is not dreamed of by Congress or even by the President (Van Buren)* or Secretary of War (Joel R. Poinsett)*. The ordnance is a fair subject for experiment, legislation cannot make it worse than it is. Under existing circumstances however I know not whether any thing more or better can be done than to establish such a board as has been proposed. It should doubtless be so modified that an officer of Engineers (Col (Joseph G.) Totten*

of course) may be placed on it. The increase of the Ordnance Corps seems to me inexpedient for reasons which I will give hereafter if necessary. In a former letter it was intimated that you had it in contemplation to propose a plan of retirement pay for officers disabled by age or infirmities I can think of nothing that would benefit the army as much as a provision of this kind & the person who shall propose & carry it into effect will deserve a monument more durable than cast iron but I doubt much whether the time is propitious for the undertaking. If you continue to think it is I will with pleasure furnish you with the result of my reflections on the subject.

After maturing your army bill please send me a copy as early as may be convenient. In haste Yours truly S. THAYER
Honbl. Gouverneur Kemble
M of C.

*See Index

TO Gouverneur Kemble*

Boston Jany 10th 1838

My dear Sir

Yours of the 1st came duly to hand. The objection to the Secretarys (Joel R. Poinsett) plan seems not very consistent on the part of those who are willing to confer on the President (Martin Van Buren) the power of the purse as well as the Sword. The limited discretionary power proposed is certainly little liable to abuse & were it otherwise Congress would hold the check in their own hands by means of the annual appropriations. However if the plan cannot be adopted then I say that the skeleton plan of Mr (John C.) Calhoun* should not be departed from. it is peculiarly adapted to the circumstances of our country where the peace army must ever be small compared with a war establishment. As to the Staff I have already said that I am opposed to amalgamation. Some of the departments should doubtless be increased. For instance in the Quarter Masters there should be as many permanent officers of the grades of field officers & Captains as are requisite for the principal stations but the subordinate duties as now should be performed by Lieutenants taken from the Line. You ask if it would not weaken the regiments too much to take a captain & two Lieutenants from a company - certainly, no company should ever be without its captain unless he be sick or absent with leave. No captain should ever be taken from his company to perform a staff duty but I say that a captain & one Lieutenant fit for duty with a company are enough. Allowing one additional Lieutenant for each two companies to supply the places of the absent & sick let us see how many Lieutenants can be spared for staff duties. The number of companies at present is 126 or 146 with two additional regts. of Infy. The number of Lieuts would be 364 from which deduct $146 + 73 = 219$ & there will remain 145 for the Staff which I doubt not would be quite sufficient but suppose more would be required then I say instead of creating staff Lieutenants I would one or two more of that grade to each company of dragoons & infantry which is now allowed two each. By adding one there would be 474 Lieuts. leaving 255 to the Staff or by adding two there would be 365 for the staff This system would I conceive be equally beneficial to the Line & Staff. As to the Brigadier to superintend under the Secretary all the military bureaus it seems to me utterly objectionable. It is clear to me that it would not work well in practice but I have not time to argue the point. I agree with you that it is better to increase the number of storekeepers for arsenals than to create Lieutenants etc to be employed as storekeepers. I would increase neither the ordnance, or topographical Corps or even the Corps of Engineers under present circumstances. Why create by law an inspector of fortifications? it is perfect nonsense. Your views as to retired pay I entirely approve. 30 years is the proper period but it should be actual service deducting furlough & leaves of absence but on this & some other subjects I must defer what I have to say till my next. Yrs. truly

S. THAYER

G. Kemble Esq.

*See Index

TO Gouverneur Kemble*

Boston Jany 21st 1838

My dear Sir

Yours of the 15th is rec^d. I have not leisure at this moment to write as fully as I would wish & only propose to say a few words in reference to your Bill for retired officers &c. It will be sufficiently difficult to get any Bill passed on the subject & I would recommend that it be drawn in such form as would be most likely to receive the Sanction of Congress. If the details be less liberal & perfect than they ought to be they may be extended and perfected at a future session. The grand object now should be I think, to get the principle established. I am not certain that the privilege of retiring with (half) pay after a service of thirty years is not all that should be attempted at the present time but of this you are the better judge. The officers who thus retire should be stricken from the rolls of regiments & Corps & their places supplied by promotion. It would not do to leave any matters of this nature to be determined by Regulations. The Executive would not & could not act without legal enactments. The moral effect on the Army of a provision however small for officers who have been worn out in the Service would be great indeed. On this text I could preach half a dozen sermons It would bring into & retain in the service the highest grade of talent & would leave every officer without excuse for not directing all his faculties to the public service, & all this at a very trivial expense to the nation. The present system is to squeeze the orange & throw the peel away. This is a frightful idea well calculated to drive from the Army all but the reckless & worthless or those who contrive to enrich themselves by sacrificing duty & honesty. I would entirely approve of the provision you propose for the rank & file who shall have served thirty years. The number of such would ever be very small but the provision, besides its justice & humanity, would tend greatly to promote the enlistment & reenlistment of the best class of men. I have not examined the laws providing for disabled officers & soldiers but my impression is that they require revision. In one of your letters you mentioned my old college acquaintance & friend (George) Grennell* You will find in him an able & efficient fellow laborer head & heart such as are too seldom found united. (In haste). Sincerely & truly yours S. THAYER
Hon'ble G Kemble

P.S. Will you favor me with a copy of Army Bill before the Senate & also that of the House when reported? You shall have another scrawl from me soon.

Will you also send me the fortification Bill!

*See Index

TO Gouverneur Kemble*

Boston Feby 18th 1838

My dear sir

This days mail bro't me the army bills with your note dated (from inadvertence I suppose) Feby 1st. The Bill (reported) by your chairman is not creditable. The only good thing in it is the 7th Sec. which in my view is worth more than all the rest of both bills. The Senate Bill is very liberal & contains many good things but mingled with so much that is positively bad that I hope you will not offer it without essential modifications. As to the 1st Section you know my opinion. Rather than destroy the present (skeleton) system I for one would prefer to let everything remain in status quo. For Sec 2 I would substitute something like the following. "And be it further enacted that the President of the United States be & he is hereby authorized to increase the Corps of Engineers, by adding annually, thereto, three second Lieutenants to be taken from the distinguished graduates of the Milv. Acady.; & by regular promotion therein from grade to grade until the said Corps shall consist of one Colonel, 2 Lieut. Cols. 4 Majors, 12 captains, 12 first Lieuts & 12 Second Lieutenants & that the pay & emoluments of the officers of said Corps shall be the same as are allowed to officers of similar grade in the regiments of Dragoons Sec: 3 And be it further enacted that no officer of said Corps shall be employed on any civil work, or shall engage in the service of any individual or company" Without the above restrictions I am opposed to any increase of the Corps. Col. Totten* & other members of the Corps have often discussed this matter with me & I believe we all think alike. I would strike out the 6th Section & all of the 5th as far as "twenty four" inclusive in the 6th line. Their object was evidently to help along the 4th Section but I object to them because they would give an ind_____t legal sanction to the employment of the Topographers as civil engineers. If it be wished to make them such let them be so denominated in the Bill. I would also strike out "ten second Lieutenants in 5th line of Sec. 4th in conformity to the opinion I have heretofore expressed that the vacancies in the lowest grade in all the Staff departments should be filled not by first graduates but by officers who have served in the Line & afterwards in the Staff & found on trial to possess the requisite qualifications. I need say nothing with respect to the 12th Sec. I would have no serious objection to any of the other sections altho I think some of them might be improved. I like the 14th Sec. but acknowledge that I may be biased for it would add Six to my present rations. Are we to have no money for the fortifications 'ere it be too late to apply it this season. It is now time that the contracts were made for materials & even mechanics of the better sort cannot be had unless engaged early next month. but I can do nothing till the bill shall be passed Most sincerely & truly yours S. THAYER
Honbl. Gov. Kemble M. C.

* See Index

FROM Charles Gratiot*

Engineer Department
Washington 21st May 1838

Copy.
Col. S. Thayer
Corps of Engineers
Boston - Mass-

Sir,

In reference to the subject of your letter of the 15th inst. covering accounts of expenditures on Forts Warren & Independence, I have only to say, with regret, that judging from present appearances there is little probability of any appropriations this year for fortifications. The evil consequences resulting from the very uncertain course of legislation in regard to appropriations, are much to be lamented, & tho' the method you suggest to avert them in a degree by continuing the work in anticipation of appropriations, cannot by the regulations, which forbid a pledge of funds in advance, receive an official sanction, it will not be considered necessary by the Dept. to interfere with any special instructions. You will act therefore at your own discretion, taking care that any individuals who may be employed, be expressly given to understand, that their payment is contingent upon an appropriation. I am Sir, Very Respectfully Your Obt. Servt.

(Signed) C. GRATIOT

*See Index

TO Charles Gratiot*

Boston June 3 1838

Sir,

I have the honor to submit herewith (No 1t.) an Abstract of the Expenditures on Fort Warren Georges Island to June 1t including an Estimate of the expenditures during that month.

(No 3) A similar statement in reference to Fort Independence Castle Island

(No's 2 & 4) Lists of the debts on account of those works outstanding on the 1t of June with estimates of the additions to the same on the 1t of July.

From these statements it will appear that the total expenditures for both works on the 1t of June had exceeded the total of Appropriations by \$12,317.11 which added to \$8,102.22 = the estimated expenditures in June makes the total excess of expenditures over the appropriations for both works on the 1t of July = \$20,419.33. The persons to whom this amount will be due are, I believe, apprised that they cannot be paid unless Congress shall think proper to make the requisite appropriations but being mostly mechanics & laborers dependent on their wages for the support of themselves & families it cannot well be doubted that they would experience much inconvenience & distress if their pay be withheld.

There is another class of liabilities (see statements 2 & 4) which it is proper to notice here & which are not included in the Abstract of expenditures for the reason their payment was made expressly contingent upon future appropriations. Altho' the (faith) of the government has not been pledged yet the payment of these claims is demanded by high considerations of Justice & expediency. It should also be mentioned that in the event of a suspension of operations about \$10,000 will be needed to defray the expense of roofing & otherwise securing the unfinished masonry against the injuries of the weather & for the preservation of the works generally.

Hence it appears that the smallest sum required to be appropriated at the present session for the fortifications in Boston Harbor even on the supposition that operations will not be continued after the present month is as follows viz.

For payment of a (<u>rrear</u>)ages	-----	\$20,000
Contingent debts for materials	-----	23,000
Protection & preservation of the works-		<u>10,000</u>
	Total =	53,000

Very respectfully etc
Brig^d General Charles Gratiot Chief Engineer Washington S. THAYER Lt. Col.

*See Index

FROM Gouverneur Kemble*

30th July 1838

My dear Colo.

It is not that your friends and those who know you, think you capable of any thing derogatory to your character as a man and an officer but you must yourself perceive ~~that~~ how easily such as are disposed to cavile and are not aware of the manner in which you were formerly deprived of your brevet, may consider your late promotion, not as an act of simple justice, but as a boon ~~under-the-expectation-that-it-would-be~~ or an inducement to your return to West Point - and the Secy I know took the broad ground that as long as you were deprived of the rank to which you were justly entitled, he did not feel himself authorized to call upon you as he otherwise might - with respect to the letter which I conveyed to Mr. Poinsett*, I read it over but once, and may not therefore have sufficiently impressed its contents on my mind, but I understood it to say, that for the present in the then situation of your mother, you could not consent to leave her, but that if he had determined to remove Col DeR(ussy)*, and ~~if~~ he would place another officer at West Point, should he fail in giving satisfaction to the Government in the management of the Institution, you would then return - and I well remember Mr. P.(oinsett) reasoning, that as he could send no officer there but yourself who would possess the entire confidence of the Govt, it would not be in his power thoroughly to support any body else ~~but-yourself~~, and to send an officer there with the intention of removing him as soon as you were ready to take the command, would be a gross injustice on his part, he therefore preferred letting Col DeR remain for the present, under the presumption that by this time, your private relations would have permitted you to assume the command - he certainly, from the conversation which I had with him, could not have understood your letter to say, that as long as your mother lived, nothing would induce you to remove from Boston.

Now, I have no idea that Colo. DeR will be permitted to remain, but the difficulty is to find a successor out of the Corps of Engr and I should not be surprised if at the next session, a law ~~should~~ would be brought in opening the Superintendency to the whole Army - which may eventually change the whole character of the institution -

Worth^c (William J.)*, with whom I conversed the other day on the subject, told me that the Secy said that he very much regretted that you ~~did~~ could not be prevailed on to return to West Point, but that he could not insist on it.

It was Dr (Henry)Wheaton* who mentioned to me that you had declined the examination of some private establishment under the plea that you would be obliged to return to West Point - he gave me also the officers name from whom he received it, this I have forgotten, but will procure it the first time I see the Dr. - I told him at the time I was sure there must be some mistake about it, and that you had never so written-

I do not know what the Secy will do about the new buildings for West Point.

For I understand that not only is the exercise House destroyed so far as its original intention, but, that the framing is so erroneously constructed, that the upper floor will not support the Superstructure - they say it has sunk so much that the beams are in danger of dr_____g from the walls

*See Index

TO Gouverneur Kemble*

Boston August 9th 1838

My dear sir

Yours of the 31st ult. reached here in due course but being absent at Cape Ann I did not receive it 'till yesterday. Its contents seem to require some further remarks from me on the subject. It is not strictly correct to say that I was "deprived of my brevet" by the former Administration nor can I suppose that it was ever intentionally withheld. The Report of the Adj. Genl. (Roger Jones)* to Secretary Cass* & of the latter to President Jackson* showed conclusively that I was entitled to it by law & that my name was omitted in the list of nominations at the proper time from inadvertance on the part of the Adj. General. My nomination altho' promised having been delayed I wrote to Genl. Jackson's private Secy (Andrew Donelson?)* requesting that the above mentioned reports might be (returned). They were accordingly sent from the Hermitage to the Adj. Genl. who of his own accord shewed them to Mr Poinsett* & was by him directed to inform me that I would be nominated to the Senate at the ensuing session. This took place a few days only after Mr Poinsett entered upon the duties of his office (Secretary of War) & long before I was invited to return to West Point. This is all that ever passed between us on the subject. When apprised by Major (Samuel) Cooper* that my nomination was about to be carried up I enquired whether he supposed the Secretary in recommending it had been influenced in any degree by an expectation that I would go back to West Point, or whether by accepting it I would lay myself under the slightest obligation to go. He answered that he knew Mr Poinsett's views on that subject & could assure me positively that my nomination was wholly independent of that question, that it was made from a clear conviction in the mind of the Secretary that I was by law entitled to the promotion & that it would equally be conferred whether I did or did not go to West Point. Had his answer been different I would have instantly called upon Mr Poinsett & declined the nomination. I think the Secretary will not feel himself complimented by the gratuitous supposition that he would not have granted me a promotion to which, (according to his own acknowledgement as well as that every officer of the Army who had given any attention to the question) I was by law clearly entitled except on the condition, whether expressed or implied, of my conforming to his wishes in relation to another matter. With respect to my letter of November you understood me to say that "for the present & in the then state of my mothers health I could not be induced to leave her but that if he had determined to remove Col de Russy* & he would place another officer at West Point should he fail in giving satisfaction I would then return" If this much was said & nothing more 'still it would have been a fair inference that I would not in any case separate myself from my mother while living unless her health improved but this last condition was in fact pointedly stated & moreover, the sole object of that letter was to correct your previous misapprehension in that particular. Now let me ask, had there been a trial of another officer? Had my mothers health improved? Neither one or the other of these things had taken

place. With what propriety, then, can it be said that my letter held out the slightest encouragement that I would go to West Point under the circumstances such as they existed; A word more with respect to my letter written to Messrs. Robert Dyson Saml. S____t____t & Edwin (Lord). I would be very glad if you will take the trouble to call & read it. I did not retain a copy of it but I am sure that nothing was said about "removing to West Point." As well as I can remember, the duties to which I referred as claiming my exclusive attention were not specified. They were no other than those of a professional character together with certain others extra-professional connected with internal improvements which had been imposed upon me by special direction of the Secretary of War. It is barely possible that I referred to the Order which I had just then been notified was about to be given but I am confident there was no such reference. If, however, it turns out that there was; what then? Would it prove that I deceived or wished to deceive any body? & especially the Secretary of War? This would be strange reasoning. I write in the midst of (muster), (dirt) & bustle & must therefore claim your indulgence.

Ever yours
Honble G. Kemble

S. THAYER

Don't forget to give me the name of "the officer" whom the Doctor cites as his authority.

*See Index

FROM Charles Gratiot*

Engineer Department
Washington 15th Aug 1838

Col. S. Thayer
Corps of Engineers
Boston, Massts.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of War (Joel R. Poinsett)*, to order you, & Col. J. G. Totten*, to repair without delay to Fort Delaware, to examine that work and to report:

1st The progress that has been made in it.

2d. Your opinion of the plan adopted for its construction.

3d. Whether it is such as is required for the defence of that approach to the city of Philadelphia, and of the other points it is intended to guard. -

4th An estimate of its probable cost, and

5th On such other topics connected with this important work as will enable the Department to decide on the propriety of making any alterations on the original design, of which your opinion is required. Very respectfully, Sir Yr Obt. Servt.

C. GRATIOT

*See Index

FROM Charles Gratiot*

Circular

Engineer Department
Washington 6th Sept. 1838

To Col. S. Thayer, Corps of Engineers
Boston, Masstts.

Sir,

You will transmit to this Department so that it may be received on or before the 31st of October next, a report of the progress of the public works under your Superintendence, showing their condition on the 30th. Sept. 1838; with estimates of funds required for the service of the year 1839: and in conformity with instructions from the Department under date of the 15th of August 1837. I am Sir Very respectfully
Yr. Obt. Sevt. C. GRATIOT

*See Index

FROM Charles Gratiot*

Engineer Department
Washington Sept. 19th 1838

Sir

You are appointed in conjunction with Col. Totten*, by direction of the Secretary of War (Joel R. Poinsett)*, member of a board whose duty it will be to make a general reconnaissance of the North-Western frontier extending from Ft. Niagara to Fort Gratiot.

You will proceed on this duty as soon as your other duties will permit; designate the points which in your opinion should be permanently occupied for the defence of that frontier, and, as well as time will permit, furnish plans & estimates for the works.-----The report will be Submitted in time to lay before Congress at the ensuing session. -----Very Respy

Yr Obedt Sert

C. GRATIOT

Col. S. Thayer

Corps of Engrs, Boston, Mass.

*See Index

FROM Roger Jones*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Washington, 2d Nov. 1838.

Sir:

Herewith you will receive your commission of Brevet Colonel. -----
the receipt of which you will please acknowledge without delay. ~~The oath herewith enclosed, will be filled up, subscribed, and returned.~~ I am, Sir, Respectfully, Your obedient servant,
R. JONES Adjutant General
For Brevet Colonel S. Thayer Corps of Engineers

*See Index

FROM Benjamin S. Ewell*

York, Pa. Nov 4th 1838

Sir

I intend becoming an applicant for the professorship of Mathematics at Columbia College, S. C. Prof (Charles) Davies* wrote to me, what indeed my own judgment would have suggested, that your recommendation would give me powerful aid - I trust I do not overstep the bounds of decorum by requesting you to furnish me with such a recommendation, if you see fit to do so.

With great respect etc
Lieut Colnl Thayer

BENJ. S. EWELL

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten* and Sylvanus Thayer to Joel Poinsett*

Washington Feb 20 1839

Hon. J. R. Poinsett
Secy of War

Sir

In compliance with your desire that we should state our views on the subject of the defense of the frontiers of Maine, we present the following remarks: promising that we are chiefly indebted for our information on the subject to the reports of Genl Wool* of Oct 30 & Nov 10 1838.

~~It will be seen that our views, in ^{most} many respects, accord with his.~~

1. We consider a position at or near the junction of Dead River & the Kennebeck to be the true position for a Military depot, & point of concentration of militia, for the defense of the northern portion of the frontier. And as this point is on one of the main lines of approach to Quebec - as it is relatively near that place - as it is on a part of the boundary not in dispute nor liable to change, this position is not only an important one now, but likely to remain so for years to come.

One or more subordinate military posts should be pushed out on the Quebec road in advance of the Depot. But, while timely measures should give strength and permanency to the defenses of the main position, the advanced posts - liable to change in their character, & even in their position, & in any case, soon prepared, may be left to circumstances.

2. As to the Eastern portion of this frontier - in the present state of the boundary, and, indeed, in any probable state of it, we look upon Houlton, when considered as a Military Post in time of War, as being in a false position. It is now on the extreme left flank of the eastern frontier - very remote from _____ - its communications, instead of running directly to the rear, passes, for some distance, along the frontier itself, and is thereby at all times liable to be cut off - & to maintain the position will require in consequence of these defects, a large force, while no important advantage will, in time of war, accrue from the possession. During peace, troops in (cantonment) at Houlton, will exercise a salutary supervision over the disputed territory; and are well placed for that ~~object~~ purpose; but in time of war, when that position will no longer be ^{exclusively} the disputed territory, this peculiar motive will cease, & Houlton will be thrown out of position being too advanced, & exposed, for any thing but an outpost.

The important military post, and point of concentration, for this angle of the territory, should be placed, we think, at, or near the junction of the Metawamkeag (Mattawamkeag) & Penobscot rivers - there being thrown in advance such subordinate posts as the circumstances of the war may call for.

3^d. Calais is, we think, a well selected position both as regards defensive & offensive movements; and should be occupied as one of the greater military posts. While it covers a valuable portion of the state & has lines of communication to the rear, difficult to intercept, this portion is therein so far forward as to act an important, though indirect, part in the defense of the more northern portion of this frontier; & at the same time facilitates enterprises against the most

valuable points in the neighbouring territory.

A colateral position of importance, in immediate connexion with this, is East Port. The objects to defend here are not of such magnitude as to (provoke) large enterprises: still, they are of sufficient importance to deserve protection suited to ~~their~~ the peculiar nature of their exposure; and the works now existing, should, therefore, be put in servicable state, and, if need be strengthened.

It must be noticed here that although the military occupation of Calais, & of the _____ of the Metawamkeag, must be in force adequate to the complete defense of this part of the State, still they can be regarded as merely temporary occupations, after all; and in this respect are unlike the post recommended to be taken on the Kennebeck. A change in the existing boundary line, to the limits claimed by the U. S., would leave Houlton on the centre of a line, instead of being, as now, on a flank, and would soon cause it to be surrounded by a numerous people. And a change of the Eastern boundary from the St. Croix to the St. Johns, would place Houlton in a re entering angle, and Calais far in the interior.

4. As a common point whence military sustenance could be transmitted to each of the principal positions indicated with equal ease & certainty, none is to be found to compare with Bangor; ^{hence} ~~and~~ the main reliance should be on a suitable ~~collection~~ concentration of supplies of every kind at this point - this being a great central arsenal.

5. But the security of this arsenal from attacks from the opposite direction, as well as the protection of the navigation of the Penobscot, will require the construction of the fort projected for the defense of the narrows ^{opposite} Bucksport - this being one of the works included in the system of defense for the seaboard.

To recapitulate, it appears, then, that in the view of the subject we have taken, there is needed

1. A military establishment at the junction of Dead R^r & the Kennebeck.
2. A military establishment at the junction of Matawamakeag & Penobscot
3. A military establishment at Calais with colateral works at Eastport.
4. A centrel Arsenal at Bangor
5. A Fort ~~at the narrows~~ ^{on} the Penobscot opposite Bucksport

To which are to be added advanced works, as occasion may call for them.

We must here remark that not only is it impossible for us to indicate, in the present state of our knowledge, the proper form or magnitude of the establishments above enumerated, but we must insist on the importance of very careful & deliberate examination of the ground, before the exact positions, even, be determined. Of course, estimates made at this moment cannot pretend to be more than mere conjectures of the amount that may, probably, be expended with judgement within the year. It would be a great advantage if the sum allowed for these objects should be granted without apportionment ~~for~~ to them severally. In that case it is thought that \$100,000 might be applied during the year to Military works on the head waters of the Kennebeck - on the headwaters of the Penobscot - on the St. Croix R. -

at Eastport - at Bangor, and on the Penobscot opposite Bucks-
port; all in the State of Maine.

Under the disadvantage of not having personally inspected
the frontiers of Maine the preceding remarks are offered with
diffidence not doubting that actual examination & surveys
may lead to important modifications if not radical changes.

Respectfully submitted signed JOS G. TOTTEN Col Eng.
S. THAYER Lt Col Eng.
Bt. Col

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Engineer Department
Washington Sept. 4. 1839

Col. S. Thayer,
Corps of Engineers,
Boston, Massachusetts

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, for your information, copy of a note received from Maj. S. Cooper* of yesterdays date, advising of the intention of the Secretary of War (Joel R. Poinsett)* to visit Boston and New York, and of his wish to meet you and myself at the latter port. Very respy, Sir, Yr. Ob. Serv

JOS. G. TOTTEN Col
& Chf Engr

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Washington Sept. 5. 1839

Col. S. Thayer,

My dear Col.

Will you do me the favour to look over this portion of the regulations, (containing all but forms, mode of drawing, conventional signs, scales etc) and state frankly every objection that may occur to you. I have devoted all the time I thought I had to spare upon them: but I have no doubt there may be serious imperfections, and I shall feel much obliged by your free criticism. Let me have them back as soon as practicable. Most truly yours. JOS. G. TOTTEN

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Engineer Department
Washington Oct. 23d 1839

Col. S. Thayer
Corps of Engineers
Boston, Massachusetts

Sir,

The Secretary of War (Joel R. Poinsett)* is desirous that you should be here as soon as you can, as he wishes to consult with you on several important points in connexion with reports he intends making to Congress.

Should your duties prevent your leaving Boston immediately, please inform the Department how soon you may be expected. I have the honor to be, Sir, Very respectfully, Yr. Ob. Serv.

JOS. G. TOTTEN (Col)
Chf Engr

*See Index

FROM Frederick A. Smith*

Circular

Engineer Department
Washington Oct. 31. 1839

Sir

The available means of the Treasury are at the present moment very limited and expected to continue so during a considerable portion of the coming year. I am in consequence directed by the Secretary of War (Joel R. Poinsett)* to inform you that it is absolutely necessary that every branch of public expenditure be reduced as much as possible, so as not to exceed those means: With this view, he directs the following instructions to be issued, to which you will strictly conform.

1st. The operations at the work under your charge will be restricted to as small a scale as is consistent with its essential interests: no expenditures will be made therefor, that can be avoided or postponed without serious injury to the public service.

2d. As it must be expected that the next season will be considerably advanced before the new appropriations are made, as large balances as possible should be left of the existing appropriations, in order to provide for the operations of that season, from the commencement until the date of the appropriations.

3d. No debts will be contracted on the faith of the new appropriations, as the Estimates for the service of the year 1840 will embrace no greater amounts than are judged necessary to prosecute operations, between the time those appropriations may be expected to be made, and the close of the season, on as moderate a scale as practicable. very respectfully Your obt
Servant By order

FRED A. SMITH Capt Engrs Asst.

To Col S Thayer Corps of Engineers Boston, Masstts.

*See Index

FROM George L. Welcker*

Washington, January 4th 1840.-

Col. S. Thayer, Corps of Engineers, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;

Upon inquiry, I find that a survey and drawing of Portland Harbour were made in 1820 by Major H(artman) Bache* - The survey & drawing are considered accurate and complete.-

There are no drawings of Portsmouth Harbor which can be relied upon. - During the last summer, Col Totten* made a requisition upon the War Department for a survey, and accompanied the requisition by a full & complete set of instructions as to the nature of the survey, its extent etc etc - but as yet, no action has been had upon the subject.

The following estimates, for works in Boston Harbour, have been laid before Congress - viz,

For repairs of Fort Independence & sea wall of Castle Island	\$35,000.
For Fort Warren.	45,000.
For repairs of Sea wall, Deer Island Boston Harbour	1,500
For " " " " Rainsford Island	1,000
For construction of Sea Wall Lovell's Island	12,000

Col. Totten laid before the Secretary of War (Joel R. Poinsett)* a list of estimates - he was sent for, and a reduction was insisted upon a a work of necessity. - A system of pruning was commenced, in which as little was looped off as possible. - Subsequently however, in a Cabinet meeting, they were handled rather roughly, and finally made their appearance in their present form.

My respects to Lieuts (Daniel P.) Woodbury* and (William H.) Wright.* - and for yourself; be pleased to accept this assurance of the esteem of Yours etc GEO. L. WELCKER

*See Index

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

February 28, 1840.

Mr. Nicholas, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following bill; which was read, and passed to a second reading.

A BILL

For the organization of a company of sappers, miners, and pontoniers.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
2 of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That
3 there shall be created a company of sappers, miners, and pon-
4 toniers, to be called engineer soldiers, which company shall be
5 composed of ten sergeants, or master workmen; ten corporals, or
6 overseers; two musicians; thirty-nine privates of the first
class,
7 or artificers; and thirty-nine privates of the second class, or
8 laborers; in all, one hundred men.

1 Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the pay and
2 rations of the sergeants or master workmen of said company,
3 shall be the same as those now allowed by law to the master
4 workmen employed by the Ordnance Department, excepting that
5 the engineer sergeants shall receive one ration only per day,
6 instead of one ration and a half; of the corporals, or
overseers,
7 the same as those now allowed by law to the armorers; carriage-
8 makers, or blacksmiths, employed by the Ordnance Department,
9 excepting that the engineer corporals shall receive one ration
10 only per day, instead of one ration and a half; of the privates
of
11 the first class, or artificers, the same as those now allowed
by law
12 to the artificers employed by the Ordnance Department, of the
13 privates of the second class, or laborers, the same as those
now
14 allowed by law to the laborers employed by the Ordnance De-
15 partment; and of the musicians, the same as those allowed by
16 law to the musicians of the line of the army; the said non-
com-
17 missioned officers, privates, and musicians, being respective-
ly
18 entitled to the same clothing and other allowances as are
granted
19 by law to non-commissioned officers, privates, and musicians
of
20 the artillery in the army of the United States.

1 Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said engineer
2 company shall be subject to the rules and articles of war;
shall
3 be recruited in the same manner and with the same limitation,

4 and shall be entitled to the same provisions, allowances, and
5 benefits, in every respect, as are allowed to the other troops
6 constituting the present military peace establishment.

1 Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the said engineer
2 company shall be attached to, and compose a part of the corps
3 of engineers, and be officered by officers of that corps as at
4 present organized; shall perform all the duties at present re-
5 quired of the company of artillery stationed at West Point;
6 and
7 in addition thereto be instructed in, and perform, all the
8 duties
9 of sappers, miners, and pontoniers; they shall, moreover, be
10 liable under the orders of the chief engineer, to serve by
11 detach-
12 ments in overseeing, and aiding laborers upon the fortifica-
13 tions
14 or other works under the Engineer Department, and in super-
15 vising finished fortifications, as fort-keepers, preventing
16 injury,
17 and applying repairs.

1 Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the chief engineer,
2 with the approbation of the Secretary of War, be authorized to
3 regulate and determine the number, quality, form, dimensions,
4 et cetera, of the necessary vehicles, pontons, tools, imple-
5 ments,
6 arms, and other supplies for the use and service of said
7 company
8 as a body of sappers, miners, and pontoniers.

Sappers & Miners

The Royal Sappers & Miners receive theoretical & practical instruction in all the duties of their corps at the Engr. School at Chatham. The privates & noncommnd off of this corps are taught enough of maths to enable them to layout the trace of a work in the field, & to construct the trenches, batteries etc in an attack. They are practiced in all the operations of mining, sapping, pontooning, & in the construction of the interior arrangements of Fortifications & all auxillary means of Attack & defence. The men thus instructed & exercised were found to be of the greatest Service in Wellingtons peninsular & continental wars. In fortifying the frontiers of the Netherlands immediately after the Battle of Waterloo, the Duke of W. employed about 18,000 peasants & 2,000 horses, under the direction of the Off. & soldiers of the Engr. Corps. and the extensive works carried on under these instructed sappers & Miners were conducted with such dispatch &, regularity as to give the highest satisfaction. Wellington's army every where felt the advantage of of having in it intelligent & practiced pontooners. The passage of the (Adaur) might be adduced as an instance where this knowledge was put in requisition. The efficiency of an army in all strategic operations, depends in a great degree upon the skill of its Engr troops in the construction of temperary bridges, such as pontoons, scows, rafts, trestles, /&, flying bridges.

Pontooners not to be seperated

The great advantage of possessing trained Sappers & miners in all the operations of sieges can in no way be doubted. In the Attack of (Bergen-Op-Toon), 1812, the English S & M, led on by a Lt of Engrs, destroyed the palisades, crossed the ditch, and planting their ladders were the first to mount the ramparts. Also a Peronne they headed the assault & were the first to enter the enemy's works.

French Al _____,

Though there may be but little in a name, we object to having these Eng soldiers called "S & M", This term is entirely inapplicable to our Engr troops, as Saps & mines are only a small portion of the duties they must perform. It seems to be slavishly & foolishly borrowed from the European service, where it is given to a Corps totally different from ours; In our engr soldiers are combined the duties of the European S & M, P, Drivers, & (Faesters). As in our service this corps are officered & instructed by the Engrs and are to construct & superintend Engr works, and in fine are to discharge all the offices of that Dept let them be called Eng troops.

For directions in selecting men for this Service we will quote the remarks of Col Nasley of the R.E. on whom we are indebted for many of the facts contained in this article. "In recruiting the corps", says he, "the greatest attention should always be paid to Character; for an idle or profligate man, who might be rendered serviceable in a regt of the Line, is literally useless in the R.E. Dept; & no volunteers from the militia, nor any discharged man from other (reg Gov) corps, should on any account be inlisted; for it may be easily conceived, that men, who have been accustomed for years to the less laborious duty of mounting guards & attendg pds & occal drills, can seldom be thoroughly reconciled to those steady habits of continual personal exertion, which are required of a soldier of the Eng. Dt. Accordingly, it has been remarked, that young recruits, who never served before, have genly proved more intelligent & more regular in their conduct, & have apparently taken much more plure & pride in their peculiar duty, than volunteers from other regiments. considering, moreover, the great skill & zeal which are indispensably necessary, & the peculiarly hazardous & sometimes confidential nature of their duties, no foreigners ought, on any account, to be enlisted as engr soldiers."

Sappers & Miners

The difficulties experienced in the Peninsular War from a want of a sufficient force of well trained engr troops, led the Duke of W- in his after & more glorious campaigns to form a more perfect organization of that Department. To every division of his Army he attached one engineer's brigade; each brigade consisting of a complete compy of Sappers & ms with Artificers' & intrenching tools & Engr stores sufficient for the use of a working party of 500 men. A captain & a certain no. of subalterns were placed in command of each of these brigades, while the other Engr officers were left free for the general duties of their profession.

2) sappers & miners

But there are examples in our own M History which show the value of the english Engr troops - After the battle of N.O., the British laid siege to Fort Bayer of that body of off & men of the R. Engineers with other divisions of the Army and which had not yet come up - the operations were carried on by Offs & soldiers of the Line. From a want of skill & experience in these duties, the attack was so poorly arranged that on the 1st discharge of grape shot from the work 14 of the besigers were killed or wounded out of of a party of 20, and so much confusion & distrust ensued that all operations were suspended. On the 2d night 9 men of the Royal S & M were employed to assist & direct the troops of the Line, & with this slight assistance the Engr officers, who now regulated the siege, so distributed their working party as to complete 200 yards of sap within 50 yds of the work before morning. These trenches being filled with sharpshooters, () troops were unable to show themselves at their guns & consequently were compelled to Surrender the fort.

The importance of this branch of service in the operations of the field may be deduced from the proportional no. killed & wounded in the actual attack of places. We will refer to the sieges in Spain. Of the Royal Engr officers, there were killed or wounded in the Attacks of Fort Christoval 5 out of 7; at Ciudad Rodrigo 7 out of 18; at Burgos 3 out of 5; at St Sebastian 11 out of 18; and in the 2d attack of Saragossa 15 out of 27. In one of these sieges the enemy disabled every non commd off. & soldier of the Engr dept who were present.

(1840?)

But (Pedro) Navarro's* skill was not confined to ^{reductions} taking of fortifications or the direction of armies in the field. He had directed the repairs of the old castles of (Salsos) and placed it in so good a state of defence that, altho the works were not entirely completed, it was enabled to withstand a vigorous siege from the French till it was succoured by Ferdinand. In the preceding war the French had taken this place without difficulty. At the passage of the Corigliano, it led the Spanish who at that bloody battle covered themselves with great glory, throwing themselves into the very face of the cannon, with as much unconcern as if their bodies had been made of air instead of flesh and blood.

So great was the terror now inspired by the name of Navarro, that when the French were driven into Gaeta they surrendered the place on the first intimation of his commencing operations to reduce it. This was done too when the fortifications were in good repair, & well supplied with A & ammunition & ample means were at hand for obtaining provision from neighborhoring forts. The French, moreover, were at this time in great force. So high was the admiration of the Italians for the skill and talents of Pedro Navarro that they caused Medals to be struck, on which the invention of Mines was ascribed to him.

*See Index

Engineer's Establishment for a moderate siege", as (d _____ d) by Col (Jones) from the English Experience in Spain 67 officers, & 8 companies of sappers & miners (about 100 men each) or some 850 or 900 in all.

English Engineer Establishment at the (commencement) of the sieges in Spain (1811) - 24 officers, & 22 non commissioned officers & privates - in all 46-

The siege of Ciudad Rodrigo¹ which immediately followed

¹Mfg. commune in Spain, taken by French under Ney 10 Jul 1810 & by British under Wellington 19 Jan 1812.

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Washington 4th Apl. 1840

Col Thayer

Dear Col

I hear from Lt. (James L.) Mason* that many leaks have declared themselves this Spring in Ft. Adams - and after all the pains that have been taken it seems very important to ascertain the general cause. Mr Mason thinks it is from the freezing of the pipes and to prove this is very important - before the cold weather is passed - Will you be so good as to go, at once, to Ft. Adams and look into the cause? I ask this from the importance of the matter & because it is as interesting to your work as to Fort A. The

The great question is, what is the remedy in general terms? I have thought of putting a layer of concrete covered with asphalt on the terreplain: this, when the parapet is of masonry will permit very little, if any, water to pass down to the roofs - and the remedy would be simple, and not very expensive - In the case of earth parapets, I have thought, instead of sodding them, to cover them with a kyanized boarding nailed down to strips 8" X 2" (as below) and about 2 feet apart - What think you of this (curing) for such cases; & with parapets of Sand, also?

Diagram

I have written to Lt (Danville) Leadbetter* for a statement of his kyanizing process and will give you his result as well as Capt (William D.) Frasers,* when recd

Should you be able to lay open some of the pipes at Ft. A while yet frozen - you might get some useful hints, Very truly yours
J. G. TOTTEN

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Totten*

Boston, Monday, April 13th 1840

Dear Colonel,

In compliance with the instructions contained in your communication of the 4th inst. which I rec^d on Wednesday last I started for Newport on the next day & reached there early enough to visit Fort Adams on the same day. After taking a cursory view of all the casemates in which leaks had been observed I proceeded to make a more critical examination commencing with the West Front to which front I will firstly confine my remarks. Passing along under the arches I could discover no signs of leakage except in seven or eight. In some of these the leaks were continuous from front to rear of the Piers extending some way up the arches & including the interior face of the scarp near the piers. In other casemates the walls were wet only in spots of greater or less extent. I then ascended to the Terreplain & sounded the depth of water in the gutters by letting down a rod thro' the small shafts along the interior face of the sustaining wall. There was more or less water in all the gutters, its depth varying from one to three feet. Mr (James L.) Mason* informed me that on his arrival from Washington the depth of water here varied from four to eight feet. A party was then set to work to uncover a gutter a few feet in length adjacent to the scarp-The gutter designated was that over the second pier from salient of the N. W. Bastion. While the excavation was in progress I went to look at the exterior face of the scarp. In passing around I discovered leaks in three places only. The first observed was about the gateway on the East Front - This was accounted for by supposing the water to have entered by the end walls of the gap there left. The other two places were on the West Front opposite 2^d & 3^d piers from the salient of the N. W. Bastion. At each place there was a wet strip 3 or 4 feet wide extending from the ground up to the top of the vertical pipe or a little above.-- on opening the drain at the foot ~~of the feet~~ of the conduit it was found to be dry showing clearly that no water had of late discharged itself through the pipe. As it was then late & the work on the terreplain could not be completed till next day I returned to Newport.--On Friday about 9 A.M. I found the excavation completed & the water removed so as to lay bare the top of the arch over the gutter for a length of about 6 feet--There was no ice on the gutter arch but the whole of the interior face of the scarp from the gutter to within a few inches of the surface of the terreplain & on each side as far as it could be seen was coated with a sheet of ice several inches thick completely enveloping the dry bricks placed against the lead. On taking up the gutter arch we found the bottom & sides of the gutter covered with ice three or four inches thick. The ice extending back as far as we could see under the arch & also up the roofs without appearing to diminish in thickness as it receded from the scarp. The conduit pipe which, you will recollect, is here about three inches in diameter & nearly horizontal, was completely filled with solid ice which had however begun to melt at the end connected with the vertical pipe as was discovered from the slow passage of water through it after the other end had been cleared of ice for a length of about 18 inches from its orifice.--The next operation was to make an aperture in the exterior face of the scarp opposite the horizontal pipe, but thro' a mistake in the measurement there were two apertures the first having been made about five feet below the top of the vertical pipe. There was no ice in or about that pipe nor did I expect to find any there as the temperature of the ~~surrounding~~ wall

surrounding the pipe must have been for several weeks above the freezing point, but the water was every where oozing thro' the masonry & the charcoal enveloping the pipe was of course thoroughly wet. The foregoing facts will doubtless, enable you to understand the condition of the masonry on the West Front as well as the causes of the evil. All the pipes were doubtless closed early in January & have remained so up to the present time & all the surfaces of masonry under the Terreplain, viz, the gutter, roofs & interior faces of scarp & retaining wall above the arches have also been coated with ice more or less thick. During the same period much rain has fallen, sufficient at times to raise the water over the roofs to the level of the coping of the Parade wall.--The only discharge for the water meanwhile being through leaks in the masonry.--Thus the walls during a great portion of the last three months have been subjected to the pressure of ten feet of water or thereabouts, a severe trial certainly: the only cause of wonder is that the leaks have been so few--so much for the West Front. As to the others I can only speak from external appearances & from information furnished by Mr. Mason--& also by the Master Carpenter who is an exceedingly cleaver & intelligent person--All I saw and heard convinced me that the circumstances were nearly the same every where--same evil, same cause--all the pipes were closed by ice & consequently all the terreplains were flooded. There were many leaks in the interior face of the parade wall opposite & near the crowns of the arches, going to shew that water had flowed over the wall & penetrated at top where it was not protected by lead. Had time permitted I would, have examined the gutters & roofs over the casemates that had been finished for quarters & magazines & kept closed. I am inclined to think that no ice would have been found there except perhaps at or very near the head walls--Before discussing the remedies of the evil in question I will advert for a moment to the preventations that may be provided in future constructions & to that end let us consider the several varieties of casemates in reference to drainage.

1st Those that are completely enclosed but without floors & the interior faces of walls left naked.

2^d Those with floors -- walls with furred linings designed for quarters & occupied as such.

3^d Those finished for quarters but not occupied. also Magazines for powder, store-rooms & all other casemates in which fires are not maintained but whose walls are covered with furred linings.--

4th Casemates of two or more tiers the lower tier or tiers open in rear. The upper tier only enclosed but walls left naked.

5th Casemates open in rear.

The drainage of Nos 1 & 2 can be attended with no difficulty as the temperature of the walls even in the coldest weather can never fall below the freezing point except near the exterior faces of the head walls & should a conduit be situated near any such face it will only be necessary to isolate it from the masonry by interposing some non-conducting substance such as charcoal which instead of being placed in immediate contact with the masonry should be enclosed in a box or wood that has been Kyanized or injected with Coal Tar.

The roofs & gutters of No. 3 would also I think be secure from frost & the only additional precaution I would recommend here is that of placing the orifice of the conduit as near the centre of the gutter or in other terms as far from the head walls as may be practicable & at all events not nearer than two or

three feet from the interior face of a head wall. No. 4 is more doubtful but as to No. 5 there can be no hope of effecting a (secure) drainage through conduits at least if all below the roofs & gutters consist of solid masonry as the orifices wherever placed would be (reached) by frost & choked with ice.--

From the foregoing premises my opinion may be inferred that, on the west front at least, the water must be intercepted at the surface of the terreplain. The method of effecting this by a floor of _____ covered with asphalt is probably the best and cheapest. Supposing the floor to be 6" thick its cost will not I think exceed seventeen cents or from that to twenty cents per superficial foot. This floor will of course rest on a stratum of sand or gravel of sufficient thickness say one foot. The same expedient must, I suppose, be resorted to on the other fronts for altho' the evil might, & in my opinion could, be remedied by other means, yet those means, which I will not stop to describe, would probably be more expensive & after all might prove less effectual than the surface covering. As to the parapets of earth I am not clear that a roofing will be necessary-- The water, as it seems to me, owing to the steepness of the slopes, will be carried off so rapidly that little can penetrate deeper than a few inches below the surface.-- I am respectfully & truly yours (signed) S. THAYER
Col. J. G. Totten--Chief Engineer--

*See Index

TO Theodore L. Chadbourne*

Boston May 14 1840

My dear Sir

This will be handed to you by Cadet (Henry) Loring* whom I commend to your acquaintance & friendly attentions. He is a son of Mr. Henry Loring of the firm of Fa(ir)banks Loring & Co Merchants of Boston. Mr. Loring is a particular friend of one of your fathers earliest & best friends, George Ticknor* Esquire.

I remain sincerely yours

S. THAYER

Cadet Chadbourn

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Engineer Department
Washington June 23d 1840

Engineer Order No 1

- I. Second Lieutenant Robert O. Butler,* Corps of Engineers, will report himself, on the 28th of August next, to the Superintendent of the Military Academy, at West Point, for duty as an assistant in the Department of Engineering.
- II. Second Lieutenant Henry W. Halleck,* Corps of Engineers, will be relieved from duty at the Military Academy at the close of the present General Examination, and will report himself, on or before the 1st day of August next to the Chief Engineer at Washington, for duty with the Board of Engineers.
- III. Second Lieutenant Jeremy F Gilmer,* Corps of Engineers, will be relieved from duty at the Military Academy at the close of the present General Examination, and will report himself to Major Jno L Smith* at New York, on or before the 1st day of August next, for duty as Assistant at Fort Schuyler, New York Harbor.
- IV. Second Lieutenant Henry L. Smith,* Corps of Engineers, is assigned to duty at Grand Terre, Louisiana, as assistant to Capt. J. G. Barnard,* to whom he will forthwith report by letter, directed to New Orleans; and by whom he will be instructed as to the period when he must report in person.

JOS G. TOTTON Col & Chf Eng

*See Index

FROM Monsieur Colla, mechanical engineer.¹

Paris _____ 184 _____

1 cushion block	22 ^k 500		
1 pair of cushions	4 ^k 500	Bronze	3 ^f 50 per Kilo
1 large weight-balance	10 ^k		
1 small one	2 ^k 500		
1 additional (thick)	2 ^k		
1 additional (thin)	1 ^k		
1 large pulley	252 ^k	cast-iron	40 centimes per
1 small pulley	118 ^k		kilogram

504

472

18

45

1039

¹ Original in French

Wt of irons for drawbridge

Memo given by Mons. Colla
Mechanical Engineer
90-92 rue faubourg Poissonnerie

Ministry of Public Education¹

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2d Division

Scientific and Literary

Foundations

.

1st Bureau

Public Libraries,

Subscriptions, and

Literary Indemnities

.

F^o 1 855. 2nd

of the General Registry

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All letters and replies
must be addressed directly
to the Ministry

Paris, 18 January 1841

Sir,

I am writing to advise you that in
accordance with the request presented by
Mr Michel Chevalier, I am making available
to you a copy of his work entitled: History
of United States Channels of Communication
and the Works of Art Dependent Thereon.

This copy will be delivered to you by
Mr Michel Chevalier, himself. Sincerely yours,
Peer of France, Minister of Public Education

(signature illegible)

Colonel S Thayer (US Engineers), Boston

¹ Original in French

LETTER
from
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
(Joel R. Poinsett)*
In Relation

To the creation of a company of sappers and miners to be attached to the Engineer Department.

January 25, 1841.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs,
and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, January 22, 1841.

Sir: I beg leave, through you, to lay before the Military Committee of the Senate the accompanying copy of an able communication of the experienced and scientific officer at the head of the Engineer Department, on the subject of the creation of a company of sappers and miners to be attached to that branch of the service. The subject is of great importance; and I would respectfully call the attention of the committee particularly to it. It is clearly shown by Colonel (Joseph G.) Totten* that the measure is essential to the efficiency of the service; and that it would have an important bearing upon the safety of the country, and the success of its arms, in time of war. It is also recommended as a matter of economy. Taking the most unfavorable view of it, in this respect, presented by that officer, the direct increase of expense to which it would subject the Government would be but a few thousand dollars; much more than which would be saved by having such persons as the measure proposes for the important duties of overseers, and sub-overseers, in the operations in progress at our military works under construction, and for taking charge of, and keeping in proper repair, those which, from various causes, cannot be occupied by the troops. Being particularly trained for conducting, under the general superintendence of officers of engineers, the minor operations at the military works under construction, they would possess a degree of theoretical knowledge and practical skill that would enable them to undertake and accomplish, without loss of time, and without the cost of experiment, many important duties, which cannot be intrusted to the persons whom it is now necessary to employ as overseers, or could only be executed by them after considerable delay and (too often) costly experiment, because not possessed of the necessary information and experience. From the want of such persons, too, to take charge of fortifications not occupied by troops, we are obliged to place some of them in charge of civil agents, who have not the requisite military information to enable them either to detect deteriorations, and suggest the repairs and improvements constantly required, nor to execute themselves or have them executed by others, in the proper manner. But, had _____ persons to place in charge of such works, which a company of sappers and miners, of the strength suggested by Colonel Totten, would afford, instead of a large outlay of money for extensive repairs necessary in consequence of not having the means of detecting injuries to the works and applying the remedy in proper season, and for repairs and improvements of an unsuitable character, such as from time to time would be required, would be immediately seen, and could be made with but little comparative cost.

The present artillery company stationed at West Point is only employed on the necessary guard and police duties of a military post: the proposed engineer company will not only discharge the same duties, but be the efficient means of giving the cadets a practical knowledge in military engineering, and thereby diffuse it through all the different corps of the army. Very respectfully, your most obedient servant, J. R. POINSETT.
Hon. Thomas H. Benton,
Chairman Com. on Military Affairs, Senate.

Engineer Department,
Washington, January 6, 1841.

Sir: I have the honor, in accordance with a promise made in my recent annual report, to invite your attention to the particular subject of organizing a company of sappers, miners, and pontoniers, to be attached permanently to the corps of engineers.

The great importance of having in our army a body of men expert in the operations of sapping and mining, and military bridge-building, is obvious to all who are familiar with military operations.

In time of war, they must exist; and their organization cannot be deferred until that emergency has arisen, without entirely disregarding the blood-bought experience of other nations. In Napier's History of the Peninsula War—a work unsurpassed by any in the language, on military affairs—the author, referring to the first English siege of Badajos, in May, 1811, says: "Thus the first serious siege undertaken by the British army in the peninsula war commenced; and, to the discredit of the English Government, no army was ever so ill provided with the means of prosecuting such an enterprise. The engineer officers were exceedingly zealous; and, notwithstanding some defects in the constitution and customs of their corps, tending rather to make regimental than practical scientific officers, many of them were very well versed in the theory of their business. But the ablest trembled when reflecting on their utter destitution of all that belonged to real service. Without a corps of sappers and miners, without a single private who knew how to carry on an approach under fire, they were compelled to attack fortresses defended by the most warlike, practised, and scientific troops of the age. The best officers and finest soldiers were obliged to sacrifice themselves in a lamentable manner, to compensate for the negligence and incapacity of a Government, always ready to plunge the nation into war, without the slightest care of what was necessary to obtain success. The sieges carried on by the British, in Spain, were a succession of butcheries; because the commonest materials, and the means necessary _____ their art, were denied the engineers." The lives of our citizens will _____ be too precious for a Suwarrow or Wellington to make fascines of their bodies to fill ditches, or to sacrifice them in reckless and fruitless assaults, when honor, success, and comparative safety, wait upon the simple application of the art of the sapper and miner. No future historian should be able to reflect a similar reproach on the American nation to that which the British officer has fixed on the English Government.

The experience in the first years of the peninsula war, taught Great Britain the necessity of having well-instructed engineer troops, as will be seen by the following extract from Colonel Pasley's course of military instruction: "The officers of the corps of royal engineers, British army, had no means of preparing themselves for their arduous and important duties in the field previously to 1812. Since that period, the junior officers of the royal engineers, and all the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the department, in addition to the studies requisite for their respective stations, have been diligently exercised, not only in the execution of parallels, approaches, batteries, saps, mines, and other works of a siege, but also in the manœuvres of pontoons, and in the formation of military bridges in general; so that there is no operation which the British engineer department can be called upon to perform in the face of an enemy, for which the officers and men may not, with propriety, be said to have been previously qualified by actual experience; and the kind of experience which is thus acquired at home, is peculiarly necessary for a corps whose duties are not only of the most vital importance towards the success of armies, but which, in a war of sieges, (such as every obstinately protracted contest must necessarily lead to,) are of so very hazardous a nature, that, in the common course of military events, the major part of the officers are always likely to be killed or disabled before they can possibly have opportunities of acquiring an equal degree of practical knowledge in the field." Sir John L. Jones, of the royal engineers, says, "that the army in Spain was unattended by a single sapper and miner till late in 1813;" and "that England, possessing a corps of officers professionally educated, and well grounded in the science of attack and defence, she denied them every requisite establishment to render their acquirements availing; and most unreasonably expected her armies to reduce the skilfully fortified places of the nineteenth century, with means inferior to those brought against the exposed and ill-constructed places of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries."

The customs and organization of modern armies as essentially require sappers and miners as they do artillerists. The exercise of their art, in the informal attacks of posts, intrenchments, &c., which are of constant occurrence in war, and also in sieges, saves the lives of large numbers, and converts enterprises of great uncertainty and peril into works of easy achievement.

In a campaign, when not engaged in a siege, these troops would constitute a part of the advanced guard of an advancing army, and of the rear guard of a retreating one: in the first case, repairing roads, making bridges, and leading on the assault of intrenched positions; in the latter, destroying bridges, constructing barricades, and multiplying, to the utmost, impediments in the path of the enemy.

In crossing rivers, their services as pontoniers would be almost indispensable.

Whenever it may be necessary to strengthen a position by intrenchments, each sapper, from previous training, would be competent to direct the operations of a large party of workmen. For example: Colonel Pasley says: "No less than about 18,000 peasants and 2,000 horses worked by order of the Duke of Wellington, under the direction of officers of the royal engineers, in improving the defences of the frontier of the Netherlands, for some months together, immediately before the great victory of Waterloo; and, by all accounts, the extensive works then in hand were constructed with the greatest regularity and despatch. Now, it may easily be conceived that, to have directed such a great body of workmen to proper advantage, by means of a few officers of

engineers, would have been utterly impossible, but for the system adopted, of subdividing the various works amongst the non-commissioned officers and privates."

Success or failure at a siege frequently decides the fate of a campaign; sometimes of an army; and has, more than once, that of a State. The failures before Pavia, in 1525, Metz, in 1552, Prague, in 1757, Acre, in 1799, and Burgos, in 1812, and the success at Yorktown, in 1781, are examples. By the first, France lost her monarch, the flower of her nobility, and her Italian conquests; by the second, she was saved from destruction, and 30,000 of her enemies perished; by the third, the great Frederick was brought to the brink of destruction; by the fourth, Napoleon was stopped in a career which might have changed the face of the world; by the fifth, the French gained time to concentrate their forces and regain the ascendancy; by the last, the United States put the finishing-stroke to the war of independence.

Innumerable instances of disastrous consequences attending the failure of sieges might be adduced. Those who have reflected on it must feel that the dearest interests of a country are frequently staked on the sure and speedy reduction of a fortress. It is, consequently, of great moment that its sieges should be carried on in the best possible manner—that is to say, by a due union of science, labor, and force; that they should be rendered not only short, but certain, and little costly in men.

The peculiarly hazardous nature of the engineers' duty in sieges, is such, that every precaution should be taken for rendering a corps of engineers effective in the field. The loss of the royal engineers, (British army,) in killed and wounded, in proportion to the total number employed in the several sieges in Spain, is given by Colonel Pasley as follows: "At the first siege of Badajos, 5 out of 7; at Ciudad Rodrigo, 7 out of 18; at the last siege of Badajos, 13 out of 20; at Burgos, 3 out of 5; at St. Sebastian's, 11 out of 18."

The French effected the organization of their engineer troops in the reign of Louis XIV, and maintained them in a very efficient state throughout the last century; so that casualties in their service have been rarely in as great proportion as those exhibited in the English. In the protracted siege of Saragossa, when the besieged were as numerous as the besiegers, 15 out of 27 of their engineers were killed and wounded before the French reduced the place.

If too great stress appears to be laid upon the English experience in these matters, it arises from the fact that the other great European Powers had long previously adopted the system which England at last introduced into her military organization by constraint. Her practical good sense and jealous economy ought also to recommend to our most deliberate consideration what she found so essential to the efficiency of her service.

Vauban, the greatest of military engineers, in a memoir written in 1704, urging upon the French Government the organization of a company of sappers, says: "They would be useful in peace as well as in war, and would be the means of saving much in all fortifications where they should be employed. In fact, I have not the least doubt that they would save annually to the King much more than their pay. I assert all I have said on this subject with as much confidence as if I had seen the results; and I can, with the same certainty, add, that this small troop will be the means of saving large numbers of good engineers, and brave officers and soldiers, from the stern necessity to which we are reduced, of exposing, almost always, the laborers and those who support them; which necessity would not arise, had we at command

a sufficient number of this kind of workmen well instructed. To such a degree have I felt the necessity of sappers, at every siege at which I have been present, that I have always had reason to repent of not having more urgently solicited the creation of this company." All the anticipations of Vauban have been more than realized, and the corps of sappers and miners has received the most careful attention. The French engineer troops, at this moment, consist of 54 companies-on the war establishment, containing 8,076 men; and on the peace establishment, 5,412.

It is in time of peace that this description of force must be prepared, because much time and practice are required to produce the necessary skill, and because there is little or nothing in the arts and business of civil life which prepares men for these peculiar services. But there are duties and services to be rendered by these troops, even in time of peace, which are, of themselves, of high importance in many points of view, and demand immediate attention from the Government.

During the season of encampment at the Military Academy, the sappers, miners, and pontoniers would be carrying on a course of practical field engineering, in company with the graduating class of cadets, and under the direction of the officer of engineers commanding the sappers, aided by all the officers of engineers who are stationed at the institution to assist in its instruction. By these means, this most useful description of knowledge will be diffused through every corps of the army; and officers of engineers, whose special duty is to take charge of such operations, will be relieved from the necessity of taking the field without ever having seen constructed a gabion, fascine, or any other of the various and peculiar materials of their art.

The instruction communicated to the sapper, miner, and pontonier, at the Military Academy, would, moreover, render them invaluable as assistants to engineer officers carrying on civil or military works. If every officer in charge of a work in progress were supplied (according to the size of the work) with one or more of the men thus instructed, to act as overseers, the advantage to the public service, and the economy also, would be great. As it is, these officers are obliged to employ people who, however expert as mechanics, know nothing of the peculiar structures they are about to superintend, and are, moreover, almost always contaminated by the contract system of building, now generally applied to private edifices. And, after all, persons of suitable qualifications and character cannot be obtained, but at prices much beyond the highest rate proposed to be allowed the engineer soldiers. The presence, in each of the ungarrisoned finished works, of one, two, or three of the engineer company, acting as fort-keepers, would produce not only a considerable saving of expense, but also result in a perfect state of repair and preparation for service at all times. These soldiers would be able to apply repairs of all sorts with their own hands; and, their peculiar duty being to watch over the condition of the work, all injuries and dilapidation would be discovered and arrested at the very commencement, when repairs would be easy and at small cost.

An engineer non-commissioned officer, together with one or two engineer soldiers, to take charge of the fortification, and an ordnance sergeant and one or two ordnance laborers, to attend to the armament and ordnance stores, would constitute all the garrison absolutely necessary in time of peace, even in the larger works; and such a garrison might be confidently relied on to preserve the fortifications and their armament in good condition.

This arrangement would allow the concentration of the other troops in masses, whenever the public service might require it; and it would, at the same time, be in perfect harmony with the purpose of exercising the volunteer companies of the neighboring cities and towns in the forts and batteries, thereby fitting them for the defence of these works in time of war.

Ordinary and unavoidable duties at the Military Academy, independent of the academical instruction of the cadets, have been found to require the presence there of a full company of artillery. It is now proposed to substitute for these troops a company which shall be, as the Military Academy itself is, permanently attached to the corps of engineers; which company, besides continuing the services now rendered, under the general designation of engineer soldiers, shall be organized into a company of sappers, miners, and pontoniers, with the fourfold object of-

1st. Supplying the army with a description of force indispensable to military operations in time of war;

2d. Providing a body of men to aid in instructing the cadets in the field labors of a campaign, and in other kinds of practical engineering;

3d. Supplying engineer officers in their constructions, during peace, with overseers and master-workmen; and

4th. Supplying persons who, in their capacity of fort-keepers, shall be competent to execute all current repairs in existing fortifications, keeping them at all times in readiness for service.

In order, however, to carry out these objects, as the functions of the men are to be multiplied, it will be necessary to increase the number beyond that of the company of artillery now at the academy. Having 100 men, instead of 71, (which is the force of the present company,) we shall have about thirty persons to be distributed in the fortifications of the country, as overseers, master-workmen, and fort-keepers.

The duties which it is designed to impose on these engineer soldiers require men possessing superior physical qualities-intelligence, a certain degree of education, and also some trade or handicraft that can be applied to the peculiar functions of the company. It will be in vain to look for favorable results with qualifications of a lower order; and those we ask for are not to be commanded without paying for them. The experience of the Ordnance Department shows the prices at which analogous employments may to be filled; and these have been adopted in the draught of the bill herewith. The economy of the measure is fully established by the following statement, which was most carefully drawn up, and is extracted from my letter on the same subject, dated February 10, 1840.

The total cost of the company now at West Point is per annum \$15,14473. The company contains 71 persons, being 27 non-commissioned officers and men and 2 musicians less than the number proposed for the engineer company. The amount now actually paid at the works in progress for 27 overseers, master-workmen, &c., who might be superseded by men of the engineer company, is as follows, namely:

Three of the higher class of workmen, corresponding in qualifications with sergeants of engineers, who, together with the four sergeants and three artificers of the present company, will accord in number with the ten sergeants proposed for the engineer company:

3 master workmen, at \$3 per day, or \$936 per annum- \$2,808 00

Seven master-workmen of a second class, corresponding in qualification with corporals of engineers, who, together with the three corporals of the present company, will agree in numbers with the ten corporals proposed for the engineer company.

7 master-workmen, at \$2 50 per day, or \$780 per annum-	\$5,460 00
Eight overseers of a lower class, corresponding with privates of the first class of engineers:	
8 overseers, at \$1 75 per day, or \$546 per annum - -	4,368 00
Nine overseers of the lowest class, corresponding with privates of the second class of engineers, and making up, with the seventy-one men of the present company, and the two musicians, 100 men:	
9 overseers of lowest class, at \$1 25 per day, or \$390 per annum - - - - -	3,510 00
Total paid for 27 master-workmen, overseers, &c. -	<u>\$16,146 00</u>

The total paid for the present company, and for
the number of master-workmen, overseers, &c.,
that would be superseded by the engineer company,
is, therefore - - - - - \$31,290 73

The total cost of the engineer company, per annum,
according to the allowances stated in the accompany-
ing bill, will be - - - - - 24,156 75

If this sum be taken from the sum of \$31,290 73, the
remainder, (namely \$7,133 98) will express the amount
that is now paid for the service of troops at the
Military Academy, and for overseers, master-workmen,
&c., at the different military works, over and above
the amount that will be paid when the engineer com-
pany shall be fully organized.

Amount saved by the organization of the engineer com-
pany 7,133 98
\$31,290 73

In case it should be contended that this estimate is faulty,
on the ground that the present company, even if displaced by the
engineer company, would still have to be paid, although the
argument is believed not to apply in this instance, we will now
make another supposition, as follows:

The amount of extra allowances to which the 71 men of the
present company are entitled, by regulation, for their peculiar
and extra services at the Military Academy, and which would
constitute a part of the legal functions of the engineer com-
pany, is, per annum - - - - - \$2,898 48

The amount paid on public works for the 27 overse-
ers and master-workmen of different classes, as shown
in the above estimate, (which amount would be saved
by the substitution of engineer non-commissioned
officers and privates,) is, per annum - - - - - 16,146 00
\$19,044 48

If this sum of \$19,044 48 be taken from
\$24,156 75, (which is the amount that the
engineer company will cost,) the remainder is
\$5,112 27; and this remainder will be the entire
amount that the addition to the military service
of this engineer company of 100 men will cost the
United States.

Entire additional outlay for the engineer company,
on this supposition - - - - - 5,112 27
\$24,156 75

It was considered proper to go into the above calculation,
in order that the expense attending the proposed measure might be
known; but whether there is to be a saving of a few thousand

dollars, or an augmentation of a like amount, should be regarded as of little consequence, compared with the deficiency in our military organization and instruction which this measure is designed to supply. And I must be pardoned for repeating, that the want of this description of force for services both of war and peace, and the want in the officers of every corps in the army of that practical field instruction which can be acquired, fully, only by the aid of this force, are evils pregnant with important consequences; and as they are evils which can be cured only slowly and gradually, not a moment should be lost in resorting to the remedy. I have the honor to be, &c.,

Hon. J. R. Poinsett,
Secretary of War.

JOS. G. TOTTEN, Colonel,
and Chief Engineer.

AN ACT for the organization of a company of sappers, miners, and pontoniers.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in Lieu of the company of artillery now stationed at West Point, there be substituted a company of sappers, miners, and pontoniers, to be called engineer soldiers: which company shall be composed of ten sergeants, or master-workmen, ten corporals, or overseers; two musicians; thirty-nine privates of the first class, or artificers; and thirty-nine privates of the second class, or laborers: in all, one hundred men.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the pay and rations of the sergeants or master-workmen of said company, shall be the same as those now allowed by law to the master-workmen employed by the Ordnance Department, excepting that the engineer sergeants shall receive one ration only per day, instead of one ration and a half: of the corporals or overseers, the same as those now allowed by law to the armorers, carriage-makers, and blacksmiths employed by the Ordnance Department, excepting that the engineer corporals shall receive one ration only per day, instead of one ration and a half: of the privates of the first class, or artificers, the same as those now allowed by law to the artificers employed by the Ordnance Department: of the privates of the second class, or laborers, the same as those now allowed by law to the laborers employed by the Ordnance Department: and of the musicians, the same as those allowed by law to the musicians of the line of the army. The said non-commissioned officers, privates, and musicians, being respectively entitled to the same clothing and other allowances as are granted by law to non-commissioned officers, privates, and musicians, of the artillery in the army of the United States.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said engineer company shall be subject to the rules and articles of war; shall be recruited in the same manner, and with the same limitation; and shall be entitled to the same provisions, allowances, and benefits, in every respect, as are allowed to the other troops constituting the present military peace establishment.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the said engineer company shall be attached to and compose a part of the corps of engineers, and be officered by officers of that corps, as at present organized: shall perform all the duties at present required of the company of artillery stationed at West Point; and,

in addition thereto, be instructed in, and perform, all the duties of sappers, miners, and pontoniers. They shall, moreover, under the orders of the Chief Engineer, be liable to serve by detachments, in overseeing and aiding laborers upon fortifications or other works under the Engineer Department, and in supervising finished fortifications, as fort-keepers, preventing injury, and applying repairs.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the Chief Engineer, with the approbation of the Secretary of War, be authorized to regulate and determine the number, quality, form, dimensions, &c., of the necessary vehicles, pontoons, tools, implements, arms, and other supplies for the use and service of said company, as a body of sappers, miners, and pontoniers.

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Engineer Department Washington
March 15 1841

Col S. Thayer
Boston
Sir,

The instructions recently transmitted to you required a
vigorous prosecution of the works under your charge.

The object of the present communication is not to counter-
mand these instructions, but merely to request that while enter-
ing upon these operations with promptitude & vigour, you will,
wherever the nature of your works will permit, and you can do so
without material disadvantage, avoid making large imperative
engagements; and also, that you will so hold your affairs that
should circumstances allow, and the condition of the Treasury
demand a more moderate progress, it may be in our power to conform.
I have the honor to be Very Respectfully Your Most Obed

JOS. G. TOTTEN Col
& Chf Engr

*See Index

FROM George L. Welcker*

Engineer Department
Washington March 16. 1841

Col. S. Thayer,
Corps of Engineers,
Boston, Massts.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst. submitting plans of operations proposed to be carried on, during the present season, for the construction of Fort Warren; and the repair of Fort Independence, respectively. Very respectfully, Sir, Yr. Ob. Serv By order GEO. L. WELCKER
Lt & asst Chf. Engr.

*See Index

FROM O. M. Mitchel*

Cin. July 1841

Col Sylvanus Thayer,
Sir,

The bearer of this, Mr. W. H. Newell* of Cin Ohio, is on a visit to the Eastern Cities with the double intent of collecting practical information in Civil engineering, and of procuring for himself some employment in his profession, Mr. Newell was educated by myself, and has studied thoroughly, an entire course of Mathematics, Philosophy, and Civil Engineering, a course in each of these branches equal in extent to that taught at West Point. Had Mr. N. received his education at the Mil. Academy I have no doubt that his talents and application would have placed him among the most distinguished in his class. It gives me pleasure to bear my unqualified testimony in favor of his attainments in his profession, his gentlemanly behavior, and prompt attention to duty while engaged in business.

Any assistance which you may be able to render Mr. Newell, will be most appropriately applied, and duly appreciated both by himself and by your friend, and obt Servt

O M MITCHEL
Late of the Army

*See Index

FROM Stephen P. Fuller*

Boston Augt 30, 1841

Col Thayer,

Sir Mr (W. H.) Newell* called upon me two or three weeks since, and he was very desirous of seeing you before he left Boston. Having learnt that you reside at Georges Island and that you are only occasionally in the City, he gave me the foregoing letter and requested me to see you and ascertain if you can render him any assistance in procuring employ in this part of the country, he being very desirous of doing so if possible. Not having had the pleasure of meeting you, I take the liberty of addressing you with the request that you would inform me if you can be of service to Mr. Newell in obtaining the object of his wishes, Mr. Newell is now in N York, and an answer may be made to him direct, or through Your Obt Servt. STEPHEN P. FULLER
Suffolk Building rear of)
No 60 State Street)

*See Index

FROM (T. C. Graham)

Roxbury 7th. Oct. 1841

My dear Sir

Allow me to introduce to you Lieut. Fanshawe of the British Army, who is anxious to see all that is to be seen in this neighbourhood. I am sure I may reckon on your kindness to enable this young officer to examine the interesting works under your superintendance in Boston Harbour, which you so obligingly explained to my son on our pleasant visit to you last summer. I have been disappointed at the failure of your promise to come over one day to Nahant while we were there, but hope to have the pleasure of seeing you soon when we get into town for this winter. Yours my dear Sir very faithfully

(T. C. GRAHAM)

FROM James D. Graham*

Camp. N.E. Boundary Explora.
Oct. 15. 1841.

My Dear Colonel.

Captain Wentworth of the Royal Engineers has just done me the favour to visit me at my camp in the forest and passed a night with me. As he contemplates a visit to Boston, I am sure he would be gratified to see your works etc in that harbour, and you will find him an officer whose intelligence in his profession, and whose amiable character will I am sure make him an acceptable visitor.

I beg to introduce Capt Wentworth to you, and to say, that any attentions you may extend to him will confer a very particular favour upon, My Dear Colonel, very sincerely yours

J.D. GRAHAM

Colonel Thayer Corps of Engineers etc etc

*See Index

(Notation on back of letter: Capt. Wentworth left this letter with E (Cushman) & Co - he was obliged to leave for Halifax & could not present it.)

FROM Charles H. Bigelow*

Fort Independence Oct. 16. 1841 -

Col. S. Thayer

Sir

During the year ending Sept. 30. 1841, the constructions at Fort Independence comprise On Curtain No. 1 - the completion of the piers of casemates & galleries - 6 casemate arches of stone & 2 of brick, together with the 2 adjacent gallery arches of brick & the beton roofings of casemates. The foundation & a portion of the Superstructure of Parade Wall-
On Curtain No 2 - the completion of the piers of casemates & the whole suite of arches, comprising 2 galleries of brick, 8 casemates of stone & 2 of brick - Also the foundation & a portion of the Superstructure of Parade Wall. On Right Flank No. 3 - the finishing of the piers & turning the stone arch. Also the piers of the gallery leading thereto & its arch of brick On Curtain No. 3 - the completion of the Scarp Wall & piers in connection & turning a magazine arch of brick-
In Bastion D - the construction of the entire scarp wall, including 4 flank embrasures & 3 loopholes & the stone parapet wall of the Left Half Bastion - The piers of flank casemates & their Stone arches, Also the piers of the two galleries leading to Flanks with their arches of brick -
On Curtain No.4 - the construction of the entire Scarp Wall including five loopholes & the parapet wall. The piers of three casemates with arches of brick
In Bastion E - Laying the foundations & the larger part of the Superstructure of the Scarp Wall, including four flank embrasures & 6 loopholes - turning the 2 stone arches & brick gallery arch in Right Flank - & nearly finishing the piers of the Left Flank.
On Curtain No. ⁽⁵⁾ 1 - a small portion of foundation of Scarp - 4 piers of casemates & 1 magazine arch of brick.
In Bastion A - the construction of entire scarp of Right Flank & completion of Scarp of Right Face including 2 flank embrasures 3 loopholes & a privy vault= building the piers & turning the stone casemate arch in the Flank & the brick gallery arch leading thereto
At the close of operations this autumn, except the Curtain of No. 5 - the entire Scarp Wall & all the piers, arches of casemates & galleries & their beton roofings, in connection therewith will have been completed - The Parade Walls of Fronts Nos 1 & 2 finished - The asphalt roofings, foundations of breast height walls, & embankments of terrepleins & Parapets, on Curtains Nos. 1 & 2 finished. Very Respectfully Your obt Servant

CHAS. H. BIGELOW Capt. Engrs

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Engineer Department
Washington Feb 9 1842

Col S. Thayer
Corps of Engr
Boston

Sir

In acknowledging your letter of the 3d inst I have to state that while the Depnt is aware of the importance of you retaining full controul over all the Engineer operations in the harbour of Boston, especially with reference to the command of supplies, and to a proper controul of prices; and is impressed with the necessity of having an officer of Capt (Charles) Bigelows* experience, supervising under your direction the immediate labours at Fort Independence, it would be glad if this officer can be put in a position, as respects emoluments, of equality with other officers who are his juniors.

To entitle Capt Bigelow to double rations he must, by order _____ issued, be put in immediate charge of the operations on Castle Island: the future contracts for that work must be made in his name - he must in his own name make all payments, keep all books, papers & make all returns & accounts: in that be recognized officially both here and at the Treasury as having such accountability & responsibility. It is probable that a letter, in the spirit of that to you of June 15 1840 in relation to Lt. (Daniel P.) Woodbury*, might be written, which would give to him what is necessary to the end in view, without taking from you that controul which is indispensible to the general service within the harbour. But the department would not give this qualified authority to Capt Bigelow without knowing that it would be agreeable to you and is desirable to him. I am Respectfully Your most obd JOS. G. TOTTEN Col & Chf Engr

*See Index

TO Ichabod Chadbourne*

Fort Warren Georges Island Boston Harbor
May 14th 1842

My dear Sir

The Fortress is not impregnable & no sooner than the renowned Chief all the way from Quaddy¹ shall appear before it the commander will become intimidated & surrender at discretion. A Coup de main & surprise is recommended as the surest mode of attack & Monday morning next before breakfast as the most favorable time on account of the state of the Tide. To be serious I shall expect a visit from you & our friend (Richard?) Fletcher* on Monday next. You will of course choose the hour but the tide will suit best if you start soon after sunrise so as to get here to breakfast. If time presses you can be back to Boston by 1 or 2 p.m. You will find the sloop Genl Warren near the end of Long Wharf. Drop a line in the Post Office to say whether you will come. Ever yrs
I. R. Chadbourne Esq. S. THAYER

*See Index

¹probably reference to Passamaquoddy Bay (or Passamaquoddy Indians). Chadbourne's home town of Eastport, Maine, is on island in Passamaquoddy Bay.

THE UNITED STATES TO Lieut Colo Thayer Corps of Engineers

On What Account. Commencement and Expiration Terms of Service Charged Pay per Month Amount.

Pay. From--- To Months. Days. \$ Cents \$ Cents

For myself, July 1st Augt. 31st two 75 150

For 2 Private Svts (not soldiers) " " " two 16 32

CLOTHING.

For 2 Private Svts. (not soldiers) " " " two 5 10

FORAGE

For four Horses, " " " two 32 64

SUBSISTENCE.

For myself, July 1st Augt. 31st 62 11 682 Fort Warren 20 136.40

For two Private Svts. (not soldiers) " " " 62 2 124 Warren 20 24.80

For myself double rations " " 22d 53 5 265 Warren 20 53.00

\$ 470.20

FROM Roger Jones*

War Department November 5, 1842.

A Board is hereby organized to consist of Col. (George) Bomford* of the Ordnance, Col. Thayer of the Engineers and Lieut. Col. (Ichabod B.) Crane* of the Artillery, to inspect and minutely examine the gun carriages in the Forts in New York Harbor, at Fort Adams, at Fort McHenry at Fortress Monroe and at Fort Washington, and determine whether any of them are unfit for service.

The Board will also examine the whole subject of gun carriages and report their opinion whether any and what improvement can be made in their construction, or materials, and whether any change ought to be made in the platforms, pintless or any other part of the work on which the carriages are to be used.

They will cause such experiments to be made as they deem necessary, and the necessary ammunition, and balls or shells for that purpose, will be supplied by the Ordnance Department.

Colonel Bomford will be President of the Board and will convene the members at such time and place as he deems expedient. Capt. (Alfred) Mordecai* of the Ordnance is detailed to act as Recorder of the Board.

Adjutant General's Office,) By Order:
Washington, Nov. 8", 1842.)

J. C. SPENCER.*

R. JONES
Adj:Genl;

For Col. S. Thayer
Engineers Boston

*See Index

TO Col. Ichabod R. Chadbourne*

Boston Feby 5, 1843

My dear friend,

I duly recd your favors of Nov. (30) & Decr. 17th the former introducing Captain Owen was recd thro the post office while I was in the country attending a sister who was dangerously sick but is now convalescent. Under other circumstances I would have felt much pleasure in making his acquaintance & rendering the civilities so justly due him. The other letter reached me on the day of my departure on a tour of duty as a member of a Special board of Ordnance. I returned last week in much better health than I have had at any time during the last six months. Please to present my best respects to Mrs. Chadbourne with my warmest thanks for allowing me to appear before her in a dream Altho' my health is not good & what is still worse I am a bachelor & miserable of course still assure her that I am by no means as melancholy as she dreamed I was or indeed as much so as might reasonably be supposed I would be under such circumstances. On the contrary I think I am quite as cheerful & happy as I ever was at any period of my life which goes to show how natural and easy it is to accomodate ourselves to the circumstances & condition in which Providence has placed us especially when we have no hope of changing them for the better. I have before me the Reports from the Military Academy for Decr & January in both of which the standing of your son is quite satisfactory as to his studies & perfectly so as to conduct ther being no demerits in either month. It is evident that he will be entitled to a commission in the Artillery & I take it for granted that he will prefer that Corps to any other except that of the Topographical Engineers which if open to him is doubtless preferable.

You have heard I suppose that our friend (Richard?) Fletcher* has been ill so much so as to be unable to attend to his office business for several months. I called since my return but could not see him. I was informed, however, that he is decidedly better & hopes soon to be on his feet again. Will you not be in Boston in the course of the winter? You will find me at the old place & I need not say how glad I shall be to see you. Ever yours
Col. I.R. Chadbourne
S. THAYER

*See Index

FROM Hugh S. Legaré*

Department of State
Washington June 9th 1843

To the United States Consuls in Europe

Gentlemen:

I take great pleasure in introducing to your acquaintance, Colonel Sylvanus Thayer of the Corps of United States Engineers, U S Army, who has been many years at the head of our National Academy, and of whose high character you are well aware.

Col. Thayer leaves this Country to travel for a year or two in Europe for the benefit of his health, and will be anxious to avail himself of the best opportunities to see whatever may be most interesting without encountering any great fatigue.

I respectfully solicit in his behalf such attentions and facilities, as it may be in your power to extend to him.

Col Thayer will be accompanied in all his travels by Charles Collins Parker,* a Student of Medicine & Surgery at Philadelphia & Son of General (Daniel) Parker* of the War Department, for whom I also ask your kind attentions. I am, Gentlemen,
Respectfully Your obedient Servant,

H. S. LEGARÉ.
Secretary ad interim

*See Index

FROM A. (Jno.) Smith* TO commanders of Navy vessels.

Navy Department June 13, 1843

Sir,

I commend to your favorable notice and polite attentions, Colo. Sylvanus Thayer, of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, who is about to embark on his travels in Europe, for the benefit of his health, by permission of the Government.

Colo. Thayer has long held a high character in the army, as an officer of great scientific attainments, and in society as a gentleman of unsullied reputation.

Colo. Thayer will be accompanied in his travels by Mr. Charles Collins Parker, a student of Medicine at Philadelphia, and son of Genl. (Daniel) Parker* of the War Department, whom I also commend to your notice.

Should it be in your power to accommodate these gentlemen with a passage in your vessel, from one port to another, without deviating from your course, you are authorized and requested to do so. I am respy Yr. Obedt. Servt

A (JNO) SMITH

Acting Secy, Navy

To the Commander of any vessel of war of the U. S. Navy in the Mediterranean

*See Index

FROM Charles W. Hackley*

New York June 15th 1843

Dear Colonel

A vacancy having occurred in the Professorship of Mathematics in Columbia College, by the resignation of Prof. Anderson, I have determined to become an applicant for the place. I believe there is a disposition on the part of a majority of the board of trustees to give me the appointment, but they wish to be justified in the choice by such testimonials as they feel assured I can easily furnish them.

Having a vague impression that you were averse to writing recommendations of any kind, I applied to Mr (Albert) E. Church* and others of my old associates at West Point, but found that they had determined to give their influence in favour of Mr (Edward C.) Ross*. The unequalled reputation which the Military Academy holds as a mathematical school, makes it desirable that if I present testimonials at all some of them should come from that source.

May I ask dear Sir, under these circumstances, not a recommendation but a simple certificate such as your recollections of me when an instructor under your Superintendence of the Academy will justify

I should be perfectly satisfied if it bore on these two points alone. 1st That I was thoroughly conversant with the whole system pursued at the Academy, and 2d That I had been successful as a teacher.

The board of trustees will meet in a week or ten days when it is possible that the appointment may be made. If it be not inconsistent with your numerous engagements to send me a reply within that time, this will add to the many past obligations with which I am ever most respectfully and truly yours

CHARLES W. HACKLEY.

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Fort Warren Georges Island Boston Harbor
July 4th 1843

My dear friend,

The operations here being suspended in honor of the day. The workmen having vanished & all here being still & silent as the tomb I improve the occasion to acknowledge your kind letter of the 5th ult. Need I say how happy it made me. It will be Thirty six years next Sept. since I reported myself to you at West Point. Acts, events, incidents, occurrences circumstances, how many of them rush into my mind exciting emotions that it would be difficult to describe. The future is dark & gloomy, the present little satisfactory but the past is full of agreeable reminiscences on which I continually dwell. These with books, studies & active duties fill up the intervals between sleep & preserve me from all depression of spirits. Great indeed would have been my delight could I have been present on the happy occasion of your daughters marriage but you know I am tied here & it is not easy to cut the gordian knot. I shall make an effort however to see Mrs. Swift & the family before I embark for Europe. I thank you for the suggestion of corresponding with you while I am abroad. No person I think derives more pleasure from the letters of friends than I should but it is one of which I have deprived myself by habitual neglect. At all events you shall hear from me occasionally if I live & am able to scribble. I know not yet when I shall go but hope to be ready by the 1st. of September. I remain ever sincerely yours
S. THAYER
General Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

FROM _____ Hülsemann* to Prince Metternich-Winnebourg¹

New York, 14 July 1843

My dear Prince,

May I introduce to Your Highness, the bearer of this letter, Colonel Thayer, Second Officer of the US Corps of Engineers. He is going to Europe primarily for his health, but also to visit points of greatest interest to the military.

Colonel Thayer is considered one of the very distinguished officers of the Army, and a gentleman in every sense of the word; and, since his superiors have asked if I could assist in making it possible for him to see whatever might be of interest to him in Austria, I trust that Your Highness will introduce him to the Imperial Military authorities as an American officer deserving of some consideration.

Colonel Thayer is accompanied by a young doctor, Mr Parker, son of General Parker, Undersecretary of the War Department. Very respectfully yours, HULSEMANN

*See Index

¹ Original in French

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Washington July 17 1843

Col Thayer
Corps of Engrs Boston

My dear Colonel

Yours of the 9' inst. is recd. with the letter to you from Major (William H.) Chase;* which is herewith returned. I sent him a copy of the whole of Capt (Charles) Bigelow's* paper.

Lt (Henry L.) Eustis* leaves here this day on his way to join you. I think very highly of him both as man & officer - he will meet any responsibility you may put upon him in a good spirit, in both situations.

I got Mrs Totten to sound B (disco) - who fought shy; so there is an end of that matter - He said however, that he should himself be then in Russia (If so I am sure he will be attentive to you) and that your Commission & standing would be a passport to everything.

I enclose some good letters from Chevalier Hulseman* the Austria Charge des Affaires.

Whenever you are ready to make application for leave I shall be most happy to get it through. As Ever Your

JOS G. TOTTEN

P.S. We have this moment recd directions from the Treasury which oblige us to reduce your amount for all the works in Boston harbor, for the months of July, August, & September (for all) about \$10,000 - reducing you much less than anybody else. Your preparations for the future should have re_____ to a diminished rate of expenditures as probable - JGT

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Washington July 21st '43

Col Thayer _____

My dear Col.

I add the copy of a letter just recd from (Chevalier) Hulsemann*- which may be interesting to you - if you are not acquainted with Baron Mareschal* (late Austrian Minister here) let me know & I will give you an introduction. Ever truly yours

J G TOTTEN

copy.

New York 17 July 1843.

My dear Colonel.

I forgot the other day to mention to you, that Col. Thayer would do very well to inquire for Baron Mareschal, when he goes to Vienna or Venice, because he is very likely to be there soon, although I presume, he'll probably take up his residence south of the Alps, perhaps Florence or Pisa. Baron Mareschall had lately an attack of paralysis, I am very sorry to learn, which affected his left arm and leg, and he has asked for leave of absence, not to return to Lisbon; he was rather better by the latest accounts and had been able to write a few lines to a mutual friend of ours at London; but by what I understood he is not likely to continue in active employment, but will probably retire to some place in Italy. No doubt he'll be very glad to be of any use to Col. Thayer, with whom he's acquainted I suppose. XXXXXX very respectfully etc (signed) HULSEMANN
To Col. Totten, Chf Engineer U. S. A. Washington City

*See Index

FROM W. B. (Lewis*) to a Baron

Washington 8th August 1843

Dear Baron,

Col. Sylvanus Thayer of the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army, is about to leave this Country to travel in Europe, mainly to improve his health - Not knowing if he is personally acquainted with you, or that he knows you are now in Europe, I take the occasion to send him this letter, well knowing that no gentleman can so readily direct his attention to what is most deserving the notice of a scientific traveler, or who would take greater pleasure in doing so, if he should find you in Berlin.

In your extensive acquaintance with our public institutions you will doubtless recollect that Col Thayer was for many years, at the head of our National Military School, Any attention to him in this way will very much oblige, my dear Baron, Your friend

W B (LEWIS)

P.S. Col. Thayer will have with him a young gentleman by the name of (Charles) Parker,* a son of Genl (Daniel) Parker,* with whom you have often met at my quarters in this city.

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Totten* FROM George Talcott*¹

'copy'
To Col. J. G. Totten,
Chief Engineer etc.
Washington

Bedford Springs, Pa.
10 Sept. 1843

My dear Colonel:

I have been so very much occupied with "nothing at all" that I have not written you on the subject of inquiries concerning Ordnance matters which it is desirable for Col. Thayer to make while in Europe. The paper now in your hands contain the bulk of them. The Mortar Beds therein mentioned are important items - particularly those to be seen at Woolwich.

The British operative ship Excellent at Portsmouth is said to have fired 32 guns at Iron Targets at 400 yards distance and penetrated a number of plates of 5/8 iron, I forget how many. It is desirable to learn how the plates were situated - whether with considerable intervals between them or in contact with each other and if so, whether rivetted together.

A percussion lock for small arms, invented _____ and adopted by the Austrian gov't is said to possess great merit. I can find nothing concerning it in my books, It is well to know how its reputation stands after so long a trial (3 years) but I am certain there can be no better made than to leave the whole business to the good judgement of Col. Thayer. He knows what we have and can see whether new things abroad are worthy of transplanting to our soils. I am dear Colonel Yours truly

(signed) G. (GEORGE) TALCOTT

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

TO George Ticknor*

Fort Warren Georges Island Sept 16th 1843

My dear Ticknor

A thousand thanks for your kind note. I am glad no one was looking at me while I perused it. There were thrilling sensations I could not repress.

I have indeed lived the life of a hermit for some years not altogether from choice, however, The term I had fixed for my penance will expire one of these days. All I can now say is that when I finally leave my cell I shall first be seen under your hospitable roof.

I have not visited the city more than twice or thrice since since last spring & only for an hour each time on pressing business. My duties here & hereabouts will continue to be equally urgent during the present & next month. Please present my best regards to Mrs. Ticknor whose former attentions & kindness I can never forget. Ever faithfully your old friend

S. THAYER

George Ticknor Esquire Boston

*See Index

FROM James M. Porter*

War Department of the United States,
October 31st 1843.

Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army, visits Europe for the improvement of his health, under the authority and orders of this Department.

Colonel Thayer has been many years at the head of our National Military School, and is recommended to the favorable attentions of all Military Officers and scientific gentlemen.

J. M. PORTER

Secretary of War, United States

*See Index

FROM George Talcott* TO James M. Porter (?)*

Ordnance Office
Nov 1. 1843

Objects requiring Col Thayers attention

1st. The Materiel of Artillery. Recent improvements in Garrison Guns & Carriages - Field train Harness and Equipments - mode of preservation while in service in Field and Garrison. - Under the head of Garrison Guns, "Monks Gun", recently tried in England deserves attention; also heavy Bomb Cannon & Carriages, Heavy Sea-Coast Mortars and their beds. Drawings and dimensions of English Mortar beds at Woolwich to be procured.

2d. The Balistic Pendulum - At Metz, experiments are going on with guns, to determine the effect of "length of bore" on the initial velocity of projectiles, and sundry other experiments. Every information practicable should be obtained, and any improvements or alterations found necessary at Metz, should be communicated to the Ordnance Office. The operations of the Regimental School of Artillery at Metz, will claim particular notice.

3d. The use of Percussion Locks - where introduced for all kinds of small arms; new improvements in locks or the priming Caps and the mode of carrying them by the Soldier in service. Note all the objections that have been found against them, that are well authenticated.

4th. Such information as regards Military forces in general; whether relating to the Personnel or Material as may be in his opinion, useful to the Country.

A selection of Military books lately published, not exceeding in cost the sum of dollars, may also be procured.

5th. The British practice Ship Excellent at Portsmouth has fired 32 pds shot through plates of wrought iron of 5/8 in thickness at 400 yards distance. Were the plates arranged with spaces between them or were they rivetted together?

6th. The English have in times past made their heavy guns without tulips. It is said that they have lately restored the tulips to Cannon & (Paixhau) Guns. If true, what reasons are given for the measure?

7th. Mr. Consolo of Milan has invented a simple percussion lock for Muskets which has been adopted by the Austrian Government and the inventor highly rewarded. What are its peculiar properties?

8th. A quantity of the Priming for the percussion lock of the Baron (Heurteloup) is desirable for making experiments.

G. TALCOTT Lt Col of Ordnance

*See Index

FROM George Talcott* TO James M. Porter*¹

Ordnance Office

Hon. J. M. Porter,
Secretary of War

Washington 1st Nov. 1843

Sir:

It is understood that Col. Thayer of the Engineers Corps is about to visit Europe and I respectfully suggest that he should be authorized to procure the information, books, drawings, etc. set forth in the paper enclosed herewith. The good judgement and skill of that officer in his profession are too well known to need commendation and are a guarantee that very great benefits may be derived from his exertions to aid the service here.

I have noted matters that have pertained more especially to Ordnance concerns although I think he might have a "Carte Blanche" in relation to all Military information. Very respectfully, I am Sir Your obt servt (signed) G. TALCOTT Lt. Col. Ord

APPROVED: J. M. Porter War Dept Nov. 14, 1843.

'copy'

*See Index

¹Original not available for proofing.

FROM (S) Thompson

Washington 19 Nov 1843

Sir

Understanding, through Genl Parker, that you are on the eve of a visit to Europe and will soon take your departure for France, I have ventured on asking a favor which I hope may not put you to inconvenience -

You I believe know that the children of my late daughter Mrs Hersant, are now in the vicinity of Paris at School, the son at the Royal Academy or Colledge at Versailles, the daughters at the Royal Academy at St Denis - their Grand mother is desirous to send to them some small remembrances of little or no bulk - say rings - and would avail herself of doing so by you, for whom she ever felt must esteem, with a hope that, if it can be done without trouble, you may call personally on them - General Parker has kindly undertaken to convey to you letters addressed to the children containing the articles, which, should you not find it convenient to deliver, can be placed in the hands of Mr Fluery Herrard, Banker Rue St Honore No 371. - Very respectfully Your obd. Serv

(S) THOMPSON

Col. S. Thayer New York

To obtain access or an interview with young Hersant at Versailles, requires permission from the authorities at Paris - This we have understood from our friend Doctor Sewall who lately made him a visit, but failed to see him for want of it - The letter to the Baronness Danery will obtain admittance at the Academy at St Denis - and if you should not find it convenient to call on her personally, the letters etc can be placed in the hands of Monsr Fluery Herrard, who will have them conveyed to her - Wishing you a pleasant tour and a return in good health - I am with great respect Yours etc
Novem r 20th

(S) THOMPSON

TO Superintendent of Ecole Militaire at Versailles
FROM Mrs. S. Thompson

Washington Nov 19 1843

Sir

Colo. Thayer having a letter for my grandson will you be good enough to permit him to see Guillaume Hersant. A great friend, Dr. Sewall, who took the trouble to deliver a former letter having been refused admittance for want of some formality. I trust in this case my poor boy will not be deprived of such a privilege.

This gentleman is a most distinguished Officer travelling for his health; & having for many years the office of Superintendent of our Military School, will no doubt be pleased at any information you may think proper to give him relating to your Institution. If my dear boy should wish to pay this gentleman a visit at Paris, I trust it will be accorded him, with so amiable a character as he has, such an indulgence would make him more alert & anxious to pursue his studies - any kindness you shew my grandson, will be most deeply appreciated by me, & gratefully remembered, I beg you to accept the assurance of my high consideration

S. THOMPSON his Grand Mother,

FROM Henry B. C. Greene* to P. A. Kielchen*

Boston November 27th 1843

My dear Sir,

This will be presented to you by Col. Thayer, of the Engineer Department of the Army of the United States-

Although I cannot claim the honor of a personal acquaintance with Col. Thayer, his standing as a citizen, and a public officer is such that I take the greatest pleasure in recommending him to your acquaintance -

He visits Europe on account of his health, and any facilities that may come in your way, to afford him in his tour of Italy, will be gratefully recollected by Your very Sincere Friend,

HENRY B. C. GREENE

*See Index

FROM (Pro(sp)er Ambrose) To Captain Byrie

Boston 27th Novr 1843.

Dear Byrie

I beg to recommend to your particular notice, my good Friend Colol Thayer, for whom I have the highest respect, I have no doubt you will treat him as you would myself. Wishing you and your better half, every felicity. I am My dear Byrie. Your Ever Sincere Friend

(PRO (SP)ER AMBROSE)

FROM (Prosper Ambrose)

Boston 28th Novr 1843

My dear Sir

Should you in your travels come to Portsmouth, it will give me great pleasure to show you all the _____ (Dock Yard etc) of the place, and to introduce to your notice my beloved partner. Perhaps, previous to your going to any of the Sea Ports, (Naval Arsenals), you will ask your Minister to ask permission of the Admiralty, and Ordnance Department, to allowe you to see all that can be seen, under the different departments of government.

Wishing you a pleasant journey, and health and happiness, I remain My dear Sir your very truly

(PROSPER AMBROSE)

my address-Semaphore
High Street Portsmouth

To. Col Thayer

FROM Abbott Laurence* to Mr. Watson

(Nov. 28, 1843)

My Dear Sir,

I have great pleasure in presenting to your acquaintance Col. Thayer of the U S Army - who is a particular friend of mine - I beg of you and Mrs. Watson to make the Colonel comfortable and happy and oblige your faithful Servt

ABBOT LAURENCE

Boston 28th Nov 1843

Mr Watson (Brunswick Hotel Hanover Square London)

*See Index

FROM Woodhull & Minburns

Recd New York 30th Novem 1843 of Mr S Thayer One hundred fifty dollars in full for passage and use of one stateroom in the cabin of Ship Liverpool to Liverpool. WOODHULL & MINBURNS

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

To all to whom these Presents shall come. Greeting

DESCRIPTION

No 1693.

Age. 56 Years
Stature. 5 Feet 11 Inches Eng^h.
Forehead. High
Eyes. Gray
Nose. ordinary
Mouth. ordinary
Chin. small
Hair. Grey
Complexion. Fair
Face. round

Signature of the Bearer

GRATIS

I, the Undersigned. Secretary
of State of the UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA. hereby request all
whom it may concern, to per-
mit safely and freely to pass
Sylvanus Thayer, Colonel of
Engineers in the Army of
the United States, a Citizen
of the UNITED STATES and in
case of need to give him all
lawful Aid and Protection

Given under my hand
and the impression of
the Seal of the DEPART-
MENT OF STATE, at the
City of Washington the
day of December 1843,
and in the 68th Year of
the Independence of
these UNITED STATES.

A. P. UPSHUR

FROM Charles P. McIlvaine* to William Dealtry*

New York
Dec. 4' 1843

My dear friend & brother -

This will be taken or sent you by a particular friend, to whom I have given a letter of introduction to you - viz - Lieut Col. Thayer of the U. S. Military Engineers - I beg to write a few words of him besides what I have said in that letter. He was, for many years, at the head of the U. S. Military Academy & was most eminent in his superintendance. He was in that place, while I held a professorship & the chaplaincy there, & where God, under my ministry, wrought a great work of grace among the officers & cadets. I became then very much attached to him & he to me. The attachment continues unabated. He is not a communicant, but then recd much serious impression which I trust is ripening into decided piety. He is a man of great nobleness of character & highly intelligent & in his profession accomplished - a man of great amiableness & excellence. His health has failed & he expects to spend two years in Europe for its recovery in travelling. He knows it is precarious & he therefore feels the need of such an introduction as I give him to you - I love him very much & therefore beg to give him a place in your kind regards - He will probably spend but a short time in Engld before going to the Continent - but will return thither again.

You will be glad to learn that my work of collection for the college is done - The 20,000 dollars to be raised out of Ohio, are all received & the 10,000 to be raised in Ohio are subscribed, so that I set out for home tomorrow free & glad & thankful - The Lord has granted this, while all that could be done by the friends of Tractarians - among us, has been done, by print & private talk, to hinder my success- It is considered a strong expression of lay-feeling. The funds controlled by the opposite side, meanwhile, have scarcely any contributions. The laity are speaking by withholding money- Let me hear from you soon - Your last recd contained the opinion of the Bps about my going to Engld. I should like to hear what has brought Sibthorp back - & what means this split in the Tract ranks - I fear lest Palmer & Gr_sley & (Percival) etc are doing no good by forming a party of moderate P _____ -Better that their principles should be worked out- If we have any Popery, let us have it all - Than we shall know it - I sent you in Oct. a copy of my late Charge - I hope Seeley will publish it- It has had five editions here - I write in haste, ready to depart on the morrow for home which I have not seen for two months & a half - Present my kind regards to Mrs Dealtry & believe me as ever Your affectionate friend & brother CHAS. P. MCILVAINE

*See Index

FROM Charles P. McIlvaine* to Wm. Dealtry*

New York
Dec. 4, 1843

My dear friend -

Allow me to introduce my very dear friend, Lieut. Col. S. Thayer, of the U. States Engineers. Col. Thayer visits Europe on public duty; but mainly for his health - & while in England will esteem it a great pleasure to have access to the society of some of the clergy of the Church, like-minded with yourself. My very special interest in whatever concerns his happiness, leads me to place in his hands this letter, knowing your kind readiness to serve the friends of Your friend & brother

CHAS. P. MCILVAINE

*See Index

INDEX

FROM Charles P. McIlvaine* to William Whewell*

New York

Dec. 4, 1843-

Rev. & dear Sir -

I beg to be allowed so far to presume upon the brief acquaintance which I had the pleasure to form with you in Cambridge in 1835 - as to introduce to you, my particular friend, Lieut Col. S. Thayer, of the U. States Mil. Engineers - This gentleman was for many years at the head of the Military Academy of the U. States, & has long sustained a very high reputation in that branch of service with which he is especially connected. He visits Europe on public duty, & for the reinstatement of his health. The institutions at Cambridge will be a subject of interest to his mind- Should it be in your power to shew him any kind civilities, they will be most deservedly bestowed, & will much oblige & gratify Your friend & brother,

CHAS. P. MCILVAINE
Bishop of Ohio

*See Index

Visa for Austria¹
Washington, Royal Imperial Legation
7 December 1843

HULZEMANN

Visa for France
Minister Plenipotentiary of France
Washington, 8 December 1843

A PAGEOT

Visa by undersigned Commissioner of Police
on temporary basis
Savoie, 23 January 1844

(signature illegible)

Visa - Ministry of the Interior
Paris, 26 January 1844

(signature illegible)

Visa by undersigned Commissioner of Police
on temporary basis
Savoie, 23 January 1844

(signature illegible)

Visa - Ministry of the Interior
Paris, 26 February 1844
Chief of the Bureau

(signature illegible)

of Embassy or Legation of Russia

¹ Original in French

FROM George Bomford* to George W. Erving*

New York Decr 11th 1843

To G. W. Erving

My dear Sir

The bearer Col. Thayer of the Engineers leaves for England - on the 21st inst -, under the expectation that a Sea Voyage - change of air and relaxation from duties in which for years he has been so ably & assiduously engaged - may improve his health - which at present is rather delicate.

As he will probably remain some time in Paris - and thus have an opportunity of cultivating your acquaintance - I am happy to say that you will find in him- all the essentials of an officer and a gentleman - and decidedly a man of the first respectability & Talent -, he is also like yourself still a Batchelor & in easy circumstances.

I propose in the course of the day/ before leaving for Boston/ to deposit to your credit in the New York life & trust Compy - the sum of \$190 -- being part of the rent received - at Washington from the Surgeon Gl, who purchased in October last a property in the lower part of the City - and at the same time left your house which is now undergoing some necessary repairs for a New Tenant -

I left the family a few days ago all well with the exception of my son Henry - his health however is improving.

With merely time to present you my thanks for the Milty Map of Paris - & best wishes of health & prosperity - I remain
yours Sincerely
G. BOMFORD

*See Index

FROM Alexander D. Bache* to Petty Vaughan*

Philadelphia, Dec. 13, 1843.

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to introduce to you Col. Thayer of the Corps of Engineers, formerly Superintendent of the Military Academy, who visits Europe, on account of his health. The distinguished position of Col. Thayer will secure to him those attentions which his health may enable him to accept, but the effective kindness which you can render in any case, will be especially grateful to an invalid.

Remember me affectionately to your Uncle, to whom you will oblige me by introducing Col. Thayer. I have just received the appointment of Superintendent of the Coast Survey vacant by the decease of Mr. (Ferdinand) Hassler.* Yours very truly

A. D. BACHE

Petty Vaughan Esq.

*See Index

TO Col. Ichabod R. Chadbourne*

Newyork Decr 16th 1843

My dear friend

I am here for the purpose of embarking in the picket ship Liverpool which is to sail next Thursday (21st) having obtained leave to be absent two years from the time of my embarkation but I cannot leave the country without bidding you an affectionate farewell & supplicating Heaven that you & all the members of your family may continue to enjoy health & every other blessing. You already know that I had not the satisfaction of seeing your daughter. I was in the city but twice after she arrived. Once for an hour on pressing business & the other time for the special purpose of calling to see her but to my great disappointment she was out on a visit for the entire day. Your faithful & affectionate friend

S. THAYER

Col. I. R. Chadbourne

*See Index

FROM Gouverneur Kemble* to Henry Hall Gage*

New York 19th Dec 1843.

Dear Gage/

I write this by your old acquaintance Colo. Thayer of the Engineers, formerly Superintendent at West Point, who is about to leave home on a tour for the benefit of his health, and will probably spend some time in England in the course of it - as I know that it will afford you pleasure to renew his acquaintance, I have requested him to send you this letter on his arrival in London - You know that he is an old friend of mine, and one in whom I take great interest -

I beg you to present my respects to Madame, and to your father, and to believe me - very faithfully Yours

GOUV KEMBLE

The R'Honble Henry Hall Gage London

FROM Joseph Green Cogswell* to F. Reginald Forbes*

New York Dec 19/43 (1843)

Dr Sir

Col Thayer of the U.S. army, a gallant soldier & an accomplished gentleman, is about to embark for Europe & will visit Dresden during his tour abroad - allow me to ask for him the honor of your acquaintance & the favor of a presentation at court should he be in Dresden on a presentation day - there is no gentleman in our country better entitled to such an honor, & none to whom as Americans we are more proud to commit our reputation in a foreign land

With the highest respect yr friend & obt ser

JOS. G. COGSWELL

Hon. F. Reginald Forbes Min. Plen. of H.B.M. at Dresden

*See Index

FROM Gouverneur Kemble*

(Dec 19, 1843)

Dear Col.

I enclose the letter to (Henry Hall) Gage,* and that I may not put your modesty to the test, I have sealed it - William who is in correspondence with his father will send you a another letter to him - God Bless you, and let me occasionally hear from you, for indeed, I have no friend living, in whose welfare I feel a deeper interest - Sincerely & faithfully Yours

GOUV KEMBLE

Col. Thayer -

N.Y. -19 Dec 1843.

*See Index

FROM John Hughes* to the Revd Doctor Boggs*

New York
Decr. 20. 1843

Very Revd and Dear Sir

Colonel Thayer of the American Army, by whom this will be presented, is one of the most honorable men of our Country - distinguished alike for military science and and private worth.

I know that you will be pleased to make his acquaintance; and should it be in your power to shew him any attention during his stay in Rome, you will thereby greatly oblige your respectful & obdt. friend & servt. in Xst X JOHN Bh. N. Y.

Very Revd Dr. Boggs

*See Index

FROM John C. Hamilton*

N York Decr. 20th - 43 (1843)

Dear Sir.

I have the honor to enclose to you the letters of which I spoke - Will you have the kindness to seal them before you deliver them, & when you visit Mr. Forbes to express to him my sense of his kindness to my young son during his short sojourn in Saxony. I trust I will see you on your return with renewed health & that all the anticipations of your Journey will be more than fulfilled. Very Respy. Yr. obedt. Svt JNO C HAMILTON
Col Thayer

(American Hotel, New York)

P.S. Mr. (Joseph Green) Cogswell* mentions that Mr. (George) Ticknor* can give you a letter to Baron Linderau*- "not only Minister of State - but a profound mathematician"-

*See Index

FROM Pri (m) e Ward & King

Sylvanus Thayer, Esqre, Col. U.S. Army, now here

New York 20 Dec:1843

Sir,

In compliance with your request, we hand you enclosed a Letter of Credit for the equivalent of £1000, say One thousand pounds Stg on Baring Brothers & Co of London, and Hottinguer* & Co of Paris, to remain available for one year. As agreed between us, we charge you \$25. - as one half pr ct commission for issuing this Credit, and for such payments as you may draw under it, we shall debit you upon receipt of advice at the Exchange then current, together with Interest and an additional Commission of one per Ct on the amount.

We have on the other hand received of you, through Paymaster Thos. J. Leslie*, the sum of \$3747:74 say thirty seven hundred & forty seven 74/100 Dollars, which we passed to your Credit pr 13 inst.; and a Bond of \$1000, say one thousand Dollars, United States 6 (pct) of 1862, with half- yearly Coupons from 1 July 1843, which for the present we are to hold for safe Keeping, and collect interest thereon to your Credit as it accrues, commencing after the 1 Jany next, when 2 Coupons will be due.

It is further stipulated and agreed between us, that we are to allow you an interest of three pr Ct pr annum on funds in hand; and that we have your authority for selling the above mentioned United States Bond, whenever it may be necessary to reimburse ourselves for advances. We are, Sir, Respectfully yours

PRI (M) E WARD & KING

*See Index

FROM Nathaniel Niles* to Edward Thayer

New York Dec 20th 43 (1843)

My dear Mr. Thayer,

I have the most unfeigned satisfaction in presenting to you my friend Colonel Thayer of the United States Army. Colonel Thayer's family is the same in its origin in this Country as your own, and he will be able to give you many details concerning it which cannot fail to interest all who bear the name.

After several years of the most brilliant active Military life Colonel Thayer was selected by the Government to preside over the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and under his management that Institution attained a degree of eminence, for thorough scientific instruction, far surpassing any other ever founded in the New World. Since the Colonel left the command at West Point he has been charged with the construction of our maritime fortifications. He now revisits Europe, after a lapse of many years in the hope of restoring an enfeebled state of health and of embracing in the general scope of his observations whatever is new in the military art.

I beg you my dear Sir to present the Colonel to your divinely good Mother and to the other members of your family.

I am sure also that it will give you pleasure to extend to him every facility in your power in & out of Paris.

Begging to be remembered in terms of of the warmest regard to your amiable Lady & the other members of your family, but particularly to your excellent Mother, sentiments in which Mrs Niles most cordially unites with me, I remain my dear Sir, most respectfully & devotedly
Your obt St
Monsieur Edward Thayer

N NILES

*See Index