

FROM F. Welleyer to H. F. von Lengerke

Liverpool 11 Jany. 1844.

3244-44
6648

Dear Uncle.

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance, by these lines, my fellow passenger during the late voyage hither Col. Thayer U. S. A. from West Point, whom I recommend warmly to your kind attention, he intending, after visiting the most prominent & interesting places on the Continent to pass some time in your interesting City; should such be the case, I am convinced you will show him every attention, which I shall consider as if received personally at your hands -

I regret, that, much as I desire it, my time will not permit me to pay you another visit but beg you will take the wish for the deed & assuring you of my high regard I remain, respectfully

Yr ob nephew

F WELLEAYER

H. F. von Lengerke Esq. Dresden

FROM (Lorenzo Draper)

(January 31, 1844)

Dear Sir

The bearer is a Courier, and Valet de Place, which I can recommend to you. He will show you his Certificates of Character & Capacity. Very truly yr obt Svt (LORENZO DRAPER)
14 Place Vendome Jany 31. /44.

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Paris March 15th 1844

Sir:

I arrived here on the 25th of Jan'y & shall probably remain in Paris or its vicinity until the middle of May when I prepare to set out for St. Petersburg passing thru Belgium, Holland & thence to Hamburgh, Copenhagen, Stockholm, etc. My health continues to be about the same as it has been during the last year.

As soon as there is a prospect of favorable weather I shall apply for permission to look at the fortifications about Paris & to see such others as are _____ the route I propose to take on my way to Belgium. As yet I have collected no information that would be interesting to the Department- I have the honor to be Very respectfully Your obed serv't S. THAYER

Col. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM John Lind Smith*

New York Mar: 16 1844

My dear Colo:

Dr. Leiben expects to sail today for Liverpool and in the course of his journeyings in Europe will no doubt fall in with you. In that case he promises me to see you and altho you have met before and will no doubt remember each other I wish to have the pleasure of bringing you together as my friends. I hope your health has been improved and I also hope to hear of it from you very soon. Yrs with respect & esteem JNO L SMITH

Colo: S. Thayer
U.S. Corps of Engineers
Paris

*See Index

FROM David B. Warden* to Mr Payen¹

Paris, 23 March 44

Sir-

Encouraged by your unfailing kindnesses on my behalf, I am taking the liberty of presenting my friend and compatriot, Colonel Thayer, former Superintendent of the US Military Academy.* Respectfully, D B WARDEN

*for 17 years.

and officer of the United States Corps of Engineers

Mr Payen, member of The Royal Institute and Professor at the Conservatory of Arts and Crafts

*See Index

¹ Original in French

FROM David B. Warden* to Mr Arago¹

Paris, 27 March 44

Mr Arago
Secretary in perpetuo
Royal Academy of Science

Sir -

I am taking the liberty of introducing my compatriot and friend, Colonel Thayer, Engineer, who for 17 years was Director of the United States Military School. He is greatly interested in learning something of Public Works in Paris. The welcome which you extend to all scientists, leads me to hope that you will be willing to provide him information on this subject. Respectfully, D B WARDEN

*See Index

¹ Original in French

FROM David B. Warden* to Charles Dupin¹

Paris, 28 March 44

Baron Charles Dupin
Member of the Royal Academy of Science

Sir -

I am taking the liberty of presenting my compatriot and friend, Colonel Thayer, Engineer, who for 17 years was Director of the United State Military School.

I trust that your well-known courtesy and your interest in science will lead you to provide some information to this scholar concerning the Public Works of Paris. Cordially,

D B WARDEN

*See Index

¹ Original in French

FROM George Ticknor* to F. R. Forbes*

U. S. America
Boston March 30. 1844

My dear Sir,

One of my old college friends, Colo. Thayer, is now in Europe and will be likely to visit Dresden, where I am so anxious that he should be kindly and pleasantly received, that I take the liberty to present him to you. He is, in all respects but age, at the head of the Engineer Corps of the Army of the United States, and even in rank, only one person stands before him, so that, in the course of nature, he must soon, probably be in one of the most important places in the administration of our Government. Meantime, his health being somewhat impaired, by over-work, he goes to Europe for a year or two. You will find him a very modest, quiet person; - full of talent, knowledge & resources of all kinds: of most agreeable intercourse; and of a true & faithful character. Among us, he is chiefly known, as the person, who placed the national Military academy of this country (our Ecole polytechnique) on its present excellent and scientific foundation.

Mrs. Ticknor desires to be most kindly remembered to you; and I pray you to be sure, that none of my family forgets how much we all owe to you for the pleasures of the pleasant winter passed at Dresden. When you go to court do us the favour to say what is suitable in the way of acknowledgements to Prince John* and the Princess Amelie,* of some of whose charming comedies, I believe, more copies have been printed in the United States, than have been printed in all the rest of the world put together. Yr.
very faithfully

GEORGE TICKNOR

*See Index

FROM Michel Chevalier¹

21 April (1844), Sunday, 2 P. M.

Sir-

Here is the letter which I have just received from my friend, Colonel Chabaud-Latour, in charge of the fortifications at Belleville. Please let me know today if you accept. If you do accept, I shall come for you tomorrow at five-thirty. Sincerely, MICHEL CHEVALIER
49 bis rue de la Chaussee Hautin

¹ Original in French

War Ministry¹

AUTHORIZATION

The President of the Ministerial Council, Secretary of State for the War Ministry, authorizes Colonel Thayer, United States Corps of Engineers, to visit the fortifications of Paris.

The Lieutenant General, Superintendent of Works, will take all steps necessary to enable Colonel Thayer to derive maximum benefit from this authorization.

Paris, 25 April 1844

President of the Council

Secretary of State for the
War Ministry

Duc de Dalmatie

¹ Original in French

Administration¹
of Fortifications

Paris, 26 April 1844

Paris

The Marshal, President of the Council, War Ministry having advised me in a dispatch dated yesterday, that he has authorized Colonel Thayer, United States Corps of Engineers, to visit the fortifications of Paris, the Engineers officers and guards attached for fortification operations, will assist him in every way possible upon his arrival and upon presentation of this letter. Lieutenant General, Director of Fortification Operations in Paris (signature illegible)

¹ Original in French

FROM Colonel Daigremont¹

Engineers

.

Fortifications of Paris

.

Right Bank

Colonel Thayer, Corps of Engineers of the Army of the United States, subject of an authorization from the War Ministry, wishes to visit the fortifications on both banks.

I recommend him to the following colleagues:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Lieut Col Ollivier | Fort de Charenton |
| Major Desfleurs | Fort de Nogent |
| Major Creully | Fort de Rosny |
| Captain Rousselot | Fort de Noisy |
| Captain de la Comble | Fort de Romainville |
| Major Bodson de Noirfontaine | Fort d'Aubervilliers |
| Lieut Col Niel | St Denis |
| Captain Humbert | Mont Valerien |
| Major Lebaron | Fort d'Issy |
| Major Allard | Vanvres et Mont-rouge |
| Captain Picot | Fort de Bicetre |
| Major Vivien | Ivry |

Colonel, Deputy Director DAIGREMONT

Paris, 27 April 1844

¹ Original in French

FROM Colonel Daigremont¹

Engineers

Fortifications of Paris

Paris, 28 April 1844

Right Bank

Colonel -

I hasten to send you the map which should serve you as a guide in your proposed lengthy tours around the Capital, visiting the fortifications.

Keep it during your entire stay in Paris - then please send it back to me, 29 rue Joubert - it is the only one I have. Cordially yours, Colonel DAIGREMONT

Colonel Thayer

¹ Original in French

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Paris April 30th 1844

Sir:

Having made the enquiries directed in your communication of Dec 15th ult. I have the honor to report that the work entitled ("Des Gravans du Rhin") purchased by Captain (William?) Swift* for the Engineer Department is complete. The plates are extracted from the ("Annales des parts A Champseas") which is the reason of their being numbered from 44 to 62 inclusively; the proceeding numbers having no reference to the ("Gravans des Rhin")

I am now engaged in examining the fortifications around Paris and especially the detached forts. As soon as I shall have completed the rounds which will probably be the month of May, I shall take my departure for the north of Europe as mentioned in a former communication. I have the honor to be Yr obdt. Svt

S. THAYER Lt. Col. Engrs.
Bt Col

Col. J.G Totten
Chief Engineer

*See Index

¹Original not available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Paris May 1st, 1844

Sir:

I had to-day the honor to receive your communication of March 16th requesting information in relation to certain books which had been received by Mr. (Ferdinand R.) Hassler* from the Library of the Military Academy to be used in the presentation of the books survey this week

I am able to state that those books were not purchased back by Mr. Hassler & that they belong to the Military Academy. You say that "engraving has been made at the proper Department of the Treasury but strange to say no evidence of the original purchase from Mr. Hassler can be found & the files of this office are without any previous evidence of a purchase from him." The reason is this; the books purchased of Mr. Hassler were paid for from the "Book Fund"* & in several installments. The amounts - receipts were therefore not rendered to the Treasury Department but kept at the Military Academy where they may _____ now be found by application to Major (Thomas J.) Leslie* who has charge of them. I am very affectionately Yr obed servt

S. THAYER Lt. Col. Engrs.
Bt Col.

Col. J. G. Totten,
Chief Engineer

* I should have said "Library Fund"

¹ Original not available for proofing.

*See Index

FROM Guillaume Tell Poussin*

2d May 1844 25. Boulevard Boum Nouvelle

My dear Colonel,

My Editor has just placed to my disposition a few copies of a second edition of my late work on the United States - Will you permit me to offer you one as coming from a brother officer who values much your opinion and friendship, and who would be proud of your accepting of this feeble token of his sincere attachment.

In writing this new work I have tried to render justice to the cause of truth, and to show the Union as it is; a gigantic power which moves on steadily and fearlessly in the noble path so well furrowed by the son of "76"!

My most ardent wishes, my dear Colonel, are, that my constant effort to Speak of americans as they are, may be approved of by the Sound part of the Society, and that my labors may be useful and thereby acceptable to my American Countrymen.

With sentiments of the highest regards I remain, my dear Colonel, your friend and Servant GUILLAUME TELL POUSSIN

*See Index

FROM Christopher Hughes*

No 2

The Hague: Thursday 1. o'clock. p.m.
16th May-1844.

Sir,

I have just returned from my call at the War Department! The Minister is out of Town-to be back tomorrow morning! I was most kindly received by His Aide de Camp. Captain Stenenwald - who gave me the names - of the Commandants, at Breda & Berg-op-Zoom: & wrote his own address - as you will see: (marked - No 4 - on this paper - to prevent confusion.)

There will not be the least difficulty - as to your visit to the Fortresses of Breda & Berg-op-Zoom. Captn. Stenenwald authorized me to say this; and that a Letter shall be sent tomorrow- to - Colonel Van der Wyck - at Breda - to receive you with every possible courtesy. Col. Van der Wyck - will give you a Letter - to Captn. van Lelyvelt, commandant at Bergen-op-Zoom.

It is recommended, that you should come first to Breda! From Breda - there is a regular line of Diligences to Bergen op Zoom. Of course you will take this route & follow the advice of Captain Stenenwald.

At Breda you will - find the veteran - General Chassé - of Antwerp fame! and - I have no doubt - Col. van der Wyck - will present you to the old Hero; He is very much worn out; but venerated & esteemed by all- comme ou sénére et regarde un _____ Drapeau.

The Military Academy - at Breda - will be shown to you - by - the Governor - Colonel Seelig; - (No. 2.) & this Institution will merit & receive - I am sure - your attention & observation.

I think this is all that I need say: I wrote & sent to the Post-office - my answer to your Paris Letter - a few hours ago. I am truly yours - C. HUGHES.

P.S.

Bergen-op-Zoom - was originally built by the Spaniards & it was reconstructed & enlarged by C(o)horne.

If you have not seen an acct: of the bloody affair of Berg. op Zoom - of March 1874 - written - by a french officer - (I believe: Col - LeGrand:) you can get it - I suppose - at the Mil. academy - at Breda!

I visited Berg. op Zoom (from Ghent:) _____ in September-1814 - with one of my Chiefs (of the Congress) Mr. Bayard - from mere curiosity. It is a most desolate & miserable hole. C. H. Monsieur le Colonel du Genie

Van der Wyck

Directeur de la 3^e Direction du Genie a' Breda

(No. 2.) Monsieur le Colonel Seelig Gouverneur de 'Academie Militaire

a' Breda.

Monsr le Capitaine de Genie VanLelyvelt. Commandant du Genie a' BerganopZoom

(No. 4) Le capitaine d'artillerie Stenenwald Aide de Camp _____ le Ministere de la guerre at Dept. of War The Hague

To Col Thayer - Brussels

*See Index

TO George Ticknor*

Paris May 18th 1844

My dear Ticknor,

I had the pleasure to receive yours of the 30th March enclosing the letters for Dresden I calculate on being there about the 1st of August & shall spend the remainder of the mild season in Northern & Middle Germany. Having spent a delightful fortnight on the Loire & seen all that is curious in & about Paris I shall set out for St. Petersburg in a day or two. & shall pass thro Belgium, Holland & probably by Hamburg, Copenhagen & Stockholm. When the cold weather approaches I shall _____ South & spend the winter & spring in Italy & about the Mediteranean.

We have heard that the Treaty for annexing Texas is before the Senate but I feel sure that it will be rejected. I can regard it only as an electioneering manouvre. With best regards to Mrs. Ticknor I am ever faithfully yr friend S. THAYER
George Ticknor Esquire

The only item of news I have heard in the book way that would be likely to interest you is that Mons. Thiers* has delivered to the printer his history of the Empire.

*See Index

FROM George Sumner* to Professor Ackersdyk*

Paris, 20 May 1844

My dear Sir,

Will you permit me to recall myself to your recollection, by presenting to your acquaintance, and by recommending to your attentions, the bearer of this letter, Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, a gentleman of high character and intelligence, and an officer of distinction in the Engineer Corps, of the Army of the United States.

Col. Thayer was for many years Director of the Military Academy of West Point, at which the officers of Artillery and Engineers for the United States Army are educated. He would be gratified, during the short time of his stay in Utrecht, by an opportunity of conversing with one so well acquainted as yourself with Holland, and (more) with one who is disposed to appreciate fairly his own country.

I remember with delight, the candor with which you judged the United States, a candor which I confess it must be difficult to maintain, amid the passionate attacks that the past two years have brought against my country.

With many agreeable recollections of my intercourse with you at Utrecht, I have the honor to be Sir, your friend & servant,
GEORGE SUMNER.

P.S. I see often our excellent friend Mr. Blundeau, who seems more at ease, now that he has placed part of his load on the shoulders of Pasquier. Pray remember me to the kind friends in Rotterdam, and at the Hague, to whom you gave me letters. I have been for nearly a year past in Spain, a witness to "pronunciamientos" and rebellions without end. Poor Spain seems in the "lowest " of disgrace. Among her rulers one meets with nothing but corruption, falsehood and selfishness. Everything now, seems to augur a return to the despotism of Ferdinand VII. The mass of the nation have a natural intelligence and a "f " which are I think rare in the nations of the South; but they take no part in the government, neither do they in the pronunciamientos. Half a dozen men can at any moment get up a rebellion in the small towns, and this has frequently its echo throughout the country. The bad financial laws of Spain, her old and unwholesome restraint upon industry, closing up, as they have done the honorable paths, which in other countries are open to the activity of youth, have thrown there upon the nation, a mass of reckless intriguing young men, and made of Madrid itself a great magazine of selfish hunters of office.

With this combustible material a spark is sufficient for an explosion, and these sparks are constantly to be found. The project which seems now to be most favorably viewed by the partisans of Espartero* who are in exile, is that of a Federal Republic, in which Arragon, Castille Granada and the other provinces, should retain much of the power. How it will succeed, time will show. The municipal spirit is certainly quite as strong in Spain as the monarchical, and you will here a hundred people say of themselves, "Soy Catalan," "Soy Castellano", "Soy del reyno de Grenada", but scarcely any one who says Soy Español.

I shall be several months in Paris. Can I be of any service to you? if so I need not say that I should be happy to render it. I have regretted not a little that I did not have the pleasure of seeing you in London in July 1842. My address in Paris is chez M . Emerson & Co. 14 Boudro. Poiss Once more, my dear Sir, Adieu
GEO SUMNER

*See Index

FROM George Sumner* to Marcus Derkheim*

Paris, 20 May 1844

My dear Sir,

May I venture to recall myself to your recollection, in order to introduce to your acquaintance and kind attentives the bearer of this letter, Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, of the U. S. Engineer Corps, whose name is already familiar to you, as the distinguished Director for many years, of the Military School at West Point.

Col. Thayer, during an absence of several months from America (caused chiefly by his feeble health) proposes to visit many interesting parts of Europe, which he had not seen during his early residence abroad, and among them your enlightened and powerful little Republic

I know you will find pleasure in showing him the _____ of your place, from the Dictator down to the Twelve Apostles.

I look back with delightful recollections to my visit within the walls of your valiant City. Pray remember me warmly to all your excellent family, and to your worthy Son-in-law, and also to the Archavaries Schmidt. The old gentlemen himself has I presume long since forgotten me.

For the past year I have been nearly all the time in Spain, a witness of pronunciamientos rebellions and (trantomés) without cause as they are without end. How differently does the machine of State roll in your quiet Republic!

With many thanks for your kind attentions to me, I am My dear Sir, your friend & servant,

GEORGE SUMNER

*See Index

FROM George Sumner* to Capt. (Z)immerman

Paris, 20th May 1844

My dear Sir,

I owe you many an apology for having failed to acknowledge the kind and valuable letter which you wrote me at London, more than a year ago. I was highly flattered by the favorable opinions which you expressed of the Notice of the War in Afghanistan, for your opinion (from the great care with which you have studied the position of affairs in Central Asia) is of the first importance.

I take the liberty of introducing to your acquaintance and of recommending to your kind attention in Berlin, the bearer of this letter, Col. Sylvanus Thayer, an officer of high distinction in the Engineer Corps of the United States Army.

Col. Thayer was for several years the director of the Military Academy of West Point; which is the National School of the United States, for the formation of the Corps of Artillery and of Engineer.

I feel confident that you will derive the same pleasure from his acquaintance, which he anticipates from yours. Perhaps my excellent friend, Col. Froehn will be so good as to show to Col. Thayer the establishment of which he is so distinguished an ornament.

With many warm recollections of my pleasant intercourse with you in Berlin, I am, my dear Sir, very truly, your friend,

GEORGE SUMNER.

P.S. Pray remember me to Professor Lichtenstein. I have been lately in Spain, in the midst of wars and "pronunciamientos"; of bloodless battles, and of pompous despatches. Poor Spain seems doomed still to years of dissension. The elements of good government seem wanting, -and selfishness and ignorance seem the principal attributes of all her rulers.

I regretted very much that on my return from Spain I did not meet at Marseilles with the Son of our excellent friend Professor Lichtenstein. I hope some time to hear from you for I shall be for several months in Paris. My address is Chez Messrs Emerson & Co. 14 Boulevd Poissoniere a' Paris adieu, _____

G. S.

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Copenhagen May 30, 1844

Colonel:

I reached here on the 26th & shall leave for Gothenburgh to-morrow on my way to St. Petersburg. I have seen the Military & Naval establishments including the schools & have _____ myself to the investigation of the _____ of April 2d 1801. I have succeeded I think in _____ everything valuable that has been published here on the subjects including _____ maps - one of four shots of the Island of _____ - a topographical & hydographical map in one large shot of the City & adjacent waters. The plan of the _____ Battery is there correctly represented but on a too small a scale. One on a larger scale may be made from my notes & shall be should you desire it. Mr. _____ has procured and sent to you duplicates of the pamphlets & maps & will also endeavor the procure for you the official reports not published. I have had conversations with many of the officers who were in France at the time of the action & _____ one who took part in it. All concurred in affirming that nothing occurred to test the relative pressure of ships & batteries, that the Crown Battery played no important part in the battle, having opened its fire only just before the order was issued to stop firing & that the battery sustained no injury whatever except the loss of one man, killed from the bursting of a shell, etc. etc. I am respectfully Yr obt servt

S. THAYER

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing

FROM Henry W. Hilliard*

(4 June 1844)

My Dear Sir,

I have this moment received the accompanying authority to visit the military ports of Belgium from Gen. Dupont - Minister of War.

I enclose a letter to Mr. (Charles) Parker,* from Paris.

I hope you will find it convenient to pay us another visit, and in the meanwhile I avail myself of the occasion to assure you of the pleasure I derived from your Society while you were here.

My regards to Mr. Parker. Very truly Yrs.

HENRY W. HILLIARD,=

Brussels. 4th June '44
Col. Thayer

*See Index

FROM H. Memminger

(June 5, 1844)

Sir,

For the case I should not have the pleasure to meet with you, I beg to hand you the enclosed letter for Mr Hodson, Engineer of the Belgian railroad.

Colonel (Charles S.) Todd,* your ambassador at St Petersburg, resides No 6 english Quai, in the same house where Mr. (Norris) and I lived during our stay in the Russian Capitale, and where you will find some more of your countrymen. Have the kindness to hand to Mr Todd my card with my best compliments and to remember me to our amiable landladies, Misses Benson.

I beg your pardon for the trouble and wishing you good health and a pleasing journey, I remain Sir Your most obedt Servt. H. MEMMINGER Secretary to the John Cockerill Iron-works Society

Seraing near Liege June 5th 1844

*See Index

FROM H. Memminger to James Hodson¹

JOHN COCKERILL, Ltd

Seraing & Liege

Mailing Address:

Seraing, 5 June 1844

John Cockerill, Ltd

Seraing

General Delivery

Temeppe (near Liege)

May we present Colonel Thayer, United States Army Engineers, who, en route to Russia, has come to see the Public Works of Belgium. May we commend Colonel Thayer to your kind consideration, requesting on his behalf authorization to visit the inclined plane and the mechanisms which activate its locomotion.

Please accept, in advance, our thanks for anything you can do for Colonel Thayer. Cordially yours,

H MEMMINGER, Secretary

(in the absence of the Director)

Mr James Hodson, Mechanical Engineer, Liege RR Station

¹ Original in French

Ministry of War¹

Brussels, 6 June 1844

.
4th Division

Engineers
N^o 6568

In reply, indicate
in the margin the
date, division, & N^o
of this communication

Sir -

I am writing to inform you that in accordance with the request presented by the United States Chargé d'Affaires in Belgium, I have issued the necessary orders to permit you to visit all fortifications of the Kingdom.

Please present this letter to the military authorities whom you will approach concerning access to the fortifications which you will visit. Minister of War (signature illegible)
Colonel Thayer, in the Service of the United States

¹ Original in French

FROM C. Lederin¹

Colonel -

As I promised, I have obtained the sketch of the folding cot, recently introduced for Engineer troops, as well as the report from Engineer Muns on the inclined planes and stationary mechanisms near Liege. I am sending them attached hereto.

I am including also a copy of the drawings of French matériel and 18 plates showing Belgian artillery. The drawings were lithographed at the cannon foundry under my direction. I shall see to it that you receive the drawings of our matériel published previously with the annals of Belgian Public Works. Please give Major Baker the sketch of the Liege foundry, of which I have sent you a copy already.

I shall always be delighted for any opportunity which brings me into contact with you. Your humble and obedient servant,
C LEDERIN Director of Liege Cannon Foundry
Liege, 9 June 1844

Colonel Thayer, United States Engineers
Antwerp

¹ Original in French

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Hague (Holland) June 14, 1844)

Colonel:

I left Paris on the 29th ult & shall proceed to St. Petersburg by Hamburg, Copenhagen, Gothenburgh & Stockholm. I propose to return by Poland & to reach Berlin by the 1st of August. About the middle of May I saw Mr. (Henry W.) Hilliard* who was on a visit at Paris & who promised to obtain permission for me to visit the military establishments of Belgium. The papers were however not ready three days after my arrival at Brussels - & I left there without them. They only reached me at Antwerp just as I was about leaving for Holland.

I hope still to avail myself of them on my return from the north & east. By means of letters to individuals I was permitted to see the fortifications at Namur & Antwerp, the forts at Liege via the Citadel & the _____ also the Citadel of Ghent. In Holland I have only yet seen the fortifications & the Military school at (Breda). I am very desirous of visiting (Bergen-op-Zoom) but it would have taken two days which I could not spare & I have given it up.

I enclose herewith a copy of the Cashier des charges for the _____ at the _____ of Paris. I am respectfully Yr.
obt servt S. THAYER

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM Joseph G. Totten? *¹

(21 June 1844)

Ordnance Office

21st June 1844

suggest that Col. Thayer be instructed to attend to certain objects for Ordnance Dept. while he is in Europe & that he be allowed certain expenses.

Referred to the Eng Bureau for reports (signed) D. PARKER*
Eng Dept 22nd June 1844

The objects, a view of the Ord Bureau are recommended for the approval of the War Dept. With the qualifications that no duties be requested or expected of Col. Thayer that will interfere with the greater object of his absence from his regular duties, viz. the improvement and restoration of his health. Respectfully submitted (signed) GEO. L. WELCKER*
Lt. of Engrs in charge of Engrs Dept

The recommendation of the Ordnance & Engineer Departments are approved and Col. Thayer will be advised and directed accordingly. (signed) D. PARKER
Acting Sec of War

War Dept. June 22, 1844

'copy'

Ordnance Office,
Washington 21 June 1844

Hon. Wm. Wilkins,
Secretary of War

Sir:

Previous to the departure of Col. Thayer for Europe, I had the honor to address a letter to the War Department dated 1st Nov. last, and to which I now respectfully refer. - submitting a list of objects, concerning which it was thought the Col. might be able to collect information which would be valuable to the Military Service of the Country and particularly to this branch of it & suggesting that he be directed to attend to such matters whilst in Europe.

Nothing has as yet been received from Col. Thayer and as it is understood that he does not consider that the notice, taken of my suggestions renders it at all obligatory on him to take any pains to carry them into effect and as I have no doubt that by instructions to him to that purport much valuable information may be obtained in relations to improvements or the results of experience in Artillery, etc. since the visit of the Ordnance Board to Europe, I beg leave to suggest that instructions shall be given him from the War Department covering the views set forth

in my letter above mentioned, also that some reasonable allowance be made him to cover the expenses that would be incurred. There seems to be justice in allowing him transportation and when in fixed situations Fuel and Quarters or commutation at the rates usual in this city. I am Sir Respectfully Your obt servt

(signed) G. TALCOTT*

Lt. Col. Ord.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM George Talcott* to Joseph G. Totten*¹

Ordnance Office,
Washington 24 June, 1844

Col. J. G. Totten,
Chief Engineers, etc. etc.
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

By direction of the Acting Secretary of War, I transmit herewith copies of the several papers (marked 1 to 4 inclusive) addressed by this office to the Secretary of War & Engineer Departments relative to Col. Thayer procuring information on Military subjects while he is in Europe; these copies being intended for the files, of the Engr. Dept. I am Sir, Respectfully
Your obt servt.

G. TALBOTT
Lt. Col. Ord.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM Gen. Bardenfletz to W. Wallace Irwin¹

Copenhagen, 29 June 1844

Sir -

The colonel who came to see me this morning, seemed interested in the details of the Naval battle of 1801..... My late brother, a Naval officer, who was second in command on one of the Danish ships most actively engaged in this battle, gave a description of it which I am sending you forthwith, asking you please to give it to him on my behalf.

It contains only a simple, though very exact, report, without rhetorical embellishment. I regret that it is written in Danish, but it still might throw some light on the details of the armament of the ships and batteries.

Kindly remember me to the Colonel, and extend to him, on my behalf, best wishes for a safe, enjoyable trip and complete restoration of health. Sincerely,

Major General BARDENFLETZ

Mr W Wallace Irwin
United States Charge d'Affaires

¹Original in French

(FROM Gen. Bardenfletzt to W. Wallace Irwin)

(29 Jun 1844)

Notes: Historical account of battle between (Horatio) Nelson and Fischer (Danish) (1801) transmitted by a Danish officer.

At one o'clock - The battle continued, as none of the other vessels perceived the signal, made from (Sir Hyde) Parker, except the squadron of frigats and fireships farthest to the north and nearest to the Admiral in chief: the same that had attacked and destroyed the "Ind_odsretten". This squadron had, under the command of captian (Edward) Riou, approached the crown battery, and been put in so poor a condition by this battery, that it was obliged to fly as soon as the signal was seen. The frigate "Amazone" had faught a long time, enveloped in smoke, when Riou gave order to stop firing till the smoke had vanished, that he might see how the affairs stood. By this manoeuvre the battery got a sight of the vessels, against which the guns were directed with a dreadful effect. "What will Nelson think of us!" said Riou with pain, escaping with his vessels. He was wounded in the head, sat down on a gun, and was shot by one of the balls from the battery.

At 2:12 - But as the fire began to decrease to the south, in increased northward, where the batteries of ("Nypolon") and "Three crowns" commenced to fire at the approaching vessels.

Three o'clock - But what most ambarressed Nelson was, that three of his largest line of battleships, Ganges, Monarch, Difiance, touched the ground near the "Three Crowns" which opened a fire at them with a dreadful effect. It was a deciding moment, the end of the affair was at stake. Nelson though, soon (took) a resolution. He went down and wrote a letter, in which he declared, that if the fire continued from the "Three Crowns battery" and the other batteries ashore, he would put fire to all the vessels in his power, without being able to save the crew onboard of them. -----This letter was addressed, not to (Olfert)Fischer, commander in chief of the danish vessels; but to the prince regent, and was send ashore under the white flag.

As soon as the officer was despached, a counsel was held on board of Nelsons vessel, to decide, if it was adviseable to attack the northward part of the danish forces with the well conditioned vessels; but the council meant, that the best thing they could do, was to draw back from the dangerous neighbourhood, profiting by the favourable wind. If therefore Nelsons letter not had occasioned a truce, he would have been obliged to retreat and pas the crown battery, by which allready some of them had been so ill-treated - that at least one of them was considered as lost. But Nelson was too fortunate with his letter.

Fischer was ordered to put an end to the action, and the fire from the battery ceased. It was then about four o'clock.

During the action only one man was killed on the "Three Crowns battery."

TO Wallace Irwin from (signature illegible¹)

The Military Engineering School
Copenhagen 30 June 1844

Sir -

I am taking the liberty of sending you, attached hereto, for your examination, a copy of the curriculum and regulations of the Academy of Military Cadets, requesting you to forward this on to Colonel Thayer with my compliments. Your humble and obedient servant, (signature illegible) Lieut Colonel Mr Wallace Irwin
United States of America Chargé d'Affaires

¹ Original in French

FROM Jonathan M. Wainwright*

(July 5, 1844)

My Dear Colonel,

It may be the good fortune of my daughter Mrs (Remsen) & her husband to be in Paris at the time you are there. If so your greater experience may be of service to them; and I now write to solicit its use on their behalf. I hope and trust that your health has been improved by your sojourn abroad. Most sincerely your friend
Col. Thayer

JONA M WAINWRIGHT

*See Index

FROM Charles Stewart Todd* to Sir James Wylie.

Tsarskoe. Selo* 7/19 - July 1844

My dear Sir.

Allow me to present to you in the bearers, my American friends, Col. Thayer, of the U. S. Corps of Engineers and Mr. (Charles) Parker,* a student of Medicine.

As they may wish to visit the interesting Military Hospitals I shall be indebted to you for any facilities you may find it convenient to afford to them. I have the honor to be, Yours truly

C. S. TODD

Sir James Wylie - Baronet Inspector Genl. of Hospitals
St. Petersburg (Russia)

*See Index

FROM Charles S. Todd*

Tsarskoë, Selo. 12/24. July '44

My dear Sir,

I hope you have visited the various objects of Curiosity in St. Petersburg and that you may find time to visit me again, when I may have the opportunity to extend some degree of hospitality.

The public Lawns, the Ancient Armoury & the Observatory at Pulkova merit your attention.

Present me to Mr (Charles) Parker* & accept for yourself assurances of my great respect - Yours
C. S. TODD
Col Thayer.

I can send your letters to U. S. on Saturday

*See Index

FROM M. Knowlton

Metz, France, July 26 - '44 (1844)

Dear Colonel,

I had the misfortune to be taken sick on arriving here on the 20th Inst. and shall not be able to reach London in time for the steamer of the 4th. As I am again recovering I shall hope to be in time for the steamer of the 19th of August, when it will give me pleasure to take anything you may wish to send to the U. States. I shall still hope to meet you at the Tavestock Hotel in London. If not, any message left for me there will be received on the way to Liverpool. Yours truly, M. KNOWLTON

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Berlin August 7 1844

Colonel:

My last communication was from Copenhagen which I left on the 2d of July for St. Petersburg passing by Elsinore, Gothenburg, Gotha Canal, Stockholm (thence visiting Upsala), Helsingfors & (Reval). I left _____ on the 27th and reached here on the 31st by _____. I propose to spend the _____ of the _____ in Gunnery & to be at Vienna early in October on my way either to the east by Constantinople or to Italy by Trieste. Mr. _____ has applied on my behalf for permission to see the _____ fortifications & military establishments but have not yet rec'd an answer. If permission is obtained I shall not fail to visit the (fortifications) on the Rhine especially those as _____ & _____. I have rec'd no letter from the United States since I left Paris. I had requested my charge Mr. Ledyard to forward any letters he might receive for me under cover to Mr. _____ but as none have come I think he must have forgotten to mention my regrets to his successor. I have written to Mr. King & hope to find letters on my arrival at _____.

My health is about as usual I remain very respectfully
yours obt servt S. THAYER
Col. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer

*See Index

¹ No original available for proofing.

FROM Theodore S. Fay*

Berlin, 30. August, 1844

Dear Sir,

I had the honor, yesterday even.g, to receive your Note of the 28. inst., & extremely regret yr. inability to revisit Berlin. I immediately called at the War-Office, & found, as I expected, the Minister, Von Boyen himself, absent, & in his place, Gen. Von Gosel, who did not feel authorized to give me an immediate answer, as the Minister himself would have done. The answer to Mr. (Henry) Wheaton's* application, thro the Foreign office, came the 16., & Stated that billets d'entrée for the military institutions of the City of Berlin, as well as for the inspection of Some fortresses, were ready for your use, but "pour le cas où Monsieur Thayer aurait l'intention de faire le tour de toutes les places fortes de la monarchie, le ministre de la guerre se verrait hors d'état de lui en accorder la permission, i de la demander au Roi-"

I have this morning written again to the Foreign Minister, Baron de Bülow, on the Subject, & hope to give you their decision before the 10. Sept.

The rumor of Mr. Wheaton's appointment to a vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court, & the President's intention to name Mr. (Churchill C.) Cambreleng* for Berlin, has gone the rounds of the German newspapers, & indeed, something of the sort does so once or twice every year. The intention may exist, but I have only heard of it through the newspapers, do not believe it. I also have not received american newspapers since you left, & hear nothing new except the general prosperity, & indications that the disgraceful day of repudiation is nearly over. I have the honor to be, Dear Sir, very respectfully & truly yrs.

THEO. S. FAY

P.S. Mr. Wheaton has left on a visit of some months to his family in Paris.

T.S.F.

Monsieur le Colonel Thayer
etc etc etc

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Washington Sept. 1st 1844
Sunday Evening

My dear Sir,

Since I received your last note from Paris I have hardly thought seriously of writing to you, considering it perfectly satisfactory as to the course and habits and prospects of my son, and the more especially as I can add nothing of a public nature worth relating that you will not see in the Intelligencer which I send regularly every week to our Legation at Paris - I fear however they may sometimes detain it, or keep the paper altogether, since the Dept. of State do not now send that paper to our Ministers and Consuls - (We will not overlook or forget your claim to credit for the money awarded to your credit by the Courts of the U. S. but you must keep as much to be accounted for in your hands, for during the last session of Congress Mr (James I.) McKay, Chairman of Comtee. of Ways and Means said his Comtee. disregarded verdicts of juries and decrees of Courts. It was deemed necessary to introduce it as an arrearage due for former expenditures at West Point and other members of the Comtees. of both Houses assured me it should be introduced into the appropriate act, still it was omitted. It will be brought into the estimates of next session, and they will be shown that the former decrees of the Courts will be confirmed and credit given by repeating the former vexatious process of the law whenever a balance may be in your hands, as the Comptr. is perfectly willing to have it take that direction by another friendly suit believing he has no appropriation to which he can charge such a credit in your favor, which he considers rightly due to you according to the evidence you sent to me, and which is on file in the Engineer office to be resorted to at any and all times hereafter till withdrawn by you, on your return if deemed advisable. The amount will not be lost, certainly not if you will allow a balance to stand on the Auditors books to cover the claim, and vouchers always in the Engr. office will show that you are not indebted etc. You must have received from the Ordnance Bureau the orders of the War Dept. placing you on duty for certain purposes and entitling you to all the pay for transportation and fuel and quarters allowed to other officers where no public quarters are furnished, that is the commutation allowance at (Boston).

We have now more than \$1200 applicable to the purchase of books, maps etc for the Library of the War Department and shall have \$1000 more by the 4th of March. I expect the Dept. will in a few days direct a list of such books as a board of officers say Genl. (Winfield) Scott* and (Thomas) Jesup,* (Joseph G.) Totten,* (John J.) Abert* and (George) Talcott* may present after carefully examining the Library the Library - this list, or so much of it as the Secy. of War (William Wilkins*) may approve to be sent to you by him, with discretion for you to substitute other and better books on the same subjects at your discretion etc. etc.

The last letter of Charles (Parker)* from Hague showed that he was striving to note all what he saw in traveling with you, and he seems to take interest too. The Ordnance Col. T. sent the reports and papers mentioned by him to Col. F_____ in your name and at your request, with some other papers I believe. In his letter before he left Paris Charles suggested to Dr. Brewer and to me the consideration of the propriety of his leaving you in

Italy next Novr. and returning to Paris to attend medical lectures and joining you again in March - Dr. B. answered him there would be enough to see and learn with you for all the time you would be absent, particularly in Italy and the south. I repeated and confirmed the same as strongly as I could on the margin of Dr. B.'s letter, which was sent to our Legation at Paris to be forwarded in June. Charles had not then been further than Paris; by this time he knows better the value of travel with you, and I am sure he will see all he can under your guidance. Dr. Coleman a classmate of Charles and I believe a particular associate and as boys call each other, often without due reflection, friend has left Phil. for two three years travel in Europe - Mr. Richards who knows Coleman and his family well thinks he will seek to join you and Charles and to keep with you. I mention this that you may, if desirable to you, take your own way of avoiding an additional incumberance. I doubt if any constant companion, especially an American and a College classmate may be useful to Charles, or desirable to you, but you will judge. I met Doctor (William) Gibson* in Phil. recently. He asked at once is your son with Col. Thayer - "tell him to keep with the Col. wherever he goes and see all he can under his direction and when he can no longer have that advantage he can return and study anatomy etc and then go again to Paris by himself." By the way Dr. B. says Charles had \$5. to purchase a book for Dr. Gibson. I hope he has sent it. Socrates thought of owing a neighbor for a cork, after he had swallowed the hemlock. Charles will say _____, if he reads this. (George) Welcker* is again in the Engr. Office, which is thus rendered vastly stronger. Yours ever truly to _____ D. PARKER.

P.S. The last I have heard of you and Charles is from a letter of Mrs. Irwin at Copenhagen to her sister here. She says your health is improving and that she had some delightful visits where she could not have gone but as visitors with you etc etc - \$15,000 only was appropriated last session for fort Warren, but you have seen all such things in N. Intelligencer. Every day till Decr will be devoted to constant agitation and struggle on the election - every village and town will be canvased - the struggle hard, but Clay must succeed, or "chaos will come again

P.S. I will at once direct B____ Richards agent for providing funds for Charles to place a further sum of \$600 in the hands of Prime Ward and (Sands) to your credit on account of Charles till I can hear from you as to further remittances - Sept. 5th. I have directed Mr. R. to do so.

P.S. Sept. 5th My dear Colonel, Charles has said so much about returning to Paris to attend Lectures during the winter - should he continue to urge it after reading my late letters and what Doctor Brewer and Dr. Gibson have said of the advantages of keeping with you - I leave it to him under your advice Provided always that you can with perfect satisfaction to your personal convenience spare him for two or three months. I cannot suppose there can be any objection to extending your leave of absence if it should be some desirable.

In the care of the American Legation at Vienna, to be forwarded

*See Index

FROM Johann Gottfried Flügel*
365.

Leipsic (Leipzig) Sept. 9. 1844

My very dear Sir,

Yesterday I received your lines, but too late to address you, therefore the present goes with today's post. I direct it at once to Coblenz, fearing it might miss you at Frank fort. - Should any more letters arrive I will address them to Vienna (U. S. Consulate) unless you should give me counter-orders. I reproach myself for not having given you letters of introduction to (Freeman) but it was owing to your sudden departure from Leipsic. You ought by all means have (mounted) our observatory to survey the battle-ground and I had a (person) ready that came shortly after you left me. Your package shall be addressed as you directed and anything that may occur to you just drop me a line and I shall be ready to attend it as if you were here in person. I am happy that the weather has been so favourable to your journey and hope it may continue to make up for the past.

I have yet some request which I beg leave to reiterate. When you find leisure and convenience to overhaul your letters of introduction will you lay by those you do not want and enclose them to me if a Coblenz through booksellers' conveyance (Mr. Cassman would forward them). - Or when once you return to America would you think of me and send me some of such autographs as you can spare of any of American Worthies of former and present times? You would indeed confer a great favour on me by thus paying a little attention to my collection of autographs.

I have added to your package _____ parcels of maps on the various battles in the Seven Years War with French explanations, which I hope will not be unwelcome to you. They are very scarce and have not appeared in print for public sale. I forgot to show them to you. The day you left came Mr. Theophilus Fisk former Editor of the paper "Old Dominion" with Despatches from Washington to Berlin on the Treaty with Wurtemberg & Hussia. Now my dear sir, nothing remains but to tell you my deep regret for not having been so happy as to have enjoyed your society at least a few days longer, for then you should have become acquainted with matters that would have been not altogether disinteresting to you. I would desire you when you return to Boston to say all that is kind from me to Messr. Sparks, Worcester, Felton, Longfellow & in fact, all the Cambridge gentlemen. Remember me kindly to Mr. (Charles) Parker* also.

I wish you with a sincere heart that kind Providence may attend your steps and may bless and protect you for many years to come-. May you sometimes too remember a stranger who bears a high interest in your happiness. With these true sentiments I am Much respected Sir Your admirer and obedient Servt

J. G. FLUGEL

Col. S. Thayer U. S. Corps of Engineers

*See Index

FROM Theodore S. Fay*

Enclosing copy of letter from Baron v. Bulow

"Berlin, Oct. 1. 1844

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to subjoin copy of the /sic/ reply of Baron v. Bulow, to our application for permission to see the fortresses on the Rhine."

Copy¹

Sir -

I am writing, in reply to your letter of the 30th, to advise you that the King, upon the advice of the Minister of War, has consented for Colonel Thayer to visit, within the prescribed limits, the fortifications of Coblenz and Ehrenbreitstein.

The Commanding General of the 8th Army Corps has just been informed of this.

Please advise Colonel Thayer of this decision. Cordially,
/s/ BULOW

Mr Fay United States Chargé d'Affaires

"I fear the delay in granting this permission will render it worthless, but it has been caused by the inopportune absence of the King. Will you oblige me by stating to what address I shall send anything I may hereafter have for you from the Department of War? and believe me, Dear Sir, Very truly & respectfully Yr. Obdt. Servt. THEO. S. FAY"
Colonel Thayer

*See Index

¹ Original in French

COMMERCIAL ASSEMBLY¹

Vienna

Colonel Thayer of Boston
Sponsored by Mr J G Schwarz
20 October 1844

Admission cards for foreigners are valid for one month only. Those who may desire to continue to attend following the date of the expiration, will kindly make application with the Director, Mr _____, who will issue a new card, valid for the duration of the assembly, whether for one or several months, upon payment of a 5 f. fee monthly.

No 152 The Management of the Commercial Assembly
Spiegelgasse, No 1096

S. BIEDERMANN

¹ Original in French

FROM Louis (at U. S. Legation at Vienna)
to Capt. Charles Moering of the T. R. Engineers

Vienna 3d Novber 1844.

My dear Charles!

As I got acquainted through your means with Mr. Scharz (J. G. Schwarz)*, he begged me to furnish Colonel S. Thayer of the U. S. - the bearer of this, with a couple of lines to introduce him to your acquaintance. —

Knowing that you met with the best receiptance in Amerika and that you experienced the kindest treatment during your sojourn in the U. S.; I hope you will show the same to Colonel Thayer, and do everything to make this Gentleman's stay at Milan as agreeable as possible. Ever, yours very truly, LOUIS

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Vienna Nov. 4 1844

Col. J. G. Totten,
Chief Engineer

Sir:

My last was from Frankfort Sept 12th thence I went to Baden Baden and thence by Carlsruhe, Stuttgart, Munich, Rattisbonne - down the Danube to the City where I arrived on the 14th ult. I stopped a few hours at Rastatt & Ulm to see the fortresses there being invited at the expense of the Germania Confederative. They are immense works being calculated each for an army of twenty or twenty-five thousand. There are no bastioned forts & the traces seem to have been neglected mainly on the principle of Montalembert & Carnot. I had intended also to see the new fortress of Ingolstadt but on arrival at Ratisbonne found there was no public conveyance to that place & therefore did not go. I stopped also to see the Miramulin tours at Linz & found them to correspond exactly with the descriptions in the books. While here I have rec'd a letter from Mr. (Theodore S.) Fay* (chargé at Berlin in the absence of the Ministre) enclosing the authorization I had neglected to see the _____ fortifications on the Rhine. I cannot of course avail myself of it 'till next year if at all. At Mayence & Coblenz I only saw what may be shown to all travellers. The minister at this court is absent but I expect to obtain permission to see the school of engineers at Vienna & the school for the staff & army generally which is at Neustadt on the road to Gratz. While at Berlin, Dresden, Carlsruhe, Stuttgart & Munich I examined the maps executed by the respective governments and I think they should be purchased for the Mil. Academy & for the topographical Bureau. Some sheets of several of these (all that were then published) were formally procured for West Point. These maps at least should be completed I have the Cartes d' Assemblage & the price which will be communicated if desired. I propose to depart for Italy on the 6th instant & go by Trieste & Ancona to Rome which I expect to make early in December & whence I shall address my next report. I have the honor to be respectfully your obd servt

S. THAYER Lt. Col. Engrs.
Bt. Col.

P.S. Your communication of July 17th was rec'd at Leipsic Sept 4 & is the latest communication recd from the Department.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM John George Schwarz*

(November 5, 1844)

I had the pleasure to introduce to you Colonel de Hausslab
teacher of Tactics to the sons of Archiduc Charles.

Count de Latour Lieutenant Field -Marshal of the Engineers -
gave the permission to visit the Engineers Academie

Colonel de Körber gave us the instruction that you merely have
to apply at Verona on the Colonel of Engineers Mr Hlavaty. and
at Franzens Feste near Brixen on the Captain of Engineers Mr
de Radó

also if on passing Insbruck you will call on the Major of the
Engineers Mr Mamula who is the Director of the Fortifications
of Tyrol, he will surely be most happy to receive you and always
ready to attend to your orders will be your most obedient Servant

J. G. SCHWARZ

U. S. Consul

Vienna 5th Novb 1844

*See Index

FROM John Randolph Clay*

Vienna Novr 5. 1844.

Dear Sir.

Enclosed is the letter of introduction I promised you for Mr. (George) Moore* our Consul at Trieste. You will find him a very pleasant and worthy gentleman. I am obliged to go out of town early this morning and as I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you before you leave Vienna I beg to offer you my best wishes for your health and an agreeable journey. Very respectfully
Your obedient Servant

J. R. CLAY

*See Index

FROM John George Schwarz*
To Colonel S. Thayer etc etc in Rome

Vienna Novbr. 20th 1844.

Honored Sir.

Your esteemed favor of 12th Inst affords me the pleasure of knowing you arrived safe in Trieste. I will take care to excuse you to the General Latour as you could not possibly visit the Academy at Neustadt.

Mr. Pilas whom I know very well has received the Letter. - The other Letter to Captn Moering is returned herewith, this Gentn being now in Milan, I also had the Honor of giving you a Letter to him and doubt not of his friendly reception - You will find he speaks english fluently.

Agreeable to promise I forward a Letter to Mr de Casati an Artillery Lieutenant in Verona, I shall be very glad if it proves of service to you.

I inquired at the Post, at the Bankers Arenstein & Eskeles and at Mr (John R.) Clay's* for Letters to you but without success.

Mr. (John S.) Maxwell* Secretary to the U. S. Legation at St. Petersburg is now here and will go shortly to Constantinopel. A Mr Chamberlain of Newyork with his wife and Daughter will pass the winter here.

We daily expect Information whether we belong to Polk or Clay?___

I heartily hope your Health will speedily be reestablished and should there be any thing in Austria with which I can serve you, it will afford me infinite pleasure to grant it. My wife unites in friendly Salutations and I remain with high Esteem
Your obedient Servt
J. G. SCHWARZ

*See Index

FROM Edmund Chas. Johnson to a Mr. FitzPatrick, c/o Messrs.
Mandelay & Field, Cheltenham Place, Lambeth.

(Dec. 15, 1844)

My dear Mr. Fitzpatric

A friend of mine, from whom I have received much kindness during my stay in Cairo, is very anxious to look over the Factory; and as I do not think I can direct him to a better person than yourself, I have given this letter of introduction.

You will find Col. S. Thayer much interested in Every thing connected with machinery and, should you possess the opportunity of being useful to him you will greatly oblige me.

I have found the letters you were kind enough to send me of the greatest use; they having procured for me great attention & Kindness.

Trusting soon again to meet in England. Believe me, My
dear Mr. F Yours very sincerely EDMUND CHAS. JOHNSON
Grand Cairo
Egypt. Decr. 15. 1844

SHORT DIRECTIONS FOR TRAVELLING

in

ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

START FROM LONDON.

Proceed to Windsor to be there at ten, go to the Quadrangle if the Court is there; there is a review of the troops and fine music, which lasts until a quarter to eleven, when you go to chapel (St. George's) hear divine service which is chaunted as in Cathedrals. After church look at the Cenotaph, erected to the Princess Charlotte; the painted windows, &c., and then proceed to the opening opposite the round tower, which leads to the Terrace, walk there until one o'clock, when the state apartments will be open, at the first narrow door on the left of the iron fence before the Quadrangle. Having gone through them, take a drive in the Great Park and return to Slough to dine and sleep.

See the Hall, Libraries, &c. which can be done, sufficiently for a birds-eye view, by one o'clock, when you must take a carriage to Blenheim, (which is open at one and continues to be shewn until three,) after your return you will have time to see more of Oxford.

Bath is a fine City, the chief objects are the Pump Room, Gardens, and Views from the upper part of the Town.

Bristol is a gloomy place, and Clifton being a charming spot, it is better to stay there and return to Bristol in a "fly" to see Redriff or Redcliff Church where Penn's ancestors were buried: this you will do on Wednesday.

At Chepstow stop half an hour to see the Ruins of Chepstow Castle, and thence to the top of Windcliff, tell your Post Boy to go to the bottom of the Cliff and wait for you while you zig-zag down. Stop at Tintern Abbey, a ruin, one of the most beautiful in the Country, the Banks of the

Sunday Morning at 9 o'clock by Great Western Railway, stop at the Hotel at Slough; order dinner.

Monday Morning early take the first Train for Oxford, stop at the Angel Inn, get a Guide there.

Tuesday Morning, or late on Monday Evening, proceed to Bath, to the Royal York Hotel.

Tuesday Evening, proceed to Bristol and Clifton. The Royal Hotel in the Square or Mall.

Thursday take a Post-Chaise to Aust Passage 12 miles and cross to Chepstow, to the Beaufort Arms, at Chepstow, or

River are charming. Proceed to the Beaufort Arms, Monmouth, you will arrive in time for dinner.

Ragland is a Baronial Castle in Ruins, but the outer walls standing it gives a good notion of the extent and form of such buildings, on your way to Gloucester while the coach is changing horses at Ross, run to the church yard, from which is a fine view. The Man of Ross was buried there.

See Montpellier Pump Room, Pittville and Malvern if you have time.

Stratford-on-Avon see Shakespear's house. at Warwick, Warwick Castle, and thence to Kennilworth.

See at Birmingham Mr. Thomasons Show Establishment, who will if you buy a few small articles give you tickets to see various manufactories of "Pins," "Gas Pipes," "Papier Mache," &c.

There is a road (which will be told you at the Hotel,) to Matlock, on which the scenery is very beautiful.

When at Matlock you will be about 12 or 14 miles from Newstead Abbey, (Lord Byron's;) not far from Buxton is Chatsworth, (the Duke of Devonshire) and one or two other Ducal residences

Cutlery, Plated Articles, &c. at Rogers and Co.

York Minister

Not much on the road worth stopping for.

At Melrose, Melrose Abbey, and across the River at Kirkhill, Abbottsford.

the Hotel near the landing may serve you equally well, get a Carriage up the Wye for Monmouth.

Friday, take a Carriage early for Ragland Castle 12 miles, and return in time for the Coach to Gloucester and Cheltenham.

Saturday at Cheltenham, at the Queens' Hotel, or the Plough

Sunday if there are no Coaches Post to Stratford-on-Avon, thence to Warwick where you stop for the night.

Monday, at Warwick and Kennilworth and part of the way to Birmingham, where you arrive on Tuesday, stop at Dees' Old Royal Hotel.

Tuesday sleep at Birmingham, start early for Matlock.

From Matlock to Buxton and Chatsworth.

To Sheffield per Railway.

To Leeds and York per Railway.

To Newcastle per Railway.

To Scotland by Jedburgh, to Edinburgh, the Douglas Hotel.

Hawthornden, the seat of the late Poet Drummond, Roslyn Castle and Chaple, Dalkeith Palace.

See Guide.

To Lock Levin, Dunkeld, Blair Atholl, back to Dunkeld, to Lock Tay, Killen, Loch Katerine, Lock Lomond, Dumbarton, Glasgow, or up to the Highlands from LochLomond to Inverary, Oban, Fort William, Caledonian Canal, Inverness, back to the Crinan Canal to Lock Fine and to Glasgow, by the Lakes of Westmorland to Liverpool.

WALES

From Liverpool to Conway, Menai Bridge, Badgelllet, Tony-builth, Barmouth, Dolgellry Mackinlleth, Llandiloes, Builth, Brecon, Abergaveny to London.

Black's Picturesque Tourist is the best guide to Scotland.

Edinburgh.

From Edinburgh.

Brown & Parnall, Printers, 17, Old Broad Street, City.

FROM Hector Bossange¹

Tuesday

My dear Sir -

We should be honored if you would come for dinner tomorrow, Wednesday.

We should like for you to meet Mr Sumner, Mr Putnam, and Mr Stevens. We have invited only those three, in addition to yourself. Devotedly, HECTOR BOSSANGE

¹ Original in French

FROM Hector Bossange¹

Dear Sir -

I learned yesterday, through our mutual friend, Mr Sumner, that you have recovered from the stubborn cold which caused you such suffering.

I congratulate you.

Madame Bossange is well on the road to recovery. She begs you to do her the honor of coming for dinner next Saturday, the 21st. We shall be very happy to have you with us. - We have invited only Mr G Sumner, in addition to yourself, for we know you have an aversion to formal dinners.

As always, your devoted and obedient servant

HECTOR BOSSANGE

¹ Original in French

(29 March ?)

Dr. Cullen presents compliments to Col. Thayer and begs to state that if he be desirous to be presented to his Holiness, Dr. Cullen will have an opportunity of presenting him tomorrow afternoon at $\frac{1}{2}$ past four o'clock. The place of presentation is immediately behind the Sixtine Chapel. Dr. C. begs the favor of a line in reply and in case Col. Thayer desires to be presented, he will meet him at the Sixtine chapel at the time just mentioned.

Irish College, 29th March (Saturday)

Colonel Thayer 71 Piazza d'Spagner _____

FROM George P. Putnam*

Knickerbocker Cottage
21 (Villa Side) Mornington Road,
Regents Park, Oct. 13, (1844-46?)

My dear Sir,

Will you give Mrs Putnam and myself the pleasure of your company at dinner on Thursday at 6½? We expect Mr. McLane & a few American friends and shall be very much gratified if you will also honor us. I am dear Sir, Respectfully & faithfully yrs

GEO. P. PUTNAM

Colonel Thayer, U. S. A.

*See Index

A Monsieur
Mns. le Col. Thayer
Rue de Tournon 7.

Mr. Ring requests the honor of Col. Thayer's company to dinner
on Friday 21st Novr. at 6½

Rue St Dominique 100

Sir Edmund (Lyons)* & Lady Lyons request the honor of Colonel Thayer's Company at Dinner on Friday Nover. 29th at 6 O'Clock
The favor of an answer is desired.

*See Index

The Governor (Stuart)* & Lady Stuart request the honor of Col
Thayers Company at Dinner on Monday next at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 oclock.
Palace. Saturday

*See Index

FROM George Sumner*

(Undated Europe 1844-46)

No. 18 rue de la Paix
Tuesday (P.M.)

My dear Colonel.

I have a ticket for the models of fortifications at the Invalides, which will serve for four persons. The exhibition closes on the 15th (Friday) and, it's possible that you might be disposed to take one more look before quitting France, I would propose if agreeable to you, to divide with you my ticket. I will wait for you on Thursday from 12 to 1. If you are not disposed to go once more, do not give yourself the trouble to write to me. Should you have any friend who wishes to see the models, it would be well to bring him at the same time, or give him my address.

I have been disappointed in regard to the Atmospheric Railway. My friend who was employed upon the portion at St. Germain, has been absent, and I have not yet seen him. He will return however during this week, and I think you will then have time, during the early part of next week, to see it working.

With sentiments of high respect. I have the honor to be, my dear Sir, your friend & obedient servant
GEO. SUMNER.

*See Index

FROM John Henry Hill*

(Athens 1843-1846?)

My dear Sir

I hope you will profit by the discovery you made this morning, that we have a fire place in our house, & that besides a hearty welcome you may find a warm reception. Can you not come in & take tea with us this evening as you disappointed us last evg? We shall be most happy to see your 3 companions also & we hope you will all come.

Sir Edmund Lyons* has invited me to meet you at dinner on Friday. I hope you may find it convenient to accept his invitation which I take it for granted you have by this time received.
Yours very truly

J H HILL

Wednesday after. 4 ocl.

*See Index

FROM J. G. Schwarz*

(Europe 1843-1846?)

Mr, & Mrs. Schwarz Request the Pleasure of Col. S. Thayer's
Company at Dinner on Saturday next the 26th inst. at 4 O Clock.
An answer will oblige

*See Index

FROM Edmund Johnson* to Signor Casella

(Europe 1843-1846?)

My dear Sig Casella.

Altho I have been going much about the country since I last had the pleasure of seeing you in Naples, I have not forgotten the kindness & attention you bestowed on me. and in consequence of which I venture to intorduce to your notice Col S. Thayer who is a friend of mine and who can tell you some thing about me. He is desirous of taking some instruction in the Italian Language, and knowing your (talent) and kindness, I commend him to your care.

I shall myself, please God, be in Naples during March or April when I shall hope once more to meet. Believe me My dear Sir Casella your sincere old pupil
EDMUND JOHNSON
Lord Cranborne desires his regards and best wishes.

*See Index

(Note on envelope: Signor Casella Strade di Chiaja Naples to be heard of at Hotel Crocelle.)

(Malta 1843-1846?)

Captain Tidy presents his compliments to Col Thayer and would be glad to know at what hour tomorrow Col Thayer would like to see the Fortifications - As an officer of Engineers will accompany him to point out what is best worth seeing Sunday.

In forwarding the accompanying invitation to Col Thayer, Captain Tidy is desired by the Governor to express his regret that it should so happen, that a large party having been invited to the Palace for that day, and the seats at table being all filled, His Excellency is prevented paying that attention to Col. Thayers Countrymen now in Malta, which otherwise it would have given H. E. so much pleasure to do.

FROM Henry Ledyard*

(Undated Europe 1844-46)

My dear Sir,

I have the pleasure of sending you Marshal Soult's permission to visit & examine the fortifications of Paris. You will present yourself with the permission to Lieut General Vicomte Dode de la Brunerie (Rue) (Caumartin) No 24. who will make the necessary arrangements to enable you to profit by it-

I hope to have the pleasure of Seeing you before you leave Paris and am My dear Sir With much respect, Very faithfully yours

HENRY LEDYARD

Col. Thayer.

*See Index

FROM W. W. (Irwin)

(Undated Europe 1844-46)

Saturday morning-

My dear Sir;

I have made the arrangements for seeing the "Three Crowns"
etc beginning at half past 9, at which Hour I will call for you -

Very faithfully etc

(W W IRWIN)

Colonel Thayer

FROM Charles S. Todd*

(Undated Europe 1844-46)

Tsarskoe. Selo.* /27. .

My dear Sir.

I wish to send the enclosed letter for Mr. Maxwell* to Berlin and 2 volumes of Mr. Geo. Jones's* Ancient History of America which he wishes to be sent to Mr (Henry)Wheaton* - He had designed them for the Emperor. but no such present can be made unless under instructions from the Dept at Washn.

My letters last - (8/19) are rather encouraging - perhaps the young wife (Julia Gardiner Tyler)* of the President (John Tyler)* may put removals out of his head -

If you should find any difficulty with the Police about taking charge of these Books or the letter, please to leave them with Mr. Gibson.

Wishing you a pleasant Journey. renewed health and a safe return to the land of "_____ " I am yours truly

C. S. TODD

Col Thayer

*See Index

FROM Joshus Bates*

(Undated Europe 1844-46)
Friday morning

Dear Sir

Will you do me the favor to dine with us tomorrow Saturday
at 7. o'clock and stop with us until Monday? Yours truly

JOSHUA BATES
East Sheet near
Richmond Park

Col. Thayer. usa
(5 Foley Place at Mr Phillips')

*See Index

Remarks on the Fortifications of Germany (R.E.)

Coblentz contains about 12,000 inhabitants. The enciente of the work enclosing the city is about 1600 yds in length. The advanced works are I. Ehrenbreitstein, or Fort Frederick William. This work is on high ground, & is casemated with double tiers of embrasures on the side opposite to the Rhine, commanding the heights of Azimur. Scarps = 35 ft. - glacis and advanced works are countermined. The fort commands the city and the opposite side of the Moselle

II. The redoubt of Pfaffendorfer height has 2 tiers of guns in casemate which enfilade the vallies of the 2 Rivers. III Fort Alexander, about 1600 or 1800 yards from Coblentz, is situated on high ground. It is flanked by coblentz enciente, and by Fort Constantine (of which the projecting part has two tiers of embrasures) about 500 yds in its rear. It is connected to this fort by a subterraneous passage. IV. Fort Frantz, Bridge-head, Rhine-Redoubt &c between the Rhine and Moselle are arranged for mutual defence, and are partly within reach of the guns of Fort Frederick William.

diagram

Remarks on the Fortifications of Germany

Cologne has about 50,000 inhabitants. It is now the head quarters of about 25,000 Prussian troops. About 500 yds from the body of the place there are high redoubts about 600 yds apart. A portion of the scarp walls of these works is exposed; it is attempted to remedy this defect by planting trees around them.

diagram

Remarks on the Fortns. of Germany

Mayence contains about 20,000 inhabts, and is occupied by 13,000 Austrians & Prussians, the governor being appointed every three years by these powers alternately. The scarp walls of the body of the place are 30 ft. Cassel & Fort Montebello are works of Earth. The bridge head and other portions are casemated.

diagram

Fortifications of Germany.

Landau contains about 6,000 inhabitants, and a garrison of 5,000. The fortifications are Vauban's 2d System.

Germersheim. Vauban constructed lines on the river Julich - Passau contains about 10,000 inhabitants. This place was fixed upon by Napoleon for a grand depôt against Austria. Oberhaus Fort is much like that of Ehrenbreitstein.

diagram

Salzburg has 1000 inhabitants - (caperzinberg) is about 1600 yards from this place -

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Engineer Department
Washington, 13th January 1845

Col. S. Thayer Corps of Engineers Paris, France.

Sir,

Your official reports have been regularly received up to the 4th November last from Vienna, excepting that from Frankfort of September 12th.

By your late letter which Genl. (Daniel) Parker* showed to me, it seems you expected some instructions from this office, under the authority of the War Department of June last, which were not given in consequence of my absence. It was supposed that the copies sent to you by Col (George) Talcott would be deemed sufficient; and I understand \$1000 was placed to your credit through Major (Thomas J.) Leslie* to be Expended in such purchases as you may deem proper, and particularly in Books, drawings, models, etc. etc., in relation to Ordnance and Artillery.

In my letter to you of Nov. 16/43, you were requested to collect information on professional subjects for the general advantage of the service committed to the Corps of Engineers, & also for the particular use of this office. I have now to repeat that for the latter purpose you are authorized to incur an expense of \$300. For the former, you are authorized to expend one thousand dollars: the money to be applied in answer to your drafts or in any other way more convenient to you.

The measure adopted soon after you left Paris, was intended by the War Department, on the authority of the then acting Secretary of War, to allow all your transportation for examinations in all the branches of military service & the public military schools, altho' the order was given on the application of the Ordnance. It also includes quarters when you are not on the road, and your journal will always furnish the means up making up your accounts, which may be rendered periodically, as when at a post at home, or made up when you return, if you do not wish the money for current use. An order has also been given by the Secretary of War for a board of officers here to make out a Catalogue, or list of such Books, as are proper for the Library of the War Department, and I shall propose that such list be sent to you to make the purchases, with authority to substitute later and better works on the same subjects. The War Department now has some \$1400, liable to this object, & \$1000, more is embraced in the estimates.

I transmit to your address at Paris, through the State Department, to the care of Mr. (William Rufus) King,* the American Minister, the following pamphlets & papers - viz: Papers on Practical Engineering, No. 2 6 copies R(o)ncelet on the stability of Rivetments, translated by Capt. John Sanders,* U. S. Engrs 1 copy
Official Register of the Officers & Cadets of the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, June 1844 2 copies
Engineer Orders, Nos. 1 to 11 inclusive for 1844, & No. 1 for 1845
General Orders, Nos. 2. 4. 5. 8. 9. 10. 17. 21. 29. 30. 33. 40. 45. 46. & 47
War Department Regulations of Jany. 18th Feb. 17 & 29. March 2 & 5. April 16th. June 10. July 11. Aug. 31 & Nov 4th with a mem. of 5th Nov., all for 1844 -

12 Setts, drawings of shot furnaces, 3 sheets each - 1 copy
Presidents Message, & accompanying Documents - I have the honor
to be very respectfully Your most Obedient

JOS. G. TOTTON
Col. & Chf Engr

*See Index

FROM M. Knowlton to General Morion¹

Paris, 2 February 1845

My dear General,

May I present Colonel Thayer, United States Engineer officer and, for a long time, Commandant of the military school of that nation at West Point. It is not necessary to eulogize so distinguished an officer as Colonel Thayer. And, since you were kind enough to say that you would be pleased to meet him, I hasten to serve as intermediary so that two officers for whom I have such great respect and gratitude may come to know each other. Your very obedient servant,

M. KNOWLTON

¹ Original in French

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Naples Feb'y 14th 1845

Sir:

I had the honor to address you from Vienna in the Beginning of November. I left there on the 6th for Trieste having previously viewed the Engineering Academy & the topographical establishment & obtained permission to see the Military Academy at Neustadt & the fortifications at Trieste & Vienna & also (Franzens Feste) in the Tyrol. From Trieste I went to Greece thence to Egypt ascending the Nile as far as Cairo & ancient Memphis I returned to Alexandria & thence proceeded by Melta & Sicily to this place which I reached on the 18th of Jany. I found here a communication from Prime, Ward & King including a letter of credit on Hottingeur & Co* Paris for £ 200. "to be appropriated to a particular object connected with the War Dept."

My last communication from the Department was that dated in the beginning of July as previously acknowledged,

I am to set out in either two or three days for Rome where I propose to remain till the 1st of April. I am very respectfully
Your obdt servt

S. THAYER Lt. Col Engrs.
B't Col.

Col. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM Joesph G. Totten*

Engineer Department
Washington 5 March 1845

Col: S Thayer
Corps of Engineers

Sir

I have been directed by the Secy of War to transmit you a copy of the report & Catalogue of books submitted by a Board of Officers of which Major Genl (Winfield) Scott* was President, with instructions to make the Catalogue your general guide as to subjects etc, and with liberty to exercise your discretion when you may find later or better authors to substitute them for those named; in order that you may purchase them the Library of the War Department, to which it is proposed to add them.

You will understand that you have full authority to Substitute later editions as well as better authors on the same subjects, for those named in the Catalogue; and that is desired, provided you can conveniently make the arrangement, that you should purchase the English works named in the Catalogue. The American works can be obtained in this Country.

The whole Sum applicable to the purchase of these books, & which will be placed at your disposal for the purpose, is Sixteen hundred dollars, & which you must be careful not to exceed.

The Secy of War has this day been requested to cause the sum of twelve hundred dollars, which are now available, to be deposited with Messrs Prime Ward & King of the City of N. York to your credit; & the remaining Sum of four hundred dollars on the 1st of July next, when the new appropriation becomes available.

I have to request that you will make the purchases of the books in question at your earliest Convenience, to the extent of the funds at your disposal, & forward them to the City of New York properly marked directed to the Secy of War, & advise this office of their transmission.

A Copy of the Catalogue & letter from the Secy of War are herewith transmitted. I am very Respectfully Your Most Obedt

JOS. G. TOTTEN
Col & Chf Engr

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Florence Tuscany
April 16th 1845

Col. J. G. Totten,
Chief Engineers.

Sir:

I had the honor to address you from Naples about the middle of Feb'y. On my arrival at Rome I rec'd your communication of January 13t.

My present purpose is to be at Paris & London in the course of July where I hope to receive the Catalogue which was to be made out by the Board of Officers appointed for that object & also such further instructions as you & Col. (George) Talcott* may think proper to communicate in relation to purchases for your respective departments I am very respectfully your obt
servt

S. THAYER Lt. Col. Engrs.
Bt Col.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing

FROM (George Moore)*

(May 5, 1845)

Dear Sir

According to your desire I send the Box which you left in my charge, to the Care of Mr Valentine Amern Consul at Venice by the Steamer which leaves tomorrow morning -

Regretting that it does not appear to be your Intention to visit Trieste again I am Dear Sir Yours respectfully

(GEO. MOORE) Trieste 5 May 1845

Col. Thayer Venice

*See Index

FROM R. W. Wickliffe, Jr.*

Turin Monday 5 P.M.
June 9th 1845

Dear Sir.

I hasten to inform you according to promise that I have this moment received a Note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that the Minister of War has given the necessary order so that you may be permitted to visit the Citadel of Alexandria. The Minister at the same time informs me that this permission is seldom or never granted without the express command of the King himself. You will therefore, I doubt not fully appreciate the politeness of the government of this country in according you a favor, usually obtained only by an application to His Majesty in person. I am happy to have been the instrument of accomplishing your wish in this respect. I have some fears that this hasty note may not reach you in time & as I am anxious that you may make your intended visit, I will thank you to acknowledge its receipt. A copy of this is also sent to you at Alexandria but it will be unnecessary to take it from the Post Office if this comes safely to hand. Believe me, Sir, yr. obedt Ser.v't

R. WICKLIFFE JR

Col. Thayer U. S. Engineers Genoa

*See Index

FROM M. Pauluccio¹

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
of the
DIVISION OF GENOA¹

Colonel Tayer, in the service of the United States of America,
is authorized to visit the fortifications of this place. ---
This authorization is valid for three days, also for the
persons with him. The Governor M PAULUCCIO
12 June 1845

¹ Original in Italian

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

London, July 20, 1845

Col. J. G. Totten,
Chief Engineer

Sir:

My last report was written in March last at Rome & forwarded by private conveyance there being no opportunity of transmitting it otherwise without the payment of a heavy postage. No similar mode of conveyance having since resumed, I have omitted to write you again 'till now.

I left Italy on the 27th of June, passed from 2 or 3 weeks in Switzerland, stopped to see the _____ Armory etc at Strassburgh, then rapidly descended the Rhine to Cologne passed by Liege & Ostend & reached London yesterday. While in Italy I saw most of the places _____ things of much interest in a professional point of view including the new fortifications & especially the detached forts at Vienna & Genoa. I passed the Swiss Alps by these different routes - viz. The Spulgen, the St. Bernard & the Simplon & regret that I was unable to take the other new roads over the mountains, viz the Stelvio, St Gotthard & Mt Cenis. I had intended to see Frankfort in the Tyrol but could not for want of time, being anxious to reach England as soon as possible in order to complete my proposed tour in the Kingdom during the favorable season. I propose to leave London forthwith for the North Thames by Ireland to the west & _____ south of England & may not return here in less than 6 or 8 weeks. I will then have _____ time in executing the orders I have rec'd relative to the purchase of books, etc. No letters from the Department have been rec'd since my departure from Naples but such as have arrived for me at Paris will be bro't to me by Mr. (Charles) Parker* who left me at Geneva with the intention of rejoining me _____ about this time. I have the honor to be
your obdt servt

S. THAYER Lt. Col. Engr
Bt Col

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM Edward Everett*

46 Grosvenor Place
23 July 1845

My dear Sir,

I enclose you a letter for Col. Sabine; together with Sir George Murray's answer to my application, in favor of Messrs Powell & Harwood. Those gentlemen, however, afterwards told me that they saw about all they wished to: I shall this day apply to Sir G. Murray to permit you to visit the Arsenal at Woolwich, & to the first Lord of the Admiralty for permission to visit the Dockyard at that place, & also at Chatham, Portsmouth, & Plymouth.- I must request you to return me Sir G. Murray's letter, as it is the only copy in my possession. -

The permission for you to visit the arsenal at Woolwich will be sent to me. The permission for you to visit the dockyards will be sent down to those establishments respectively, & you will have only to send in your name. I am, Dear Sir, with great regard,
Sincerely yours
Lt Col Thayer

EDWARD EVERETT

*See Index

FROM Edward Everett*

46 Grosvenor Place
24 July 1845.

Dear Sir,

I send you the permit from the Master General of the Ordnance to see the Arsenal at Woolwich. I have not yet received information from the Admiralty that the Orders have been sent down for your admission to the dockyards, but I have no doubt I shall be advised to that effect in the course of the day. Ever faithfully yours,

EDWARD EVERETT

*See Index

FROM Lord Haddington to Edward Everett*

Lord Haddington presents his Compliments to the American Minister and has the honor to acquaint his Excellency, that he has had great pleasure in giving the necessary orders to admit Lieut: Colonel Thayer to visit Her Majesty's Dock Yards at Woolwich, Chatham, Portsmouth, and Plymouth - Admiralty.

24: July. 1845

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

London July 27, 1845

Col. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer

Sir:

Mr. (Charles) Parker* has arrived with my letters from Paris and I have now the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of March 5th with the papers therein referred to. On returning to London, after my projected tour thro' parts of England, Scotland & Ireland, which I propose to make as rapidly as possible, - which it seems advisable not to postpone in consideration of the lateness of the season; I will have time in making the purchases indicated in the several instructions I have rec'd.

I bro't with me to England a list of the books then composing the Library of the Engineers Department. If any additions have since been made thereto, please to furnish me with a list of the books. I have the honor to be very respectfully yr. obt servt

S. THAYER, Lt.Col.Engrs
Bt Col.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM Edward Everett*

46 Grosvenor Place
28 July 1845

Dear Sir,

I have received information from the first Lord of the Admiralty that he has given orders for Mr (Charles) Parker* to the various Dock yards of Woolwich, Chatham, Portsmouth & Plymouth. - Ever sincerely yours,

EDWARD EVERETT

*See Index

FROM James A. Door

6 Clifford St. (Bond St.)

July 29. 1845

Dear Sir,

I cannot allow you to leave London, without having expressed to you again my acknowledgement for the interest you have shown in the Lock and Primers, which I had the pleasure of exhibiting to you this morning. It certainly is a matter of considerable satisfaction to me that these objects have received your decided approval - so far as the experiments made are concerned.

I trust that you will remember your promise to give me notice immediately upon your return to London. A note addressed to me care of

Messrs Coats & Co
13 Bread Street
Ch(ea)pside

will be delivered promptly.

Wishing you and your travelling companion a pleasant tour
I am Very truly Yours, etc
Col. Thayer

JAMES A. DORR.

FROM George Welcker*

Engineer Department
Washington, 25 August 1845.

Col. S. Thayer
Corps of Engineers

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters from London, respectively dated the 20th and 27th July last. -

On the 16th inst, the Secretary of War (Wm. L. Maray)* was requested to cause to be placed in the hands of Messrs. Prime, Ward & King, the sum of four hundred dollars, subject to your order, to enable you to comply with the directions of the Department, as per letter of the 5th March last.

The only additions to the Engineer Department library worthy of note, since the list furnished you are as follows, viz:

___ Experiences faites en vertu des ordres de son exc. le ministre de la Guerre - sur de nouveaux magazines a Poudre-folio - Par M. le Baron Champy.

___ Histoire de Combats d'Aboukir, d'Algesiras, de Trafalgar, etc etc

Potevin P.S. Fortification - Notions sur le Défilement, folio - Paris 1844.- very respectfully your most obdt.

GEO. L. WELCKER

Lt-Engrs in charge of Dept

In absence of
Col. Totten

Memoranda:

- 31 May 1845 - Lieut. (Daniel P.) Woodbury* ordered to relieve Lieut. (James H.) Trapier*, at Smithville, North Carolina, retaining charge of Fort Macon.
- 31 May '45 Lieut. Trapier ordered to relieve Lt. (Danville) Leadbetter* at Oswego, N. York.
- 31 May '45 Lieut. Leadbetter ordered to New York City to enter into contracts for supplies of materials at the North for distant works; to make purchases, and forward articles to Engineer officers at distant stations, etc
- 16th June '45 Capt. J(oseph) K. F. Mansfield* granted leave of absence for four months from 1st. July proximo.
- 10th July '45 Lieut (Henry L.) Eustis* ordered from Boston to relieve Lieut. (James L.) Mason* at Newport, Rhode Island. -
- 10th July '45 Lieut. Mason ordered to relieve Capt. (Henry) Brewerton* at Rouse's Point, New York -
- 10 July '45 Capt. Brewerton ordered to West Point, New York, to relieve Major (Richard) Delafield,* as Superintendent of the Military Academy.

The President of the United States (James K. Polk)* having directed that Captain and subaltern of the Corps of Engineers be detailed for duty under Genl. (Zachary)* Taylor, in Texas-

Captain (John) Sanders* & Lieut. (Jeremiah) Scarritt,* was ordered on the

8th August '45 to repair to Aransas Bay, Texas, and report to Genl Taylor for duty.

11th August '45 Ordered to Capt. Sanders revoked by the Secy of War & Capt. Mansfield ordered to Texas in his stead.

18th August '45 At the request of Capt Sanders the Secy of War directed that the countermanding order of the 11th be revoked, that the original order of the 8th be revived, & that Capt. Sanders proceed to Texas accordingly.

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Totten*

Engineer Department
Washington 11th Sept 1845

Col S. Thayer
Corps of Engineers,

Sir;

You will receive herewith Engineer Order No. 5, of the 8th inst. re-organizing the Board of Engineers, and assigning to duty the officers lately graduated & promoted in the Corps of Engineers - also a Circular of the 10th inst, enumerating the duties which have been lately assigned to Lieut. (Danville) Leadbetter,* & informing the officers of the Corps that he is ready to attend to such matters of business, for them, as they may choose to transact through him in the City of New York, etc,-

It is not improbable that Lieut Leadbetter will endeavor to communicate with you before you leave Europe, and that he will solicit your aid in the formation of such arrangements as will enable him to procure supplies of mineral tar, and asphaltic stone, etc - and this Dept will be gratified if you will extend to him such assistance in this matter as you can render without inconvenience to yourself, & without interfering with your contemplated movements. I am very Respectfully Your Most Obedt

JOS. G. TOTTEN Col
& Chf Engr

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

Unofficial:

London, Oct 4, 1845

My dear Colonel:

On arriving here yesterday I had the very good pleasure to receive your private letter of the 11th ult. with the letter & papers enclosed therewith - & also your communication of Aug. 25th. You see I have asked leave to remain abroad 'till next June - I named that protracted period to guard against all contingencies but hope that I may be able to return sooner. I desire to be in Paris about the 1st of next month & will then see whether it be possible to obtain copies of the drawings made by the French of St. Juan d'Ulúa & Vera Cruz. It is at least doubtful as the French government maintains a close alliance (entente cordiale) with the English & seems little pleased with our acquisition of Texas (The idea of placing an officer of the Corps at New York for the purpose specified in your circular of the 10th ult. is a happy one. With respects to asphalt alone, a better article will be furnished at 2/3 the former cost. I will take the liberty to suggest that the officer be authorized to engage the services of an intelligent & experienced applicateur who might probably be employed all the year round on the fortifications at the North or at the South or at the Depot in preparing the material or if not always required for these purposes, might I should think, find employment on Civil works in New York City. The stone should probably be imported direct from Marseilles and the tar from Bayonne I have a memo. from the proprietor (of the Pyrimont Leyssel) Quarry from which it appears that the stone can be delivered on board a vessel at Marseilles for 81-1/2 francs or \$15-1/2 per Ton meaning 1000 Kilo grammes. The freight need cost little as the material would often be wanted for ballast - not exceeding price of \$2 or \$2-1/2 per ton. I shall take pleasure in procuring for Lt. (Danville) Leadbetter* any information he may desire or rendering any other services in my power. I have been thro' a great part of England, Scotland & Ireland, and from necessity much too rapidly for pleasure, health or profit. I walked over the only fortification of importance in Scotland viz _____ commanding the entrance from Moray Firth to the harbor of Inverness. It is an efficient work. I also saw enpassant the works now in progress for improving the Caledonian Canal. In Ireland the only harbour requiring (extensive) works for defense is Cork. The Cove is a magnificent harbour & is rendered perfectly secure by a system of earth works some of which were recently built. The only military or trench establishments I have yet seen in England were then at Portsmouth. The old fortifications to defend the entrance of the harbor are formidable - yet more batteries & forts for that purpose are undergoing construction. I had intended to go from Bristol to Plymouth but was prevented by bad health which impelled me to hasten to London. I hope yet to see it before quitting England as well as Woolwich, Chatham & Dover. I am dear Colonel very respectfully yours
S. THAYER
Col. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

London, October 4th, 1845

Col. J. G. Totten,
Chief Engineer,

Sir:

Altho' I would probably be able to execute the commission I have rec'd in time to return to the United States before the expiration of my furlough in December next, yet as my health is not fully reestablished I would wish to remain in some mild climate on this side of the Atlantic during the ensuing winter & Spring if it meets with the approbation of the War Department. I have accordingly to ask that you will be pleased to present an application on my behalf requesting an extension of my furlough for six months or to the end of June 1846. If the request is granted I would nevertheless endeavor to return in the month of May should there be no unforeseen obstacles to prevent. - It is of course understood that I return sooner if the exigencies of the service require a forthwith without waiting for orders in the event of our Country being involved in War. I have the honor to be Very respectfully Your obedient servant

S. THAYER, Lt. Col. Engrs
Bt Col.

*See Index

¹ No original available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

London, Oct, 18, 1845

Sir:

Enclosed herewith is an invoice of books purchased on acct of War & Engineer Dept & shipped on board the packet ship James which is to sail this day. The box is marked "War Department" to the care of the U. S. Quartermaster, New York". It contains all the English books ordered except those noted in the appendix which when procured will be duly forwarded. It contains also three works not ordered, viz. (Griffith on Mil'y Law, Losslin on Light hoops & Gliys History of the Standing Army) costing altogether eleven shillings & three pence. If these works be already in the Library or not wanted they will be considered belonging to me & the amount refunded.

The British Gunner by Captain (James Morton) Spearman is substituted for Adyes (Ralph Willett Adyes) pocket Gunner which is out of print.

The books for the Engineer Department are mostly _____ of books now in the Library of the Department.

I intend to be in Paris by the 1st of Nov. and shall loose no time in forwarding the remainder of the books ordered I have the honor to be very respectfully Your obed servt

S THAYER Lt.Col. Engrs.
Bt Col.

Capt. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

(Oct. 18, 1845)

'copy'

Extract from Invoice of Books, purchased in Europe

Col. S. Thayer -

| For Engineer Department | | nett |
|--|--------|----------|
| 1 Papers of Royal Engineers vol 5, 6 & 7 | | 4 6 - |
| 1 Nam'm Brit. Architect, vol 2 Pt 1-24/ | | 1 - - |
| 1 Civil Engineers Vol 2 | 28/ | 1 3 - |
| 1 - - - Vol.3 | 2-12-6 | 2 5 - |
| 1 Jebbs Practical Treatises | 5/ | - 4 3 |
| 1 Aids Memoir | 14/ | 12 - |
| 1 Paul' y Report on Tidal Waters | | - 2 - |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | £ 9-12-3 |

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Totten*¹

London, Oct. 20t 1845

Col. J. G. Totten,
Chief Engineer

Sir:

By the steamer of the 20th from Liverpool you will receive Invoice of the books forwarded by the S. James for the War & Engineer Departments but as these bills did not include the charges for freight, etc. I now transmit duplicates with those expenses included & Have the honor to be Very respectfully Your
obdt servt

S THAYER, Lt. Col. Engrs.
Bt Col.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Totten?*¹

Extract from an Invoice of Books purchased by Col. Thayer
Paris. 22nd November 1845

| <u>"Pour de department du Genie"</u> | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----|------|
| 174 | "Ste Marie Servia de l'artillerie dans Parmeneut des placed et des cotes 1 vol gd so | 5 | 4 30 |
| 175 | _ey de Petins Description de la Nouvelle Citadelle de Gaud 1 vol 4 ^o | 10 | 8 50 |

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Totten*

Paris Nov. 27th 1845

Sir

A box containing the books I have purchased here for the War Department has been forwarded by the packet "Dutchess of Orleans which sailed from Havre on the 24th instant. It is marked "War Department Washington care of U.S. Quarter Master N.Y." An invoice accompanies the box. A duplicate invoice is transmitted herewith. It includes all the works in french named in the list transmitted to me from the Dept. except the following No^s 6 & 17 not yet published, No^s 20 bis, 21, 30, 41, 42, 54, 59, 74, 95, 109, 111, 114, 128, 133, 140 & 155, out of print. It is hoped that most of these will be obtained but it will require time to find them. No 172 has not been found in any Catalogue. If the work does not exist or cannot be found shall some other work on the same subject be substituted? No 151 (Sea) was purchased but while the books were being packed was ascertained to be defective & there was not time to change it. A copy of 155 was found (priced 43 francs) & will be purchased if on comparing it with the copy in the Museum of Artillery I find it to be perfect. The price demanded for No. 23 was so high that I did not think it worth while to make any offer without further instructions. probably 2000f. possibly not less than 2500 or 3000 f. would be accepted. I would wish to know the highest price the Dept. would authorise me to pay if it cannot be had for less. For three of the works viz. No^s 37, 61, & 165 I have been obliged to pay a trifle more than the original publishing price. On several others, principally those published by the Government, there was no abatement For the rest of which the publishing or retail price amounted to 2464.5 francs I paid only 1907 francs. The difference being 557.5 francs & amounting to a remission of Twenty two & two thirds 22 2/3 per cent. This I hope will be considered as a satisfactory result expecially as the rabais on military works is much less than would be made on books of a different character such for instance as those on litterature

To the books for the War Dept I have added two for the Engr. Dept. They are probably of little value but are the only technical works I have met with that I deemed worth sending. The 14^t Number of the Memorial du génie has appeared but the price asked for it (viz 40 f) seemed so exorbitant that I did not venture to purchase it. Supposing that the Dept., considering the time that has lapsed since the order was forwarded to me, would naturally wish to have the books with the least possible delay I have sent them unbound except Two works viz 89 & 166 which consisting of numerous parts I have had bound as the best mode of ascertaining that they were complete. I would wish to be informed whether the Dept desires the continuation of these periodicals & if so how they shall be forwarded & particularly whether each number shall be forwarded as soon as it appears & thro' what channel or, whether the numbers shall be retained here 'till each volume be complete. As most of the books were purchased thro' Mons. (Hector) Bossange I have, for simplicity sake, had the whole included in his Bill.

My Agent in London informs me that he can procure the Mechanics Magazine complete to the end of 1844 half bound calf 41 volumes for £9. & I have authorised him to purchase it He has also purchased (Markhouse's) Soldiers _____ 7^s/ & (John) Muller's Treatise on Artillery with plates 1780 5^s/6^d.

The cost of all the works named in the list of the War Dept (except no 23) will not much exceed \$600. Accordingly there will remain at my disposition about \$1000. Should it please the Dept. to furnish me with another list of books to be purchased here or elsewhere in Europe I can only promise that the order shall be executed promptly & to the best of my ability. I have the honor to be very respectfully your obedt servt

S. THAYER Lt Col Engr
Bt Col.

Col. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington

*See Index

(12 Dec 1845)

Mr. & Mrs. Greene, request the favour of Colonel Thayer's
company on Wednesday evening next 17th December

Friday 12th December

R.S.V.P.

26, Place St. Georges, 26

FROM Hector Bossange¹

Mr Hector Bossange requests the honor of the presence of Colonel Thayer at an informal dinner at his home this coming Saturday, 20 December. Colonel Thayer will be most welcome.

Thursday, 18 December 1845

¹ Original in French