

U S Military Academy

West Point ^{Oct} Sept 1st 48

Dear Brother

I received your kind, and truly welcome letter of the 20th of Sept: some four or five days ago, and would have answered it as soon as I got it but I could not possibly spare the time. for I have had long and difficult lessons all this week. We have got as far as equations of the second degree. I will tell you the method of pursuing studies at this institution, and you can judge as to the difficulties of the course. We have to demonstrate every rule before we are allowed to use it. And to get the general solution of the problems and discuss them. And if in deducing a rule, or in discussing a problem we make use of any word that is not ~~proper~~ proper, we cannot get credit for a perfect lesson. So you see that to get a maximum for the week is rather a difficult matter. To show you that I have not taken advantage of the assistance you have offered me in sending me the statements of the ~~the~~ problems. but have relied entirely upon my own exertions. I have not had to refer to your statements but once. all the rest I worked out myself nor did I find half as much difficulty as I had anticipated. And I have come to the conclusion that ~~the~~ to solve the problems is not half the work.

Since I wrote you last I have been transferred from the lowest section to the third, ^{in both Mathematics and Ethics} if I only retain my present position

there will be no danger of my being found deficient, at the final examination, and this I can do without any trouble; But I can and will stand a good deal higher than I do at present. You say that you used to study twelve hours per. day when you were at college. I do not study as much as that and for a very good reason, that is I do not have as much time free from military duties, I will tell you how my time is divided, and you can see for yourself ~~if~~ whether I could make any improvement upon the way ~~it~~ I occupy it.

I get up at five O'clock every morning and study until seven, a half or three quarters of an hour of this time is, however, taken up in dressing and going to reveille roll call. After breakfast we are released from quarters until eight. this time is generally taken up in showing some two or three fellows from Ohio, who do not get along very well, how to ~~do~~ work the problems, and how to deduce the rules which comes in their lessons. From eight until half past nine I apply my-self to my books, at which time I go to the section room to recite my lesson in mathematics which takes up an hour and a ~~to~~ half. After coming from the section room I have nothing to do but to study (with the exception of going to dinner) until three in the afternoon, when I have to go and recite my Grammar lesson. At four the corps has to turn out and drill, which generally lasts an hour and a ~~to~~ half. The rest of the time until eight O'clock is taken up in going to parade and various other ~~at~~ military duties. At ten every cadet has to be in bed, but they are not allowed to go to bed until half past nine so you see that about eight hours is all that is allowed us

to get our lessons ~~in~~ and I can assure you that I do not ~~hide~~ any
of it away.

We have changed the summer pants for the winter
pants, and I think the corps looks ~~for~~ much ~~and~~ more
military in the gray pants with a black stripe, than in the white.

I have purchased a Webster's Large Dictionary with
the money you sent me in your last letter.

I have a great-deal more to say but I
have not time at present, as I am on guard to day, you must
excuse this poorly written and poorly composed letter as I had
but very little time. I would not send this at all but if I do not
~~if~~ you would have to wait another week for I do not have
time to write letters only on Saturdays and Sundays.

I am glad you have so good an opinion of
Miss Florence Stewart, and as you say, I have taken quite
a shine to her, but it will be time enough for me to
think about the ladies after I have finished my course of
studies.

Give my love to all our family

To

W B Woods

Newark Ohio

Truly your Brother, in love

Chas. R Woods

U S Military Academy.

P.S. Tell Father that I will write to him as soon as I
can get time. I have written to Mr Duncan.

-C R W