

U S Military Academy
West Point ~~9th~~ 1861

Dear Brother

I received your kind letter of the 28th ult. on the 3rd inst, and I can assure you that I was right glad to see it. Indeed I had almost given up all hopes of hearing from Newark again; your letter of the 25th of Jan was the last I received until this one, and besides what you have written me, I have only received two this year, one of them was from Dell Halmes, and the other from a friend in Warthington. Somehow or other, my correspondants all seem to have forgotten me, at least they are very from being punctual, although I have endeavored to impress upon their minds, both by precept and example, the necessity of being punctual: but it is no use, they appear to be getting worse and worse, in spite of all their promises, which they make in every letter, to do better in future. I would retaliate by waiting as long as they do, if it was not so much easier to answer a letter as soon as it is received.

Hereafter, when anything takes place that you think would be interesting to me, I want you to tell me all about it, and not depend upon any person else, ^{up} For each one of my correspondants, seems to think that some person else, has told

me all that has taken place, so by depending upon each other they make out to keep all the news to themselves. For my part I would much rather get the same news twice or even half a dozen times, than not to get it at all.

From the number of parties you enumerate as having taken place lately I should judge that Newark was quite gay. I think I could enjoy myself very much if I were at home, but there is no use in my thinking of enjoying myself until I graduate, or at least until next encampment.

I have been thinking for some time past, that I would apply for orders as soon as I graduate, and not take my furlough until ~~the~~ sometime in the winter following. I am sure I should enjoy myself much better in the winter than in the summer. But I cannot tell what I shall do until the time comes. The probability is, however, that I will be so anxious to get home that I will improve the first opportunity.

I have just finished Astronomy and will commence ~~at~~ Optics again on Monday, which will only take about three weeks, as we were half through it when we commenced Astronomy. I will get through Chemistry in three more lessons, and will ^{then} commence the general review which will take until about the first of June. We have first-rate rides every other day, but I find it a little inconvenient to ride with a great sabel hanging to my side, as for the spurs I find them very handy particularly when I get a horse that is inclined to be ~~lazy~~ ^{loose}, which is very often the case.

I have commenced reading Prescott's Conquest

of Mexico and find it very interesting. I think I shall read
all his works. In fact I think I shall read more in future
than I have done thus far, for it is not likely that I shall
ever ^{again} have so good a chance, and such an excellent selection
of books to choose from

You must excuse my short letter
for I cannot think of any thing else to write. Please tell
Mary, Dell Halmer & Nell Curtiss that I am waiting very
anxiously to hear from them

Give my love to all our family

Truly your brother
Chas. R. Woods