

U S Military Academy
West Point Nov 9th 1851

Dear Brother

Your last, and I must say exceedingly short letter came duly to hand. The only excuse I have to offer for not writing sooner is that I wrote to Eliza the day before I received your letter, and consequently had nothing to communicate. And I can assure you that what I have to say at present will not occupy a great deal of room.

I have to commence the study of Stone-cutting to-morrow, and to make drawings of all the different kinds of arches, which will take me about a week or ten days. I have had quite an easy time for the last six weeks, but from this on to the Jan. examination I shall have my hands full. So you need not expect to hear from me again until I have been examined in Engineering. I have a splendid ride every other day, and am getting the fifth mark in the class. We jump our horses over a pole which two or three times every time we ride, which is the best sports I ever had in the riding line.

Tell Father if he has any colts to broke to the saddle next summer, that I am just the chap that can do it for him. In fact I have a very high opinion of my horsemanship, and will show you some specimen of it when I come home

I attended a dancing party last evening at the Hotel, given by Mrs Gen. Scott. Miss Ella Scott was present and looked quite pretty. There were only ten ladies present, and about twenty five cadets, but you must not think that we were not well entertained because there were so many cadets and so few ladies. For Mrs Scott generally takes it upon herself to entertain fifteen or twenty, and she does it better than most of the young ladies do. The music and dancing were fine and every person seemed to enjoy themselves very much. But what pleased me most was the collation, which consisted of Cakes Sandwiches fruits & hot Caffer and ~~Chocolate~~ Chocolate. Mrs Scott leaves West Point on Monday, and will not return until June

Tell Mary and Eliza that I expect to hear from them very soon Give my love to all our family

Truly your Brother
Chas. H. Woods