

U S Military Academy
West Point Feb 29th 1852

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 21st inst came duly to hand, and I was highly gratified to hear that things were going on so smoothly in Newark. I am glad to learn that Major Brice has succeeded in getting an appointment in the Paymaster Department, I hope he will be assigned to the same division as myself.

I have taken a good deal of pains to inform myself of the relative advantages presented by the different branches of the service, to graduates of the Academy, and I have settled definitively on either the Infantry or Artillery. With reference to the Artillery I agree with Major Brice that there are many inducements to go into that corps, in preference to the Infantry, among which the pleasantness of the Artillery stations over the Infantry is not the least

But there are objections to the Artillery, which to me are almost insurmountable. To enjoy all the happiness accruing to an ^{artillery} officer from his position in society, supposes an element necessary for the production of happiness, which unluckily I do not possess, that element is money. The pleasant stations you are aware are situated along the Atlantic sea-board, where the pay of a second Lieut. is insufficient to defray his expenses. It would no doubt be extremely pleasant for a man who has a large fortune to back him to be stationed along the Atlantic coast. But for one like myself who has to depend upon his salary it would be extremely disagreeable. Besides Promotion upon the whole, is not so rapid in the Artillery as in the ~~Infantry~~ for Infantry. There are various other reasons why I think I had better go into the Infantry, one of which is, I do not know that I shall graduate high enough, and if I did I would probably be the third or fourth Brevet in the Reg. from my class, and it would in all probability be a year or eighteen months before I became a full second Lieut. I ordered the Infantry uniform two or three weeks ago.

You know Brother that you promised

upon certain conditions to make me a present of a gold watch, but as I have not fulfilled those conditions I cannot expect you to fulfill your part. Nor would I have been willing for you to ^{highly} do so, even if I had come out ^{than} you required, after your losses by the failure of A. J. Smith.

But as it is necessary for me to have a watch of some kind, and I think an officer in the U. S. Army ought to sport a gold one, I have been discussing the propriety of leaving about one hundred dollars of my bill with Mr. Earle unpaid, and getting a watch when I go down to N. Y. City.

As I shall not want to use more than three hundred dollars next summer I will give you until the first of Oct. to pay the remaining five hundred. If you will advance me what I shall want to pay my graduating accounts, about the first of May, I shall not in all probability want more than two hundred dollars at that time.

You will perhaps be glad to hear that I have finished up my course in Engineering, and will commence drawing my last problem tomorrow which will keep me busy three hours a day for the next six weeks, after which I will have six

weeks for general review, and twenty days for
the examination

Please write as soon as you can
and tell Father that I should like to hear from him
Give my love to all our family.

Truly your brother
Chas M Woates