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Mr Wm B Woods
Newark Ohio



Worthington. Sept

Dear Brother

I received your letter of the 19th. And was happy to hear that you think I am still improving, and that my last letter was the best spelled of them all. The art of spelling, (as you say) is not to be learned in a day, but requires much time labor and attention all of which I devote to it, and shall continue to devote to it untill I am master of the art. You think I am more deficient ⁱⁿ penmanship than any other branch necessary to the examination I shall have to undergo. I have not paid as much attention to writing as I might have done, but will take more pains in future. I am very happy to hear that Mary has got home. This term will be out in about a month but we will not have any vacation till Christmas. I suppose Father intends to have me continue here another term. If so it will be necessary for me to come home and get my winter clothes. Does Father intend to visit the springs this fall. if he does I hope he will call and see me. I do not know that I have any thing more to say at present so I will commence my ^{next} ~~four~~

Sept 16th Arose at half past 6 My lessons
to-day were all well-gotten. Nothing of any
importance has taken place. Sept 17th Arose
at 6 I recited my lessons tolerably well to-
day, but not as well as usual, for I had
a composition to write which took most
of my time. This evening I attended the
sewing society at Mr Hoyts. I spent the
evening very pleasantly. There was about
twenty ladies, and only five gentlemen. we
had our hands full in waiting on them. I
helped the ladies all I could which was not
much. It rained all the evening, and we had
quite a time to get the ladies home. Sept 18th
Arose at 7 There was no school to-day so
I have spent the day in writing and taking
exercise. Sept 19th Arose at half past 6 I
attended the Episcopal ~~in~~ Church this
morning and heard Mr Nash preach his
first sermon. I think it was superior to any
sermon I have heard for a long time. I
intended to have gone into the country for
some peaches, but it rained so I had to give
it up. Sept 20th Arose at half past 6 I had
my lessons very well to-day. This evening
I went home with one of my schoolmates
and he gave me some very fine peaches.
I received quite a compliment from Mr

ask this evening about my composition
he asked me if it was original - and
said it sounded very well, and that he
did not see any defect in it when I was
reading it; however he found some room
for improvement in looking over it; and
three words misspelled and a few mistakes
in punctuation. I corrected a composition
to day and found thirty two words mis-
spelled. Sept 21st - rose at half past 6 I had
my lessons very well to day. This evening
I called on a young lady - and spent an
hour very pleasantly. Sept 22nd - rose at
6. My lessons to day were recited well.
This evening after school I took a walk
down to Mr. Cleavelands - and got some very
fine preaches. At night I attended a demo-
cratic meeting in the college, the meeting
was addressed by Mr. Gilbert the demo-
cratic candidate for representative, but he
may as well save his breath for he cannot
be elected. I had an invitation to a
sewing society this evening but I did
not attend. Give my love to Aunt O'Bannon
and all our family. I remain truly your Brother
W. B. Woods. - Chas R Woods
P.S. The inclosed is a copy of my last
composition.

On Ambition

There are many kinds of ambition, or rather it appears in many forms; and its being beneficial or injurious depends on the object it has in view. Ambition to excel in literary attainments is useful. It gives the possessor energy and perseverance to overcome all obstacles that may arise to impede his progress. It makes him industrious, and causes him to bring into active exercise all his reasoning powers; and to fix them on the object of his pursuit. It makes him sedate and thoughtful; he seeks retirement; he loves to be alone; and thus separated from the world he pursues his object, and step by step he mounts the ladder until he has arrived at the highest pinnacle of literary fame. And if he has no other object in view than that of becoming wise: he ~~will~~ wears the laurels already gained with honor to himself and to all that are connected with him. But on the other hand when ambition aims at power only for the sake of exercising authority its course is ruinous. The individual on whom this kind of ambition has laid its hands, and whose breast it has fired with the hope of being great and powerful, may always be seen in the public places watching and taking advantage of every change in public sentiment. A smile is

(If you have to pay double postage on this) I will not send any more

always on his countenance; he knows every body, or at least he feigns to know them. And thus by rapid strides he pushes on till he has grasped the object on which all his energies have been bent. He is perhaps a President, a King an Emperor or a Pope. No matter which of these stations he may have acquired, he now appears in his true character. If a President he chooses his cabinet from those of his friends over who he has the most influence who will favor any design his ambition may present. If a King an Emperor or a Pope he sways the scepter over his subjects, and rules them with a rod of iron. That insidious smile and friendly deportment which he exhibited when aspiring to stations so far above him have disappeared, and given place to the knitted brow, and the stubborn determination to follow out his own ambitious desires. And to gratify his love of power, he involves his country in wars, drains its treasury, levies additional taxes on the people, runs the government into debt, to sustain these wars. And at last dies unregretted, and remembered only to be cursed.

Worthington Academy by C. R. Woods