

My dear Son

Ashland 3^d Sept. 1829.

I received your letter dated on board the Steam boat near Pittsburg, on the 21st ulto, narrating the numerous misadventures that occurred to you, in ascending the river. If you had disembarked at the mouth of Guyandotte you would have avoided them all, although you might have encountered others on that route.

I rejoice to learn that you are becoming satisfied about West Point. I hope that this letter will find you entirely reconciled to it. Desiring nothing more ardently than your success in life, and believing that it will greatly conduce to it, if you continue at the Point, I naturally feel much solicitude concerning it. Still, as I have repeatedly said to you, I do not wish to force you to remain there. You are now old enough to think correctly and act for yourself. My opinions I wish you to receive not as commands but as advice flowing from one who loves you much, and who proposes no other advantage over you than that of having lived somewhat longer.

Mame leaves here this day week. I shall go with her to Russellville. She and your mother are now in Woodford. All are well, except that my health is not quite as good as when you left us.

Your affle father

H. Clay Junr. Esq

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