

Ashland 25th June 1830

My dear Son

I received this day your letter of the 14th inst. When you went to West Point I told you that if you remained there three years I would not insist upon your continuing longer. I now submit to your own exclusive decision the point of your staying the last year. I do this under a belief that you now are more competent to judge of that matter than I am. If I were to express an opinion, it would be altogether founded on the use you may make of your time upon your return home. If you abandon or relax your studies, and surrender yourself to the whims too common to your age, I should think your quitting West Point will have been unfortunate.

Should you decide to resign, as I anticipate, I think it will be proper for you to observe the etiquette which belongs to that resolution, in reference to the Institution of the War Department.

I transmit herewith a check for \$100 to be applied to such necessary uses as you may think proper. You ought not to pay more than 1/2 per cent to get it discounted. If you want a further sum you may draw upon me for \$100 at eight in addition.

I expect to be at Columbus in Ohio from the 12th to the 20th of July. Should you decide to resign and come home, you may join me there and take a seat in my carriage with me to Ashland, or if you prefer it, you can pass directly from Wheeling down the river to Marysville.

Yr^s affectionately
D. Clay