

Olympian Springs 24th August 1830

My dear Jon

Your letters of the 4th and 12th Wldo. reached Oakland during my absence in the State of Ohio, and I have brought them here with some hundreds of other letters to be among the first which I should answer. Your mother, James, John, Henry C. Duvalde and I came here to remain a few days. We expect to return on Friday and to meet Anne, Mr. Erwin and Mr. Duvalde at Oakland.

Although I did not feel at liberty to oppose my opinion to your own, about your remaining at West point, I am truly rejoiced that you have concluded to pass the last year there. And now let me advise you to be content for the present, with the honors you have acquired, by the delivery of the two discourses which you have pronounced & not on any account suffer yourself to be prevailed upon to deliver another, but devote yourself steadily and constantly to the studies of the present year, recover the ground you have lost, and if possible win the first honor. We are too apt to divide our time and attention between a multitude of objects. There is no great success ever achieved without exclusive and persevering attention to a single one.

I have no communication with Col. Thayer. I am afraid that you entertain some prejudices against him. I think your account of his attentions to the Secy of War only proves that he is a very polite man as all know who are acquainted with him. Politeness was especially due from him towards the head of that department with which the Academy is connected. If his country has won the Secy may it not prove that he is easily operated upon? Does it necessarily demonstrate any charge of principle in the Col? To all men we should be civil.

But