

West Point

May 7th 1831

My dear Father

I have received your very kind letter transmitting to me 300 Dols. The intimation contained in your letter of a previous date, determined me at once, and conclusively, to return to Lexington immediately after my graduation: should I be permitted to travel with you, I shall esteem it an important favour; and one which will conduce, I hope, as much to my advantage, as to my delight.

On the subject of my future destination in life, my own opinion has frequently wavered; but I have always expected to leave it at last to your better judgment to decide for me. I will offer at this time but two suggestions, which may assist you in forming your decision. Whenever I am depressed by disappointments, or disagreeable reflections, when I long for ease and pleasure, even though it should be accompanied by obscurity and insignificance; I lean to the Army. But again whenever I am fired by ambition, when I elevate my thoughts to a survey of the eminence of your standing, and