

My dear Grandson

Washn. 23^d. Dec 1850

I have not had a letter from you since the adjournment of the last Session of Congress; but they send me the monthly official reports of your conduct at the Academy. I was glad to see that in the last the number of marks of demerit against you was diminished; but how much should I have been gratified if there had not been one! I hope that I shall soon see a report without any. If we economize our time well, & use early, do not waste it, there is enough for every thing. I want to hear from you, to know if you do not like the school better than you did, and if you are not resolved to strive for the first honor of your Class.

I wrote you that Susan and her children had returned home. James followed her a few weeks ago, and they were all at Ashland last week. He and I missed each other as we were proceeding in opposite directions on the mountains.

I brought Eugene Erwin with me. I wish to place him in one of the mercantile establishments at Boston or N. York, to learn the business of a merchant. You will have heard of the death of your grandmother Prather, about four weeks ago. Your brother Tommy had got well when I left home.

M. H. Clay Junr.