

67 E. 12th Ave  
Columbus, Ohio  
Oct. 14, 1943

Dear Uncle John:

Mother has written me that you planned to move today into the two vacant rooms in Rothrock's house on the corner. If everything went well, you should be well settled by the time this letter reaches you. It rather looks as if the coal I put in your cellar won't get too much use this winter, after all. Your two rooms ought to be much more economical to heat, however, besides being handy for Mrs. Hawk.

Mother feels that the change in your physical condition is quite serious. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than you to prove her wrong, which should not prove too difficult, since you know we Atwood's are pretty tough birds. At any rate, I'll be able to make my monthly trip home sometime about Halloween, and we should be able to get together then. I plan to bring along one of my college friends, a Mr. Paul Nathan. Paul is taking the same

engineering course that I am, and only last week he and I visited his parents, who live in Akron.

As you probably have noticed, these sheets of paper are not strictly Emily Post as far as letter stationery is concerned. However I usually use this variety ~~so~~ from force of habit, since most of my ~~too~~ school work is done on plain sheets. The studies are as tough as ever this quarter, but I have had no new subjects, since this quarter's work is just a hard continuation of the last. I'm taking Physics, Calculus, Mineralogy, and Quantitative Analysis, with Calculus and Physics being the hardest for me. Our Mineralogy is quite interesting, since our main job is the identification of rocks, and the valuable minerals found in them. We are given samples of known minerals in the laboratory, and by means of a definite procedure, including the determination of color, hardness, specific gravity (times rock is heavier than an equal volume of water) and the streak the ~~metal~~ mineral makes when scratched on a porcelain plate,

we are supposed to be able to name the mineral after referring to our handy tables including all the physical properties of the metals. Needless to say, I often make mistakes. Perhaps perfection will come with practice.

Since I was unable to carry any of the various books you gave me ~~to~~ to Columbus, I had mother mail part of them in the mailing bag. You were quite right about the Wellington biography by Guedalla being well written and interesting. Perhaps the author colors up the Duke's achievements just a little, but he certainly makes him appear the lovable old character. Most history books more or less pass up the Duke after making slight mention of his victory over Napoleon. I have yet to delve much into "Beacon Lights of History," but I plan to do that in the near future.

† Mother was telling me that you plan to do some business with the Scott Stamp and coin ~~business~~ Co. After all the business they have done with you, I am sure they would only be too glad to oblige you, with the customary 50% reduction in buying price. However, I would

hardly think you could get their true value even from the best price obtainable, since many of the people formerly great stamp purchasers are presumably investing heavily in war bonds. I would lay money that Scott isn't one who is letting his bond purchases decrease the capital he uses for building his stamp stocks for the post-war period.

I have had no word yet from the Army. Presumably they may allow me the whole six-months period. If not, I shall be ready any time. At the present time there over 7,000 Army and Navy men on the campus taking specialized training. Since I am in the Rear Officer Training Corps, (known as the R.O.T.C. for short). I have a reasonable facsimile of an army uniform to wear every <sup>school</sup> day to my military class. Transition to real Army life should not be too difficult.

I certainly hope you will be in better health when I will be able to visit home the last of the month. There are certainly few doctor's left in Clermont Co., but perhaps you will be able to find one with the right pills. Until I see you,

Your nephew  
Thomas