

Annapolis M'd. June 24, 1901.

Dear Grandfather,

I received your letter of 21<sup>st</sup> today and it was the first news from Texas. Mr. Slayden paid Mr. Werntz ~~for~~ \$50 for tuition from that time through the examinations and \$25 for one month's board and made a deposit of \$20 with him, for me to draw on whenever I needed any money. So far I have drawn only three dollars for laundry and other necessities. As soon as possible after the entrance examination, the successful candidate must deposit with the commissary \$225.96 for his first outfit. One month after admission the cadet is credited with the amount of his actual traveling expense here. A cadet receives, besides his \$500 per year, \$110, which is all used to pay for his rations. I also learned that a candidate, failing on his entrance examination, is always allowed a re-examination.

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The candidate must make a grade of 62 ½ % in each study, very high grades in one study will not make up the deficiency in another. There is a custom that the boys call "pulling." This is where a boy has made good grades in all studies except one or two and make about 50% on each of the two, the board of examiners will "pull" him, that is, admit him in the academy.

All of the cadets have gone on their practice cruise and the Academy grounds seem deserted. You know Congress had appropriated eight millions of dollars for improvements at the Naval Academy. The new boat house and the new armory are nearly completed and they are just commencing on the new quarters. Annapolis is laid out somewhat on the same style as Washington, with the Capitol on a small hill in the center while the streets radiate from this point like the spokes of a wheel.

On one side of the town is the Severn River

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on the front is Chesapeake Bay and on the other side is Spar [Spa] Creek, so you see we are nearly surrounded by water.

I have a room on the third and top story of the house and from the window I get a fine view over the Bay. I can see all the steamers come in and go out. There is a steamer runs to Baltimore every day. The run takes about two hours and the fare is about fifty cents round trip. Last night it was so calm and the water was so much like glass that the reflection of the light from the light house, two miles out, looked just like one long string of fire in the water.

My roommate is a young man from Brooklyn and he understands how to sail a boat, so the other night after we had finished out work we took a little sail. There was a strong wind blowing and the waves had white caps on them but my friend knew how to handle a boat so well that there was no danger. I enjoyed it very much. We sailed up

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to the monitor "Puritan," which is now stationed here. After sailing around her two or three times we started out in the Bay. I had never seen high waves before and these were about a yard high and every time it seemed to me that a wave would roll over the boat and swamp us. I am the only boy here that won his appointment by competitive examination. All the others were appointed

outright. We have six studies every day and by now I have nearly picked up all that I had forgotten and have learned several contracted methods in mathematics. Every Saturday morning we have a regular examination just like those at the Academy and we are allowed just the same length of time as they do at the Academy. I have taken two exam so far algebra and arithmetic, and made good grades in both.

Well I have written everything that I know of and I close giving my best regards to everyone.

Your affectionate grandson,

[signed]

Chester W. Nimitz