

Oct 7, 1904.

Dear Father:-

Did you get my commission and the appointment which I sent you? I will not need them anymore for travelling as the next time I will travel under orders and have my diploma besides. Well, Father, things are racking along at the same old rate and if anything I'm a trifle busier now than ever before. Our studies which I thought were going to be easy, are not so, simply because we have about three days work in one. But the good thing is that it will only last

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a little over three and a half months more. I am doing my best in my studies – putting in all of my study hour here conscientiously as if I star – well all right. If I don't, it will have to be all right too because I'm doing my part.

We have not been officially notified as yet about our graduation but now there is no doubt but what we will graduate in Feb because of several good reasons. Every day now we receive letters from various tailoring firms with bids for our outfits. Saturday, I am going out to be measured by tailors in Annapolis and be in readiness to have

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all of my outfitted started on just as soon as we are officially notified that we leave in February. I have just figured on my outfit and by cutting out civilian dress suit, etc. I find that when I leave, my total debt will be less than \$200. By paying ~~cash~~ cash we get a discount of 10%. To the price of my outfit I've added all my present debts with the above result. When under orders my expenses will be paid but as I will have to leave Annapolis without a suit, I'll draw my first quarter's pay in advance to pay my expenses across the country. Then when I arrive there, I will be credited with my expenses. That leaves me nine months more to pay the debt within a year. Our pay will be \$88 per month and I will be easily out of debt within that year. You don't know how glad I will be when it's all over with – all this worry about an outfit – and trying to study at the same time. Stewart brother, who is in the Army, has a very influential friend in the Navy Department and Stewart tells me that he thinks it is certain that if we want the Pacific Station, that he can get Church, himself

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and myself all out there on the same ship. In that event, church and I are going with Stewart to his home in New York for a day there. It takes about 11 hours to make the trip. Then we are going right straight down to Texas where Church will stay with me for a few days, and then go on home. Then Stewart will come on after a week or so and when our leave expires we will move on. All this is figuring on way ahead and again it is not so very far ahead after all and

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time certainly flies.

The West Point Game will be here before we know it and then Christmas and then the final annual exams.

I have been on duty all day today as Officer in Charge of Bancroft Hall. All the company commanders have this duty and we have the same duties exactly as the commissioned officers in charge in the old quarters. I have my officer of the day, four midshipmen in charge of floors and a marine orderly and a bugler. All to act as my assistants. And I certainly take advantage of all

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this help. All I do on duty is to sit in my office and look dignified and deal out reproof to underclassmen who break regulations. The nearest commissioned officer is about a quarter of a mile away.

We are having miserably cold weather now for this time of the year and we feel it in the new quarters because we won't be able to get steam in our radiators for several weeks. We actually sit and shiver all day in our rooms. Until the steam connections are made, the building with its many rooms etc. will be nothing but a large storage box.

I received a letter from Clara Wahrmund and they are going to start back to San Antonio very soon. Henry Burney also wrote me. He is all settled down now to hard work. The monitor Nevada came in today. She is stationed here now for our use. We go out every afternoon in squads for great gun target practice. It will probably be very cold