

Saturday

Dear Father:-

Well, I got back to the Academy in plenty of time. At New Orleans I met an officer who was also travelling to the Naval Academy. He had been ordered there as an instructor. His name is Tarrant and he is from San Antonio. His brother is treasurer of the S.A. + U.P. railroad. Then on the way up I began running into midshipmen. In South Carolina, I met Hayne. His whole family was travelling north with him.

Another funny thing happened. At New Orleans,

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two young ladies got on the train and took a seat just opposite mine. From their conversation which I could not help hearing, I gathered that they were going to school in Washington. We finally got to know one another and one was Miss Stafford, a sister of the Stafford who bilged from my class last year. The fruit cake that Sumpter sent came to the Acad. yesterday and tonight we are going to feast. Today I went out in town and for the first time sported my buzzard, which I wore on my sleeve. Ingersoll, Frankenberger, Church, Gawne, Ogan,

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MacFall and nearly all of our gang got buzzards. Stewart did not get one and we all josh him about it. I'll have to buy me a sword about next month, because from now on we have occasion to use them. And when the 1st class graduate in February we'll all have to get swords anyhow. Have not had my star put on yet.

That night we got back from leave, we began studies. You can't imagine how hard it was to buckle down to work. This term we study mechanics – principles of mechanism, ordnance and gunnery, naval boilers, Spanish, physics and navigation. Why – it is nearly all mathematics, all except in languages. It seems to me to be a recitation in calculus all day long. And there are so many people here now that one can hardly stir.

I went rowing in the double shell with one of my classmates this afternoon.

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We have made arrangements to go every afternoon until cold weather sets in.

Stewart is the most light-hearted fellow I ever saw for he sings all the time (that I let him). He claims to be in love and that accounts for his happiness.

Mrs. Mason went as far as Beaumont with me when I left Houston. That day we went about Houston in streetcars and had a very pleasant time. She was looking very well.

Stewart and I have made an agreement to speak only

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Spanish in the room, and it is laughable sometimes, when we can not think of the word. Then we look at each other and make motions and if that doesn't clear matters, we make a break for the dictionary. We have subscribed for a Spanish newspaper from some little town in Mexico.

The work on the new buildings is getting along fine. The old chapel is not large enough to hold the brigade so we have chapel services in the old armory. On Sunday morning I imagine

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it will take about an hour to inspect the brigade. Well, there goes the bugle for supper. Will finish tomorrow morning.

Now when the brigade lines up, it reaches from one end of the parade ground to the other. We will have a regular fleet of vessels next year for the cruise.

Are there many people in the hotel now? Miss Higgins is still there, is she not?

Well, I will close now with my best love to Mother, the children and all the rest.

Your son,

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz