

US Naval Academy

Annapolis, Maryland

October 19, 1901

Dear Grandfather:-

Your letter of the 14th came all right and I was glad to hear from you. Aunt Augusta, Mr. Mason, and Charley came from New York Saturday to visit me and it was certainly a treat to see some one from home. As they were here only a few hours I could not show them everything there was to be seen, but they saw nearly everything from the outside. As it is against the regulations to have visitors inside the cadet quarters I could not show them my room. The part that interested Charley was the boathouse where all the models of the big battleships and of all other kinds of ships are kept. Nuddye writes to me frequently and from her last letter, she is still a little homesick.

Grandfather, you can't realize how much ground we are supposed to cover in such a short time. Our lessons are long and hard and our time to prepare them is so short that there is no wonder that so many fall out before the annual examinations. We are in the midst of our monthly exams now. Yesterday

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we were examined in English, this morning, in Mathematics and Monday comes the French examination. So far I have made fairly good marks in everything. Our class of one hundred and forty was divided into fourteen sections of ten men each. At the start they were divided alphabetically but after this month the sections will be formed according to the grades, that is, those making the highest grades go in the first or second sections and so on according to the alphabetical division. I am in the tenth section but after the month is over I think I can go up a section or so. The lowest section is the fourteenth, and it is called the "Wooden Section." If a fellow is unlucky enough to get in that, he will surely fail in the annual examinations.

We will go to Philadelphia by rail, a special train will take us there without any cost to us. So for pocket money, I will not

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need any because I have not drawn my monthly allotment yet, and should I need it, I can make a special requisition for it against my traveling expenses. I have received my blue uniform but not my dress jacket. When that comes I will have my picture taken.

In the last week it has been cold and for us that have to row in the cutters it is very disagreeable, on account of the wind also. Every little spare minute is used to make us do something. After supper we have about thirty minutes fencing drill and then about two hours study period before "taps."

Well Grandfather, as I know of nothing else of interest I will close.

My best love to all.

Your affectionate grandson,

[signed]
Chester W. Nimitz