

U.S.N.A.

Annapolis, Maryland

February 24, 1902.

My dear Father:-

I received your letter and present of the 20th and thank you with all my heart. Now, I am not making excuses father, but I did not know the exact date of mother's birthday. Mr. Mason also sent me a present and I answered his letter at once. We are having our monthly examinations just at present but they do not worry me very much. It is a settle fact now that the first class will graduate a month earlier but that does not affect the three lower classes; and we will not get to start on the cruise until June. Unless I am found deficient in any of my studies on the annual examination, I will surely come home for a month in September. I will have money enough and

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even to pay all my expenses going and coming. You see they take one half of our pay every month and reserve it to buy our outfits on graduation. The other half is placed to your credit, to be used as may be necessary. At present my available amount is about \$110, and by the end of August it will be considerably more.

At present, the weather is moderating, and we will take up our outdoor drills on the first of March. I wrote Grandfather a long letter yesterday. As there is nothing new here, I will close.

My best love to Mother, the children and yourself.

Your loving son,

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz

(Grandfather said he would exchange letters with you, so I wrote a longer letter to him)