My Dear Papa

I have no doubt but what you censure me no little for not complying with my promise sooner; but as Alexander and myself have been enjoying very good health and have been very punctual in the performances of our collegiate duties, and we do hope to continue in the same, I did not think it any absolute necessity of writing to you before this. I should be very much pleased to get a letter from home to learn how they are all and how my dear brother is since, but I do not whether she has received any letter, or not. I have not seen any answer as yet. We had an excellent dinner delivered to us on the 28th, by a member of the St. Elmos; greater part of the students thought that it would not do to let the birthday of such a man pass by without doing him some Socrates' honor, but I am sorry to say that some took rather too much, and was caught by a member of the faculty, who reported them to the Board, and they were arraigned before them, the next day, and they dismissed the leader of the Saint Elmos' grand Union, and suspended for four more for three weeks; the Saint Elmos are very excited indeed, I well know that they can now help feeling and that deeply and sensibly to the disgraceful act which they have committed. Their parents will be mortified in the extreme; I see that Andrew Polk is dismissed from Princeton for quarreling with one of the future cool cats. Hall has twenty-three boarders and is doing pretty well, four or five left him some time since, to go to a cheaper house. I should like very much to hear now your suit with Mr. Thompson come off. Alexander and myself are well and we both write in sending our best love to you and Clara and to the rest of the family.

remain your affectionate son

Philemon, B. Hawkins