Dear Father,

Your kind letter announcing the convalescent state of my affectionate Mother, together with that of the rest of your family has been received, and it is in conformity to the duty which I owe you, in conformity to the affection which I bear you and in order to evince to you that affection that I have so often in assuming it. When we consider the strong ties by which we are bound to our parents when we reflect on the many obligations under which we are to them, we ought always to use our best endeavors to be kind and obedient to them. This has ever been my principal aim, and may it always be, dear father, the primary object of your affectionate Son.

The stream of time flows swiftly on. Half of the present term is nearly past and when another has gone by I shall again be restored to the bosom of parents. I shall again be restored to the bosom of parents, and until then I shall use my best endeavors to improve my time and talents.

My studies at present are Spherical Trigonometry, Blair Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles-lettres, two Satins upon a week in order to fast it fresh in my mind, and Memorization of Heights & Distances.