

New York
Decr 19th

My beloved son,

I have repained from writing these many weeks in the hope that the desire of hearing from your family would force you into writing to us. — You really do not do as you should do — you my only boy — the only brother of your sisters — the object of our fondest love — our dearest hopes — ought not to neglect the only demonstration we ask or you can give of affectionately favouring us with a communication — I trust it does not proceed from coldness of heart — I will not — cannot believe that — I would not do you such injustice — It cannot be attributed entirely to pre-occupation — however laborious your studies at present — a fine man could be found in every day for the purpose I ask — what then is the cause — indolence I fear — indolence and procrastination — avoid the two demons

I entreat — or they will haunt you through life —
and interfere with every pursuit — Let me, your
Mother entreat you to change this habit — let me
beg for five minutes once a week or even a fortnight
— a mere line to tell me of your health
and progress in improvement — and I promise
in return at least three constant correspondences
and four more occasional ones — It is a bargain?
well shake hands! Done's the word! — Dallas
Brace during his four years sojourn at the point
and with his indefatigable industry always wrote
once a week a long letter to his Mother! Say
that to your heart!

I hope ere long to hear of your elevation
to the top of your class to the first section of
Mathematics — A great mystery has been made
about what I think in your case should be
understood — for I know you so well as to believe
you won't ^{with} the excitement your vanity may derive
from it — Well — we have been urged — from very
high authority — to put you upon your pride
to get ~~advanced~~ advanced from your present situation —
It has been intended and ^{at} the point of being

done (advancing you to the 1st section) — but the fear
of want of application on your part has prevented it ^{would times}
It is said that of your ability there is no doubt —
but they fear your want of industry — you would
have been long since advanced, but it was judged a
dangerous experiment — for if from want of exertion
you should lose your place afterwards the effect
might be mortifying and discouraging to your future
success — Let the industry be exhibited then, and
the promotion will follow — What I have now
told you is treason — I have been expressly told
not to let you know that any interest exists in your
behalf — but I know you better — I know you think
but too meanly of yourself — It will not injure you
to tell you you are an object of interest — that a
strong feeling exists in your favour — To show
proper stuff — exhibit your perseverance your
application, and none stand a better chance than
yourself. — They want to make an officer of
you — but industry is the word — Let Industry
be your watch word —

We are here for the winter etc. bonds &
Miss Nonnah and all — Your Grandmother
begins to write — but she never can forget her life
your dear father — I love this moment and a letter

from dated Dec^r 9th Vincennes on his way to
New Orleans — In a few days he says he will write to
you — What shall we send you for Christmas? —
Tell us and your desire shall be gratified — Write soon
and Miss will return you a volume — she is burning
with the desire to see you — John Hattie is under
promise to take the girls up some day before the year
closes — God bless your 'my dearest boy' and dispose
you to the performance of all your duties — that your
Mother's heart may glow with joy. M. F. Cooper.

Dec^r 18th December 1850.

May

Cadet James Irvine Cooper

To the care of
Mr. Coopers

West Point

RECEIVED BOX OR #2, XXVIII ARKANSAS B.Y.