

[APRIL]

U.S. Naval Academy.

My dear Mother

I received your letters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> a few days ago, and am very much obliged to you for them. I should have liked to be at home very much, on my birth day. I do not think it likely, that I can get leave this summer, and therefore will be obliged to go out in the practice ship. I do not know what I shall do this year, to get sea stores and such things, to carry out with me. I do not like to ask Aunty for <sup>money</sup> ~~it~~, because I think that she would not be willing to let me have it, and I do not wish you to think of giving me any, for I know very well how you are situated, and besides, the Doctor has been very kind to me, and ~~besides~~ I do not wish him to send me any more, than he has done. I do not like to send to Mr Harlan for the chair, because he wrote me once, that he would not forward me anything, without the written consent of my parents; now this may have been said in a very friendly way, but when a person speaks to me in that way, it makes me think that he is not willing to trust me, and I never will ask any more favors of such a person.

You speak to me in your letter, about writing to Aunty.

I know that I should do it, but not having written to her for so long, it <sup>would</sup> make me feel, as though <sup>she thought</sup> I wrote to her, because I wanted something. The usual leave of absence, is three months. I should have plenty of time to come home, if I could get leave. I am glad that you have given up the idea of coming to this country, for although I should like to see you very much, yet, I think it is for the best that you did not come. Anyhow, I shall be intitled to a leave next summer, without being under obligations to any one. Mr Marcy is very kind to me, I like him very much, but I am afraid that he is going to leave the academy in July, to go to sea. Mrs Marcy is a very kind, nice lady, I know you would like her very much. About a year ago, some of the midshipmen got into difficulty, by drinking too much, and were going to be dismissed, The captain, a very kind man, persuaded the captain, to let them off, on the conditions, that all the other members of the academy, would sign the pledge, not to drink any spirituous liquors while attached to the academy, consequently, I am one who signed it, but it did not put me to any trouble, for I did not drink anything before, but sometimes a glass of wine, when I was invited to dinner anywhere. I could not send you any measures, for I did not know how to take them, and I felt a delicacy about

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asking Mrs Marcy to do it. When I come home next year,  
you can take all my measures, and then all will be right.  
I am very much obliged to Grandmother for the handkerchiefs  
she is sending me. Mr Marcy may think I have ample means,  
but sometimes when I have not much money due me, I cannot  
get some clothes which I want. Now, I have not got any  
decent cloth clothes, and I am forced to make what I have do me.  
I am very sorry to hear that the Doctor has been unwell, I  
hope he has by this time, entirely recovered. I am very glad  
to hear that Rose is getting alongs well with her studies, Mother,  
for gracious sake, do not send her to boarding school until  
you think she is old enough to know how to take care  
of herself, and not allow herself to be influenced by others. I know  
what boarding schools are, and I have known girls, who  
went to them, and I have have always noticed their behavior, I  
have thought about Rose often in this way. You may think  
it strange, that a son should be talking to his mother in this  
way, but I think, that you will not blame me for it. Do  
not show this part, to any one but grandmother or the Doctor.  
I should like very much to see dear Ida, she must be about as  
large now, as Rose was, when I left. Mother you have been very, very  
good to me, and now that I am getting to think ~~truly~~ of my past

life, I think that I have worried you very much. I think I shall pass my examination pretty well this time, although it is the hardest course we shall ever have to go through. You ask me how tall I am: The last time I was measured, I was 5 feet 4 inches. The summer has not as yet set in, but the trees are now just begun to come into leaf. I hope <sup>+</sup> Aunty will not have anything more to do with Miss Hays. She takes such strange friends, that she can hardly expect much from them. <sup>+</sup> I am very well at present and hope that you are all the same. If you send me any neckties send the black ones. If you write to Mr Harlan about the chair, will you tell him to send me one of those which throw back, if they do not cost any more. I remember we had one in Liverpool, or somewhere. Give my love to all at home, and believe me your

affectionate son.

C. E. Cushman