

**United States Military Academy
Superintendent's Letter Book No. 2 and No. 3**

**THE DAILY CORRESPONDENCE OF
BREVET COLONEL ROBERT E. LEE
SUPERINTENDENT, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
SEPTEMBER 1, 1852 TO MARCH 24, 1855**

Transcribed and Edited by
Major Charles R. Bowery, Jr.
and
Major Brian D. Hankinson
Department of History, USMA

United States Military Academy Library Occasional Papers #5

West Point, NY

2003

PREFACE

The history of the Military Academy comes alive with a careful examination of the official records produced in the course of its routine business. Thus, the 19th century tedium of recording the correspondence of the Superintendent yields an unparalleled opportunity for the 21st century researcher seeking to construct a picture of the Academy's early years. Add to this the celebrity status of the author, Robert E. Lee, and a publishing event of significance is born.

This fifth issue of the Occasional Papers of the United States Military Academy Library is the result of the extraordinary efforts of two members of the Department of History faculty, Majors Charles Bowery and Brian Hankinson. We are indebted to them for this contribution to the research activity that is carried out in the USMA Library. Their efforts shed light on three years in the career of one of the most famous and interesting graduates of the Military Academy. Of no less interest is the insight into the development of the institution during these years provided by this correspondence.

During his years as Superintendent Lee was responsible for administering the Military Academy as both a national military school and as the Army's school of civil engineering. As such, his correspondence reflects a myriad of concerns, including the well-being of each cadet, the upkeep and modernization of the facilities and buildings, and accounting for funds received to run the Academy. All of these letters are written in a characteristically gracious and unassuming manner.

These letters are part of the National Archives and Records Administration record group 404 which designates the archival collection of the United States Military Academy. A detailed description of the entire record group is contained in The Preliminary Inventory of Records of the United States Military Academy compiled in 1976. Efforts are presently underway to transform many of these documents into digital form to permit widespread distribution of the content.

Joseph Barth
Associate Professor
Librarian, USMA

Introduction

Robert E. Lee served as the Superintendent of West Point from 1852 to 1855. The following pages contain the transcription of his daily correspondence entered into the *Superintendent's Letter Book No. 2 and No. 3*, now located in the Special Collections and Archives Division of the United States Military Academy Library. Until now, this collection has only been available in its original manuscript or photocopy form, limiting its availability. The library staff and the editors hope that by reformatting this valuable collection, it can be more readily accessible to researchers.

Lee's personal life and his military career have been the focus of countless studies. Recently, probably as a reaction to Hollywood's attention to the Civil War, books have been appearing that highlight Lee's leadership principles and package his personal experiences and maxims as lessons to live by. Since his death in 1870, Americans have continuously studied, analyzed, glorified, and even deified the military hero of the "Lost Cause." The nation remains fascinated with Robert E. Lee.

One aspect of Lee's career that has had very little attention is his tenure as Superintendent at West Point. A few years of quiet, uneventful duty at the Academy, between his glorious, career-launching exploits in the Mexican War and his legendary command of the Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War, have seemed barely worth mentioning. Yet his daily correspondence during his time at West Point offers a unique approach to understanding Lee, not just as an exalted leader of men in battle, but as a person—as a man of principle and compassion, two qualities that clashed at times.

These entries will help to refine the portrait that an army of biographers and scholars has painted of Lee over the years. While carrying out the mundane duties of garrison life at West Point, Lee unknowingly set down in writing some exquisite samples of his personality and of his leadership style. Within these entries, one finds a man of uncompromising integrity and principle. He was unbending in his approach to duty, discipline, and fairness. Without exception he denied cadets the "indulgence" of taking leave to attend weddings and family functions. Any showing of favoritism toward one cadet would have to be given to all or the good order of the Academy would surely suffer. Much of his time was taken up in answering the inquiries of concerned parents and relatives. Lee had a knack for delivering candid observations wrapped in sincere concern and compassion. An impressive quality found in his letters to the parents of cadets in academic trouble, especially those about to be separated, was his constant reminder that effort and moral character often count more in the long run than specific academic achievements. He projected these ideals with words to the effect of, "if he has done his best at the Academy, he should be proud, & should use the disappointment to spur him on to success in other areas of his life." Lee's method of breaking disappointing news to subordinates and others has a definite linkage to his Civil War command style. Many people have portrayed Lee as being "too nice" to be an effective general, unwilling to deal with thorny issues. These letters refute this interpretation; Lee was an effective communicator, able to word bad news in ways that assuaged disappointment or guilt. Another popular characterization of Lee portrays him as a religiously driven and devout Christian. Curiously, religious references are almost non-existent in these passages, even when he was informing a family of the death of their son. Such insights can lead to a new focus on Lee's personal qualities that have been blurred over time.

These entries also offer some valuable insight into the activities of antebellum West Point and illuminate Lee's management style and his part in the greater Army. Many of these passages record the mundane daily business of the Academy that was of little interest or excitement. They do, however, shed light on Lee's efforts to make improvements to the Academy and to keep order in the midst of cadet transgressions and the meddling of local characters. Here, Lee tackles such issues as the Academy's insufficient water supply, the timeless problem of inadequate housing, and an exciting episode of desertion and horse thievery. Of interest is the relationship that Lee had with his direct superior, General Joseph G. Totten, the Chief of Engineers, who is the addressee of the majority of these writings. Lee seems to have had little autonomy over insignificant matters. He frequently asked permission of the General to allow cadets to receive packages from home. An interpretation of such a managerial style may be that Lee honestly felt that the Academy should have a leveling effect on American society, allowing all young men, rich or poor, the same opportunity. Thus, even the appearance that cadets from wealthy families got extras from home was to be avoided. It is also clear from these entries that Lee as Superintendent was a resource for the greater U.S. Army, and also for militia organizations. In the latter half of the correspondence he answered many questions relating to drill, doctrine, and equipment for a variety of people and organizations.

Beyond his daily routine, Lee interacted with a score of Americans who were also destined for recognition, fame, and greatness. He maintained a cordial relationship with the very concerned "Whistler's Mother," Mrs. Anna Whistler, mother of the future painter and soon-to-be former cadet James Whistler. Lee found it difficult, but his duty, to recommend the separation of Cadet Henry Clay, the grandson of the renowned U. S. Senator. Perhaps of most significance are the entries that underscore the tragic irony of the coming storm, the war that would start only six years after Lee had left the Academy. Throughout these pages are references to the esteem with which Lee held many junior officers in the Army, some of whom he recommended for positions at the Academy, men like John Buford, John Gibbon, and Gouverneur K. Warren—all future Union Generals and adversaries, who in earlier years had been influenced by Lee.

The editors have attempted to replicate as closely as possible the exact layout of the original manuscript, within the limitations of modern word processing software. The entries in the original books are not in Lee's handwriting. This is evidenced by the fact that entries before he took the position of Superintendent are in the same script. The personal secretary or aide who took Lee's dictation and copied his letters had beautiful penmanship, which made this project much easier. There are very few spelling and grammatical errors in the entries, and only an occasional word is illegible. If a word was misspelled in the original, it will be misspelled in this transcription, without comment. Any editorial comments will be within brackets []. In this transcription, page numbers appear periodically in the right and left margins, indicating where the same page numbers appear at the top of the original manuscript pages. The editors strived to capture the content and flavor of the letters. The best efforts have been made to transcribe the text and punctuation exactly but the scholar will, of course, continue to consult the original documents.

It has been a true pleasure resurrecting the daily correspondence of Brevet Colonel Robert E. Lee, U.S. Army, Superintendent, United States Military Academy.

The USMA Library staff and the editors hope that this transcription will add to and enrich the history of the Academy, and they sincerely hope that these letters will contribute to a deeper, more accurate understanding of one of West Point's most revered graduates.

Major Charles R. Bowery, Jr.
Major Brian D. Hankinson
Department of History
United States Military Academy
April 2003

ROBERT E. LEE, SUPERINTENDENT, USMA, 1852-1855

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER BOOK NO. 2

283.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point, N.Y. Sept. 1st 1852

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC

Sir. I have the honor to report, that in obedience to the instructions of the Secty of War, communicated in your letter of the 27th of May; I have this day relieved Captain Brewerton, of the Superintendence of the Military Academy, & the Command of the Post of West Point.

I am very resply. Your obedt. Servt:
(Signed) R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Academy

U.S. Military Academy
West Point, N.Y. Sept. 2. 1852.

Brig: Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC

Sir. Rodman M. Price has remitted a draft for Fifty dollars, which he requests may be placed in the credit of his nephew, Cadet Rodman Price Lewis—which is recommended for favorable consideration, he not having made any deposit upon entering the Academy.

I am Very Respectfully
Your obedt. Sert.
Signed R.E. Lee, Br. Col.
Supt: Mil. Acady.

284.

U.S. Mily. Academy

West Point 3d Sept. 1852.

Wm H. Terrill Esq.
Warm Springs, Va

Sir.

I have recd your letter of the 28th expressing your fears lest your son Wm. R. Terrill had been guilty of some gross impropriety, from the amount of demerit he incurred in the month of July. That amount is made up by the commission of a number of officers, not immoral in their nature, but unbecoming a Soldier & prejudicial to good order & discipline. The gravest among them was being “off Cadet limits” (27th July), and “Absent (from Camp”) 20 minutes after Tattoo” (28th July). Each of these offenses count 12 in the scale of demerit, making together 24. Ten minutes longer absence after tattoo (the hour the cadets retire to bed) would have subjected him to dismissal.

I am sorry to inform you that his demerit in August, exceeded 30. The offenses this amount represents, are of a character similar to those committed in July. I hope however the report of the present month will show a great diminution.

The termination of the encampment, & the re-commencement of studies, generally produces a great change in this respect. During the period of encampment, (from last of June to last of Augt.) your son has incurred over 80 demerit. You are aware that over 200 in the year, subjects a Cadet to dismissal. His filial respect will alone, I trust, prevent his incurring such a penalty.

I am Very Respectfully. Sir
Your obedt Serv.
Signed R.E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

US Military Academy
West Point. NY. Sept. 6. 1852.

Brig: Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC

Sir. The following cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names respectively, which have been sent to the Office of the Quarter Master of the post—viz.

Cadet Campbell F.L.	A writing desk & Stationery
“ Cunningham	Shirts
“ Faison	Shirts & drawers
“ Ferguson	Stationery
“ Somay	Uniform Collars.

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration

Signed, R.E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point. 6 Sept: 1852.

Richd. H. Lee Esq.
Washington City, DC.

Sir. It gives me great pain to inform you that your son Cadet Richd. H. Lee Jr. left his room last night about 10 P.M. with the intention, as avowed to his roommate, of leaving the Military Academy. Nothing is known of his intentions, except what he divulged to his roommate, Cadet Hunter, who endeavored to dissuade him from the act & to resign. He said that you objected to his resigning

forward.

285.

that he could never get along here & complained of the treatment he recd. from Cadets & Officers. Should anything be heard of the course he has taken, I will write you again & in the meantime give you this early information that you may endeavor to afford him any relief in your power. He commenced his Academic duties with his class on the 1st Inst. & no cause is known for his departure beyond what he states. Cadet Hunter says he had some money that procured citizens clothes from those Cadets admitted 1st Inst: He left his trunk & told Cadet H. he would let him know where to send his letters.

I am very respectfully Your obedt. Servt
Signed, RE Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt. Mil: Academy

US Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. 8 Sept: 1852

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City
D.C.

Sir. On the night of the 5th inst:, about 10. P.M. Cadet R. H. Lee left his quarters in Barrack without permission, & has not since returned. I have advised his father of the circumstances, & given him all the information I possess on the subject, a copy of my letter to him is herewith transmitted.

Very respectfully Your obed Servt
Signed, R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Academy.
Head Quarters Military Academy.
West Point. N.Y. Sept: 8. 1852.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten

Chief Engineer
Washington DC.

General-

I have the honor herewith to transmit, a letter of Bvt: Capt: E. K. Smith 1st Lieutenant 7th Infantry, asking that he may be ordered to join his Regiment—should his request be granted, it is desirable that he should be relieved as soon as practicable, and the following names are presented for this detail

2d. Lieutenant A. Baird 1st Arty.
Bvt: 2d Lieut: A. J. Perry 2nd Arty.

They are preferred in the order named—

I am Sir. Very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

(Signed) R.E. Lee

Bvt: Col: US Engs

Supt: Mily Acady

US. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Sept: 15. 1852.

John Sloane Esq
Treasurer U.S.
Washington D.C.

Sir. I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York—No.2941 on War Warrant No.7352 for \$6000.—

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mily. Acady

286.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY Sept: 15. 1852.

John S. Gallaher Esq
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington. D.C.

Sir. I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Six Thousand dollars, on account of current & ordinary expenses of the U.S. Military Academy.

Signed, R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mily. Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Sept:16. 1852.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City

Sir. I have the honor to report for your information that Cadet R H Lee, whose absence without leave was reported to you on the 8th inst: returned to the Post on the 14th Inst in company with his father. I have thought it necessary to place him in arrest with a view to his trial by the Genl: Court Martial now in session.

I am very respy. Your obedt. Servt.
(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mily. Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Sept:17. 1852.

Lieut: R. S. Smith
4th Arty. a. a. Q^rM
West Point

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury draft. Upon completion of which business you will return to the post.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mily. Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. 17 Sept: 1852.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

Sir. The letter of the Secty. of War of the 23d ulto: in reference to the communication from the Academic Board in the cases of Cadets Stevens and Holbrook, dated the 6th July, having been laid before the Board by Captain Brewerton, at the time of its reception, I have now the honor to enclose their report explanatory of that communication.

I am Very respectfully Yr. obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mily. Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. 18. Sept: 1852.

Mr. Jos: R. Curtis
Cozzens Hotel
Near West Point

Sir. Being desirous of closing the account of expenses of the late Board of Visitors to this Institution, of which you were a member; I beg leave to ask from what point your traveling allowance is to be computed! & the distance from that point to this place & back “by the nearest mail route”; if in your power to give it.

I am very respectfully Your obedt. Servt.
(Signed) R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mily. Academy

287.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. 18 Sept: 1852

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Sir. I have recd. your letter of the 15th inst: directing that the mileage of the member of the late Board of Visitors, from California, be paid from the appropriation of the current year. I conclude from your letter of the 18th June, that he is to be paid the usual traveling allowance from California & back; but the distance to his home “by the shortest mail route” has not been furnished as it has been in the other cases, & I have no means of computing it. The distance laid down on Disturnel’s map from New York to San Francisco, is 6000 miles by the Panama route. To which, if added the distance from here to New York, the distance to San Francisco & back, will be over 12000 miles.

The amount to be paid to the member from California therefore at the rate of 8¢ per mile, will be about \$1000. There is still due for payment of their board while in session here, subject to the decision of the authorities at Washington, \$131.50, which together with the traveling allowances to the member from California, will make a deficit of about \$600. The exact deficiency I will however report, as soon as I am informed what distance I must pay Mr. Curtis.

I am very respt. Your obedt. Servt.
(Signed) R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mily. Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. 20 Sept: 1852.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Sir. It is desired to increase the supply of water to the public buildings at the Mil. Academy W.P. No other stream is available for this purpose but Buttermilk Falls brook. From the accompg. sketch of the Public lands you will perceive that the two sources of this brook commencing within or near its limits after their junction pass without, & the united stream finding its way to the Hudson is there used for manufacturing purposes. It is proposed to extend the pipes from the present reservoir, to intersect this stream within the limits of the public lands, just below the junction of the two branches; & I desire to know whether this act would be legal. The water is wanted for drinking & domestic purposes & a portion of the stream only will be consumed during the Summer months when it may be most wanted by the mills.

I have the honor to request that you will apply to the Solicitor of the Treasr. to refer the question to the U.S. Atty. For the Dis.of N.Y. & I beg that I may receive his reply at his earliest convenience.

I am very respy. Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) R.E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Sept: 20. 1852.

Brig. Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington. D.C.

Sir. Cadet Rudd of the 4th Class requests permission to receive some ~~articles~~ under clothing from his home which is recommended for favorable consideration

Signed/ R.E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

288.

Mr. Wm. G. Webster

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. 23 Sept: 1852.

Pittsfield, Mass.

My dear Sir,

I have placed in charge of the Librarian, the beautiful copy of the improved edition of your father's Dictionary presented by you to the library of the Mil: Acady in your son's name, for which contribution to the collection of the Institution I beg you will accept my thanks.

I am very respy your Obt. Servt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Bvt Col:

Supt: Mil. Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. 23 Sept: 1852

Sir. In obedience to your instructions of the 15th inst. The mileage of the member of the late Board of Visitors from California, has been paid out of the appropriation for the current year, & an estimate to supply the deficiency in the appr. for the last year is herewith submitted..

I am very respy. Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mily. Acady

Lieut: R. S. Smith
4th Arty. A. A. Q.M.
West Point.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Sept: 24. 1852.

Sir. You will proceed to the city of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury draft upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

Signed ref R. E. Lee

Bvt: Col: Supt: M.A.

Brig: Genrl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Sept: 27. 1852.

Sir. Cadets Sharp & Venables request permission to receive articles of under clothing from their homes. Which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I am Very respectfully Yr. obedt. Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil. Acady.

Mrs. Anna M. Whistler
Scarsdale. West Chester Co
N.Y.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Sept: 28. 1852.

Madam. I have recd. your application of the 24th inst: for a leave of absence for your son, for the purpose of bidding you farewell before your departure for Europe. Under the circumstances of the case I have concluded to grant it, but regret that I cannot extend it to the length you desire. It is very important to him at this period of his course that he should omit no part of it, & in the opinion of his particular Professor, whom I have consulted, every lesson he loses will be a disadvantage to him; I trust however for the sake of the pleasure he will receive & give, he will make the necessary effort to re-cover his ground.

He will leave here Friday next, 1st Oct in time to reach New

289.

York for the 5 ½ o'clock P.M. train—which will carry him to Scarsdale by 7. P.M. on condition that he returns here by 7. P.M. Monday 4th Oct. to enable him to prepare his lessons for tuesday recitation. This will enable him to spend the Sabbath with you as you desire, & I hope will answer all your purposes. It will be necessary for him to be in New York by 3 P.M. Monday to reach the Point by the required time.

I have the honor to be very respy
Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee

Genl. Jos. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point Oct. 2. 1852

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 30th ulto. stating that the father of Cadet Stevens had complained that his son had not received the usual certificate granted to Cadets who leave on account of deficiency, I beg leave to state that the decision of the Secy. of War in the cases of Cadets Stevens and Holbrook, as communicated in your letter of the 4th. Sept: was that they be “dismissed the service”

I do not find any instance, since the commencement of the practice, in 1845, of granting the certificate in question but to those Cadets who resign, or who are discharged, with the privilege of resigning. If the Secy. intended to give these young gentlemen this privilege, upon the reception of their resignations the usual certificates will be forwarded to them.

From the term used in the order of the Secy. above quoted, it was understood that this privilege had been withheld from them, the recommendation to that effect of the Eng. Dept. Of 25th of June, not having been approved.

I am very respectfully your obedt. Servt.

(signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Honble. C. M. Conrad
Secy. of War
Washington City D.C.

US. Mil. Academy
West Point NY. 4. Oct. 1852.

Sir. I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 28th ulto: in reference to a Report of the Academic Board of the 13th Sept, explanatory of a former communication submitted by them on the same subject. In forwarding said Report, I did so as Pres. of the Board; I affixed my ~~name~~ signature in conjunction with the Secretary, to authenticate the paper adopted by the Board presenting the result of proceedings. Commenced prior to my becoming a member, & in which I considered I was not individually concerned.

It was not for the purpose of doing myself "justice" or of offering "my views" & entirely opposed to being officious or disrespectful.

I am very respy. your obedt Servt.
(Signed) R E. Lee Bvt: Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady.

290.

Gen. Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point. 4 Oct. 1852.

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of a letter recd. direct from the Secy. of War & my acknowledgement of the same, & to ask that the letter be submitted to him.

I am very respy. Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

John S. Gallaher Esq
3rd. Auditor U.S.
Washington DC.

US. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Oct: 2. 1852

Sir. I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury Draft for Five hundred and fifty seven ^{83/100} dollars. on account of the Board of Visitors.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mily. Acady.

John Sloane Esq
Treasr: of the U.S.
Washington D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Oct. 2. 1852.

Sir. I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the A.S.[?] New York No. 3041 on War Warrant No. 7460. for \$557 ^{83/100}.

Your obedient Servant

Signed/ RE Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt. Mily. Acady.

Genl. Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY. 5 Oct. 1852.

Sir. In compliance with your instructions of the 1st Inst. I have to request that one of the following married officers be detailed for duty at the Mil: Academy in the Dept: of Cavalry Tactics: preference being given in the order in which they are named.

2nd Lieut. Robert Ransom 1st Dragoons.
2nd Lieut. John Buford 2nd Dragoons.
Br. 2^d Lieut. Kenner Garrard 1st Dragoons.
Br. 2 Lieut Roger Jones. Rifle Regt.

I am very respectfully Your obedt Servt
Signed/ RE Lee. Bvt Col
Supt: Mily. Acady.

Archibald Gracie Esq
Elizabethtown N.J.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. 6 Oct. 1852.

Sir. I have recd. your application for a leave of absence for your son. & in consideration of the state of Mrs. Gracie's health, have concluded to comply with your request. I could not with propriety grant such an indulgence on the occasion of the wedding to take place in your family, as I must accord the same privilege to all others under like circumstances; but in the hope that his visit will afford relief as well as

forward

gratification to his mother, & make him the more diligent in his studies & attentive to his duties, he will receive leave of absence from 6. a.m. on the 7th till 8 P.M. on the 10th.

I am very respy. Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ RE. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. J. R. Torbert
Georgetown.
Sussex Co: Del:

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. 6. Oct. 1852

Sir. I have recd. your letter of the 1st Inst: requesting that your son may be allowed permission to attend the Methodist Episcopal Church nearest the Point. There is no objection to your son's being placed on the same footing with other Cadets, who on Sunday afternoons attend the Service of the Episcopal Church, & I have so informed him. This Church is at such a distance as not to interfere with their other duties, & is usually attended by Officers of the Academy. But the Methodist Episcopal Church, though not a great way more distant, is situated in the village of Buttermilk Falls, where it is not considered advisable for the Cadets to visit; ^{being} beyond the influence of their Officers, & where there are temptations to violate the Regulations. You will perceive therefore the impropriety of making such a privilege general, for if given to one it must be granted to all. Should you however desire the attendance of your son on any particular occasion or for any special purpose, it will give me pleasure if not incompatible with his duties, to grant him permission.

I am very respectfully Your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R.E. Lee. Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Academy

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 6. Oct: 1852.

Sir. I have to report that Cadet Rodman P. Lewis, appointed from California, has been absent from all Roll Calls since yesterday at 7. a.m. & has not since then been heard of. In a note to his roommate Cadet John Bennett of Ohio, found in his room last night, he stated his intention of leaving the Institution. No cause is known for his departure, except the Statement of his roommate, that he became discouraged at his progress in his studies & did not think he could get permission to resign. I understand that his father is in California & have written to his guardian Rodman M. Price, but not knowing his ^{present} address, take the liberty to enclose it to you, with the request that you will cause it to be given the proper direction

I am Very resp^{ly} Sir. Your obedt Servt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Bvt Col.
Supt: Mily Acady

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 6. Oct. 1852

Rodman M. Price Esq
Hoboken N.J. [inserted in pencil]
([?] to Genl. Totten)

Sir. I regret to inform you that your Ward, Cadet Rodman P. Lewis, left his quarters in Barrack yesterday Morg. & has not since been heard of.

292.

Rodman M. Price Esq.

In a note to his roommate, Cadet John Bennett of Ohio, found in his book last night, he states his intention of leaving the Point; & requests his letters to be sent to his brother at Edgehill School N.J. He left his Cadet clothes, key of his trunk &c in his room, & it is supposed he had provided himself with other clothes, but it is not known whether he had in his possession any money.

His roommate knows no cause for his departure, except that he was discouraged at his progress in his studies & became dissatisfied; & thought he could not obtain permission to resign.

I am very resply Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt Col:
Supt: Mily Acady

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. 7. Oct: 1852.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

Sir. Cadet Rodman P. Lewis, whose departure from the Point on the 5th Inst: I reported to you yesterday, has this morning returned. He states that feeling discouraged at his progress & standing in his studies & not wishing to ask permission to resign he determined to leave the Academy; but on reaching New York, his friends had persuaded him to return. He is in the lowest section of his class in Mathematics (7th) & his recitation marks for the last week were 3.8 the maximum being 12. In English Studies he is in the 5th Section. His general conduct has been good, amount of demerit since the beginning of the Academic year is 37.

I have felt it my duty to place him in arrest; his offence being clear & evident, & the punishment provided in par: 124 of the Regns. of the Academy so distinct. I do not think it

necessary to ask for a Court Martial for his trial, but leave his case for the decision of the Secy of War. I know of no mitigation of his offense, but his youth & return to the Academy.

I am Very Respectfully Your obedt. Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Academy

Genl. Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City, DC

US Mil: Acady
West Point 9. Oct. 1852.

Sir. I regret to have to report that Cadet Rodman P. Lewis, whose return to the Point I advised you of on the 7th Inst: has been absent from his quarters & all roll calls since yesterday morning. He was seen in citizens clothes yesterday morning & is supposed again to have left the Post.

I endeavored in my interview with him on the 7th. to make him sensible of the impropriety of his first offense, & commended his return to his duty, as calculated to gratify his friends & weigh favorably with the Executive in the decision of his case. I wished to encourage him to resume his studies, which he seemed disposed to do, & I am therefore more at a loss^{to} ^{account} for his subsequent conduct.

I am very respectfully Your obedt Servt

Signed R. E. Lee Bvt: Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady

293.

Gen: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington. DC.

US. Military Academy
West Point. 9. Oct: 1852.

Sir. I have the honor to transmit, herewith, an estimate of funds required for the US Mil: Acady. for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1854.

An addition of \$2000. to the usual estimate for repairs & improvements is asked for to aid in the construction of a new wharf rendered necessary by the destruction of the floating dock situated on the North side of the Point in the Fall of 1850. A more sheltered position has been selected for the new wharf, & it is proposed to make it more permanent as well as commodious for the landing of Steamboats.

The clerk of the disbursing Officer & of the Qr. Master of the Post, is also the clerk of the Officer charged with the construction of the public buildings, & is paid for this latter service out of the appn. for the buildings upon their completion, now near at hand. His allowance will cease, & his whole compensation will not then be adequate to his services in the former capacity. An

additional sum is therefore asked for, to make his compensation somewhat near what it is at present.

In the estimate for Miscellaneous & Incidental Expenses, provision is made for the enlargement of the Reservoir & the extension of the Conduit pipes, to embrace another stream, so as to increase the present supply of water to the Cadet Barrack, which is insufficient, & entirely fails in the hot & dry seasons of the year, where it is most wanted.

The additional compensation to the Librarian, authorized by the 147 par: of Academic regulations is again included in the estimate, he having received no compensation for the extra duty imposed on him since he was appointed.

To place the private soldier employed in the Adjutants Office on the same footing with those in the Lithographic department, an addition is asked of \$50. per year to his Army pay. He has become an expert penman & valuable clerk, & it is desired to secure his services by re-enlistment.

The two enlisted men employed in the Philosophical and Chemical departments assist in the experiments in those depts.: & have the care & charge of the valuable apparatus in each. They are experienced and faithful & to induce them to re-enlist, at the expiration of their present terms of service, \$50. per annum is asked for each.

In the department of Artillery, the increased estimate, is rendered necessary by increased instruction in fencing. The 4th as well as 1st Class now receive fencing lessons & consequently a larger number of Foils, Masks, Gloves, etc. are required.

The New Cadet Mess Hall has been completed & is occupied. The enclosure of the yard in rear & necessary outbuildings, are yet to be constructed. To accomplish which, & to supply the deficiency in the appropriation for completing the building \$3500 are required.

For the want of quarters to accomodate the officers on duty at the Academy fifteen of them, in addition to the four assistant Instructors of Tactics, are now crowded into the Cadet Barracks, to their own discomfort & the inconvenience of the Cadets, for whom the rooms are required. I therefore respectfully recommend, that an appropriation be asked for the commencement of a range of suitable quarters: South of the Mess Hall. No specific amount is included in the estimate.

So much has been said by the various Board of Visitors of the necessity of an—~~riding~~
exercise [striketrough and correction made in pencil] & drill hall, & you are so well acquainted with its importance, that I feel

over

294.

it unnecessary to do more, than in asking for an appropriation for its construction, to state that the course of equitation cannot in my opinion be properly taught without it, & that the room now used for the purpose is extremely dangerous to the lives and limbs of the Cadets.

In connexion with this subject I beg leave to call your attention to the condition of the Public Stables for the Dragoon & Artillery horses. One of the stables is in such a dilapidated state, that the walls have to be supported & is considered dangerous to the horses that are obliged to be there accomodated. Twenty nine horses are now sheltered in a temporary shed for want of proper stabling, and there is no shelter of any kind for the 30 additional horses for the purchase of which an appropriation was granted at the last session of Congress.

It is proposed to commence a system of stables, necessary for the wants of the Academy to accommodate those horses now without shelter & which may hereafter be extended, to replace those already existing, & to locate the Building convenient to the Riding Hall. The sum of \$8000. is asked for this purpose.

All of which is respectfully. Submitted
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mily. Academy

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point. 11 Oct. 1852

Sir. Cadet Rodman P. Lewis has this evg returned to the Academy, accompanied by Capt: Grafton of the Army. I have no excuse to offer for his conduct & in consideration of his having repeated his offense & broken his arrest, I feel compelled to recommend he be dismissed the service.

I am very respy. Your obedt Servt.
Signed/ R E Lee Bvt: Col.
Supt. Mily. Academy.

Gen: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City
D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 11 Oct: 1852

Sir. I have the honor to inclose Copies of Certificates from the Surgeon of the post in the cases of Cadets H. T. Latham & R. E. Wood (accompanied by certificates from Drs. Wood & Norris & Prof. W. R. Smith of Bal. in the latter case) & in compliance with his advice respectfully recommend that leaves of absence be granted to Cadets Latham & Wood till the 1st of July next; and at that time, that Cadet Latham be permitted to join the then first Class, & Cadet Wood the the then Second Class

I am Very respectfully Yr. Obedt Servt
Signed/ R E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Academy

295.

U.S. Mil: Academy

Major W. D. Frazer
Corps of Engineers
New York.

West Point 14 Oct. 1852.

Sir.

The term of service of the person formally employed as Lithographer has expired, & the Academy is now without one. I have thought you might aid in procuring another. A man of common aptitude, who can write a fair, plain round hand, can print, draw light lined drawing & occasionally copy topographical sketches, can fill the place. Among the Germans and Prussians in New York, are many of fair education, & qualified for the situation. A single man is preferred, as he can sleep in a room adjoining the Lithographic office. Quarters for married men are difficult to be obtained.

He would have to be enlisted for the purpose. His pay would be \$6.15 per month, 15¢ per day extra, & \$50 per annum in addition, making a total of about \$15.41 per month, together with one ration per day, an extra ration of Sugar & coffee, clothing, fuel & medical attendance.

Possibly at the large Lithographic offices in New York, a suitable man might be obtained. Will you be kind enough to institute inquiries, in such quantity as best promises success, & let me know the result.

I am very respectfully. Your obedt Serv
(Signed) RE. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl. Jos G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City
D.C.

U.S. Mil Academy
West Point. 15 Oct. 1852

Genl.

I forward today the resignation of Cadet R. H. Lee. His father having come on for the purpose of taking him home, & thinking it very desirable, in his situation, that he should accompany him. I have in anticipation of its acceptance, granted him leave of absence for the purpose.

I enclose a report from Capt B. R. Alden, in his case, which I hope will remove any doubt from your mind of the propriety of this course.

I am very respectfully, your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee, Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl. Jos. G. Totten
Chief Engineer

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 22. Oct 1852

Washington City
D.C.

Sir,

I enclose for your information a copy of a letter I have received from the U.S. Dis. Attorney, for the Southern District of N.Y: in reference to the proposed diversion of water from the Butter Milk Falls brook, for the supply of the Military Academy, with a bill of his professional charge. As in other instances in which I have consulted the U.S. Dis. Attorneys, on public matters, lying within their Districts, no charge for their services has been made, through me. I am at a loss how to dispose of the bill presented by Mr Hall, & therefore request to be informed what disposition must be made of it. Whether I am to pay it, or refer it to the Solicitor of the Treasury

over

296.

I am very respectfully your Obt. Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. BvtCol
Supt Mil Academy

Mr. R. Swan
Annapolis. Md.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 26. Oct. 1852.

Sir. Your application for a sick leave for your son, Cadet S. Stanhope Swan, has been referred to the Surgeon of the post; who is of opinion, that it is not a case in which he can recommend a leave of absence; or one that could reasonably promise on his return, a better condition for the performance of his duties, than he now enjoys. I regret therefore that I am unable to comply with your request.

Your son is not now under treatment, but has returned to duty.

I am very respectfully. Yr. obedt Sevt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt Col:
Supt: Mily. Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY. Oct. 26. 1852

Sir. The father of Cadet Montague has transmitted the sum of Fifteen dollars for the purpose of reducing his son's indebtedness at the Academy, with the request that it be placed to his credit.

Cadet Thomas asks that he be permitted to receive a dressing gown & some articles of underclothing which have been sent by his father, & Cadet Jacocks requests permission to receive under clothing from his home. All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I am Very respectfully. Yr. obed Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col
Supt. Mil: Acady

Col.: [C.F.] Smith
Washington D.C.

West Point NY. 28. Oct: 1852.

My dear Colonel. I have delayed replying to your letter of the 20th in the hope of being able to say something satisfactory in the case of your nephew. I can well understand the reluctance of his parents to withdraw him from the Academy, & can sympathize with them & him on the occasion. His case is a painful one, & that you may understand the footing upon which he remains, I enclose for your perusal, a copy of the report of the Medical board upon his admission. I referred the application of his father for a sick leave to Dr. C. who reports that he cannot recommend a leave, as his disease is an insuperable objection to his remaining at the Academy. He is not under treatment at this time, but in the performance of his duty, & I know of no better course, than to let him try what he can do, if you do not think it injurious. His Professors do not report favorably of his progress, and you may be assured that he shall receive every attention while here that his situation calls for.

Very truly Yours
(Signed) R.E. Lee

297.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Oct. 28. 1852.

Sir. I have the honor to transmit, herewith, account current & abstract of disbursements in duplicate, together with Vouchers No. 1 & 2 on account of the Board of Visitors for the year 1852.

I am very respectfully. Your obedt. Servt.
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mily. Acady.

Major W. D. Frazer
Corps of Engineers
New York

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY. Oct: 30. 1852.

Sir. In the event of you not having succeeded in procuring a person for the lithographic office, as described in my letter to you of the 14th inst: Will you be kind enough to cause the accompanying advertisement to be inserted in the Courier & Enquirer, the Sun & the best German Paper on Wednesday & Thursday next? I have taken the liberty of making your office the place of reference & Prof: Mahan will be in New York at the time specified & attend at the hour mentioned if you have no objection. A blank has been left in the advertisement for the number & street.

I am Very respectfully. Yr. Obedt Servt.
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col;
Supt: Mil: Acady

Lieut: R. S. Smith
4th Arty. A. A. of Q^r M
West Point NY

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point NY. Nov. 2. 1852.

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York, for the purpose of processing specie for a Treasury draft. Upon completion of which you will return to this post.

I am very respt. Your obedt. Serv
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mily. Acady

Saml. C. Major Esq
Fayette. Mo.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY. Nov 3. 1852.

Sir. I have recd. your letter of the 16th ulto, asking permission for your son, Cadet James P. Major, to go to Newburgh on business for you.

You are probably aware that it is important that your son should devote himself closely to his studies at this time. & that the loss of a single recitation may injuriously affect his standing in his class at the approaching January Examination; which might be felt during the remainder of his term. If however the business in question is of such a nature that it cannot be transacted by letter & only by him; I will grant him a leave of absence to go to Newburgh for the purpose; but I would recommend that if practicable it should be accomplished in some other way.

I am very respectfully. Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

298.

U.S. Military Academy

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington, D.C.

West Point NY. Nov. 4. 1852.

Sir. I have the honor to transmit, herewith, my statement of Funds expended during the month of Oct: also Estimate of Funds required for the present month, both on account of the U. S. Mily Acady, also statement of Funds on Acct. of Contingencies of Fortifications & Mexican Hostilities.

I am very resply. Yr. obedt. Servt.
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mily. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

U.S. Mily Academy
West Point NY. 8 Nov. 1852.

Sir. In forwarding the application of Lt. J. M. Jones, of the 7th Infty to be relieved from duty as Apt: Instr. of Tactics at the Mily Acady. I beg leave to present for you favorable consideration to name of 1st Lt.. M. Wilcox of the same Regt. as a suitable officer to fill the vacancy in that Dept, should the application of Lt. Jones be granted.

I am very resply. Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mily. Acady

John Sloane Esq
Treas. United States
Washington DC

U. S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Nov. 12. 1852.

Sir. I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York. No. 3276 on War Warrant No. 7716 for \$3000.

Your obedient Servant
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mily. Acady.

John S. Gallaher Esq
3rd. Auditor U.S.
Washington. D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Nov. 12. 1852.

Sir. I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Three thousand dollars, on account of the Current & Ordinary Expense of the U.S. Mily. Acady.

I am Very resply. Yr. obed^t. Serv^t.

(Signed) R. E. Lee

Br. Col. Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington. D.C.

U. S. Mily. Acady.

West Point. N.Y. Nov. 12. 1852.

Sir. In reply to your letter of the 8th inst: I have the honor to state, that the service of 2d. Lt. T. J. Haines. 2d Arty., now on duty at the Mily. Acady., can be dispersed with after the examination of his section in Jany. Next, provided 2d Lt. James Thompson of the same Regiment be ordered to report in his place & to repair here on or before the 1st of January 1853.

I am Very resply. Your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col.

Supt: Mily. Acady

299.

Lieut. R. S. Smith
4th Arty. A. A. Q^r
West Point

U.S. Military Academy

West Point N.Y. Nov. 13. 1852

M

Sir. You will proceed to the city of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury draft. Upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am very respectfully. Yo obed Servt

(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mily. Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC.

U.S. Military Academy

West Point. N.Y. 18. Nov.^r 1852

Sir. I have had the honour to receive the letter to you of the Honb^{le}. R.M. Price, in reference to the absence without leave of Cadet R. P. Lewis; & in compliance with your direction endorsed thereon. beg leave to state that my recommendation of the 11th. October in his case was based upon what I believed the true interests of the Cadets & the discipline of the Academy demanded.

A breach of arrest in a military point of view, is a violation of honour, & independent of the offence, deserves summary punishment. The length of arrest, the youth & general good conduct of Cadet Lewis plead in his behalf, & I have his assurance that if the offense can be overlooked, he will consider the promise of his guardian for his future good conduct, binding upon him. If then the Secty thinks, forgiveness on his part, will not be construed by others into a precedent, which may protect them in similar & other violations of the Regulations, he will have less difficulty in bestowing it. The letter of the Honb^{le}. R. M. Price is returned.

I am Very respectfully, Yo obedt Serv
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col
Supt: Mil: Acady

Honb^{le}. R.M. Price
Hoboken N.J.

West Point. 19 Nov. 1852

Sir. I have received your note of the 16th inst., & am gratified at hearing anything in extenuation of the conduct of Cadet Lewis. I have been favorably impressed with his character & have much regretted the occurrence of his offence. Upon his first return I endeavored to impress him with its serious matter, & told him the penalty he had incurred, but encouraged to be attentive & diligent in his studies & commended his return to his duty. I was therefore the more mortified at its repetition, & being coupled with a breach of arrest, which in a military point of view is a violation of honour, I felt compelled to recommend the forfeiture of his appointment. Unfortunately for individual cases, the Cadets have to be considered collectively, & the treatment of one is considered a precedent for another. You may judge how often the present case would be cited as an example by others, who would be tempted to follow it. Should it be overlooked by the Sect^y. by whose judgement it must be decided, I hope Cadet Lewis will earnestly apply himself to be more diligent in his studies & attentive to his duties. I have his assurance to this effect & have so reported to the Eng. dept. If he does not, I fear he will not pass his Jan^y. examination. His conduct has not been altogether unexceptionable since his return, nor

300.

Hon: R.M. Price

has he been as proficient in his studies latterly as he was at first. His recitation marks the last week, in the lowest section of Mathematics was 4.3, the maximum in the section, being 12. In English studies, his marks were 4.5, the maximum being 9. Should he be retained, I hope you will endeavour to stimulate him to greater exertion.

I remain, Very resply. Yo obed Ser
(Signed) RE Lee.

Mr. J. Holbrook

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 18 Nov. 1852.

New York.

sent to
(Brooklyn
Windham Co.
Conn.) [added in pencil]

Sir. I have delayed replying to your letter of the 11th ulto:, under the daily expectation of recg from the War dept. the acceptance of the resignation of your son, therein enclosed. It has been just rec^d.

The commission of your son with the Academy, terminated on the 6th Sept: last; the date of the reception here, of the action of the Sect^y. of War on the report of the Academic Board in his case. The acceptance of his resignation, has merely changed into a more agreeable form I hope, the manner of that termination.

The address of Mr. Joseph Stevens, of whom you enquire is "Bangor, Maine."

I am very resply. Yo. obed Serv

Signed/ R. E. Lee. Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.

West Point: N.Y. 22 Nov. 1852.

Sir. The following named Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names which have been sent for them to the office of the Q^rMaster of the Post.

Cadet Shunk. Bible. Pr. of Gloves, 6 pr. Socks some writing materials

" Childs. some shirts.

Which requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully. Yo. obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington. D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady

West Point. N.Y. 23 Nov. 1852.

Sir. I have had the honor to receive the communication to you of the 18th inst from the Adj. General: stating the objection to the detail of Lt. James Thompson to relieve Lt. T. J. Haines from duty at the Mil: Acad^y. You are aware of the difficulty of obtaining proper officers for instructors at the Acady. particularly in the Dept. of Mathematics. More than half the army from

various causes are excluded from selection, & the exigencies of service & individual preference, narrow the remainder to within small limits. The reasons that induced the selection of Lt. Thompson, were, that there were fewer officers at the Acady. from his Reg^t. than from either of the other Reg^{ts}. of Art^y. That he had graduated 3^d in his class in Mathematics, was considered well qualified for the station, had been applied to & was willing to take the duty. It was hoped that as it was desired by the Col: of his Reg^t. to reclaim Lt: Haines, he would

forward

301.

make the necessary arrangements, by transfer of officers from one Company to another to supply his place at the Academy, & I still indulge the hope, that this can be done. It is important, if possible to secure the services of an officer, who is willing to take the duty, otherwise he is dissatisfied & constantly endeavoring to be relieved. There are instances of the kind now at the Acad^y. I hope these reasons will induce a change of instructions in this matter. But if Lt. Thompson cannot be detailed, & it is still wished to relieve Lt. Haines, it may be done without injury to the interests of the Academy, provided either 2nd Lt. A. Baird, 1st. Art^y. or 2nd Lt. G. K. Warren, Top^{cal}. Dept: be ordered to report in his place by the 1st of Jan^y. next.

I am very respectfully Yr. obedt. Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

U. S. Mily. Acady.

West Point 30 Nov. 1852

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Genl: The Commandant of Cadets has reported that it is known that two Cadets were in the City of New York on Sunday the 21st Inst: Cadet Dwight of the first class, was reported absent at the inspection of quarters, during Church Services, & Cadet J.B. Wheeler of the 3rd Class, was reported absent from Eng parade. Neither of these Cadets, as is required by Regulations, have explained their absence, & when offered the opportunity of clearing themselves from the suspicion that naturally attached to them, of having been in New York,^{have} availed themselves of the privilege.

Cadet Dwight in consequence of his written declaration on the 9 Nov. 1850, approved by his father; that he could not conscientiously attend the Presbyterian form of worship, was excused, under the Order of the Sect^y of War of the 30 Oct: 1850, from attending the regular service at the chapel.

On Saturday 20th Inst: he was excused by the Surgeon from the performance of his military duties for that day & Sunday, in consequence of having skinned his leg, & obtained in addition, permission to visit a friend at the West Point Hotel till latter Saturday Evg. which authorized his absence from quarters till that hour. Should he have been guilty of the act attributed to him, he has abused the indulgence of the Sect^y of War, violated the confidence of

the Surgeon & outraged the discipline of the Academy. It is painful to be compelled to expose such conduct, but I know of no other way of correcting it, or of inculcating those principles of manliness & honour which are the only safeguard of a Soldier. I therefore reluctantly submit this case to the Dept: & ask for the investigation applied for by the Commandant of Cadets.

The conduct of Cadet (Lt) Sill, the Inspector of the Sub division, in which Cadet Dwight is quartered, in putting aside his responsibility & refusing to answer as to the presence of Cadet Dwight at inspection at taps, which he was bound to report, is highly reprehensible & destructive of the confidence reposed in Cadet Officers. If taught to practice such conduct here, they may learn to practice it in the Army, which would put an end to its discipline & usefulness.

Cadets have been recently cautioned on this subject by the Sect^y of War & in his order of 6 Sept. last, were plainly shewn the line of conduct they were expected to pursue. It is much to be regretted that one of the high

302.

standing, & general correct deportment of Cadet Sill, should fail to see & follow it. Should therefore the Dept: think that a milder course would not correct this evil, & that it is not a case requiring the action of a Genl Court Martial, I must recommend the severe punishment of dismissal from the service.

I enclose copies of the reports of Major Garnett, which will give you more full information on the whole subject.

I am very resply. your Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mil^y. Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC.

US Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 6. 1852.

Sir. I have the honor to inform you that the box containing Model of "Savages "Patent Boom Derrick," referred to in the dept: letter of the 30th ulto: reached me this morning, and I have the model to be placed in the Engineer Model room.

I am respectfully. Yr obed Ser
Signed/ R E Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

Bvt: Capt: S. Williams
Adj: U.S. Mil^y. Acady

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Dec. 6. 1852

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of making arrangements for Printing a New Edition of the Regulations of the U.S. Military Academy. Upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am very respectfully. Yr Obed Serv
Signed/ R. E. Lee Bvt: Col.
Supt: Mil^y. Acady

Genl. Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. 7. Dec. 1852

Genl: In compliance with the direction of the Sect^y. of War, conveyed in your letter of the 3rd inst: leave of absence till the 30th of June next, has been granted to Cadet S. Stanhope Swann, when he will be attached to the ~~then~~^{incoming [in pencil]} 4th class.

It may be proper for me to state that on the 25th of Oct: last, I rec^d an application from the father of Cadet Swann, asking that a sick leave might be granted him for the benefit of his health, until next spring. The application was refered to the Surgeon of the Post, who reported against it, on the ground that he considered the disease of Cadet Swann “an unsuperable objection to his remaining in the Academy.” I was compelled therefore to deny his request.

That you may more fully understand this case, I transmit herewith a copy of a special report of the Medical Board upon his admission, from which you will see the tenure of his ~~admission~~ appointment.

I am Sir. Very respectfully, Your obt Servt
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col
Supt. Mily. Acady

303.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

U S Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. 9 Dec. 1852

Genl: Cadet Sill, whose conduct in failing to inspect his subdivision of Qrs. On the evening of the 20th Nov. & declining to answer ^{as} to the presence of Cadet Dwight at “taps”, I reported to you on the 30th ulto: acknowledged yesterday the error of his course & declared his readiness to answer the questions proposed to him. I thought proper to give him the benefit of correcting his error as far as he was able, but he was informed that the decision of his case was no longer under my controul, & had been submitted to the Dept: I enclose copies of his commⁿ. of the 8th inst & of his answers to the questions of the Comdt: of Cadets. As my only object in recommending him to be punished, was to correct the offence of which he had been guilty, & to deter others from following his example. Should the Dept: think that this will be accomplished by his subsequent confession of error & compliance with his duty, I would resp^y. ask to

withdraw my request in his case, & in consideration of his frank & manly repentance of his conduct, to recommend instead that he be reprimanded in orders & deprived of his appointment of Lt: in the Corps of Cadets.

His report of the absence of Cadet Dwight from his room at “taps” on the evening of the 20th & at mornng police inspection on the 21st, with other evidence in his case, might fairly convict him of the act provided for in the 124 par: Academic Regulations, the penalty of which is dismissal from the service. Should it however not appear sufficiently clear & conclusive to the Dept:, as I consider both the welfare of the Cadets & the reputation of the Academy requires the practice of visiting New York which is said to have prevailed to a great extent, than supposed, should be entirely arrested. I must beg leave to refer you to the course recommended in my letter of the 30th Nov.

I am compelled to report another serious offense against military discipline. On the evening of the 5th inst: Cadet Captain Craighill, the Supt: of the Mess Hall was grossly assaulted by Cadet Gay of the 2^d. class, in the presence of the Battalion of Cadets while at supper, & when he was “in the execution of his office”. I know of no apology for the conduct of Cadet Gay, & if it was caused, as is supposed by his having been reported the previous day, by the Supt: of the Mess Hall for a violation of discipline, it renders its punishment the more necessary, to prevent its repetition & to protect the Cadet Officers in the discharge of the duty required of them.

The 9th article of War makes such conduct a Capital Offence, the evidence in the case is clear & distinct, & unless it can be properly punished by the Dept: I must recommend that the offender be brought before a General Court Martial, a resort I like to avoid when it can be done with propriety. A copy of the report of Major Garnett in this case is herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be Sir

Very resply. Yr. obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee BvtCol

Supt: Mil: Acady

304.

John Sloane Esq
Treasr. of the U. States
Washington DC

US. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Dec. 10. 1852

Sir

I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treasr. New York N^o. 3378 on War Warrant N^o. 7833 for \$3,100.

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) R. E. Lee

Bvt: Col: Eng^{rs}

John S. Gallaher Esq

U. S. Military Academy
West Point NY. Dec. 10. 1852

3rd. Auditor US
Washington DC

Sir. I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Three thousand, one hundred dollars, on account of as follows. viz:

For Current & Ordinary Expenses of the Mily. Acady,	\$2600.00
“ Increase & Expense of Library	<u>500.00</u>
	<u>\$3100.00</u>

I am Very respectfully [?]
(Signed) R E Lee Bvt: Col:
Capt Engrs

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY. Dec. 11. 1852

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

Sir. I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a communication from Lt: R. S. Smith, A. A. Q^r M accompanied by an extract from a letter from the Quarter Master General.

In consequence of the change therein mentioned I herewith forward an Estimate for Three thousand dollars. for the present month.

As my Estimate for the next fiscal year did not contain an item of Forage for Artillery & Cavalry horses. an additional Estimate is herewith at the rate of Eight dollars per month for each horse.

At the present rate of Hay & Oats the forage of each horse cash \$9 ^{60/100} per month.

In consequence of a portion of the appropriations for the Board of Visitors for 1853, having been applied to discharge the liabilities of the Board of 1852. there will be a deficiency in the amount now appropriated for that purpose.

I am Very respectfully. Yr. obed St
(Signed) RE Lee, Bvt: Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 11. 1852.

Lt: RS Smith
4th Arty A. A. Q^r M
West Point

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York, for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury draft. Upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am. Very resply
Your obed Serv
Signed/ R. E. Lee Bvt: Col.

Supt. Mil^y. Acady

305.

J. C. VanCamp Esq
Lancaster, Pens^a.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. 14 Dec. 1852.

Sir. I regret that I am unable to comply with your request for a leave of absence for your son. Although aware of the gratification it would afford him to be present at his sisters marriage, & willing to grant an indulgence which his conduct & standing might merit, yet this is not an occasion, when I could with propriety relax the regulations of the Academy.

The Cadets are placed here for a particular object & if the indulgence in question is granted to one, it must be extended to all. You therefore see it would materially interfere with their course of studies & instruction. Their presence at this time, to prepare for the approaching Jany. examination, is particularly important to them, & it may be of more advantage to your son, to maintain his present high standing in his class, than to enjoy the gaities of the wedding. He will have other opportunities I hope to participate in these hereafter.

I am respecy. your obedt Servt
(Signed) R E Lee Bvt: Col.
Supt: Mil^y. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC.

US. Military Academy
West Point NY. 15. Dec. 1852

Genl. I have rec^d your letter of the 11th Inst. calling for separate estimates for the construction of the Cavalry Exercise & Drill hall; Stables for the Dragoon & Arty horses; & a new wharf, with plans for the same; in explanation of the amounts asked for these buildings in the general estimate for the next fiscal year.

I took the items for the first & last named objects from the estimates hitherto submitted, & have a copy of a plan for the Cavalry Exercise Hall, approved by the Sect^y of War on the 3d April 1850. I understand that an Estimate had been sub-mitted with the plan, which I supposed would have been sufficient for the Genl. Purposes of the Dept.

Believing at the time of transmitting the Estimate, that the plan might be improved, & a better location given to the building, I caused a survey to be commenced of the proposed site, & have given a different location to the Cavalry Hall & stable. Plans of these buildings are now in course of preparation. My object at the time was to submit them to your better judgement, that you might be able to consider the whole subject together when an opportunity offered. Having no one to assign specially to this duty, the plans &c are not yet completed, but they shall be forwr^d with estimates as soon as finished.

I have had also a survey made for the location of the new wharf & road leading to it, & will forward the drawing & estimate as soon as completed.

I will mention in connexion with this subject, that I have selected a site for Officers Quarters of the Engineer Comp^y., & had a survey made of the site, embracing the present quarters of the Compy Equipment shed &c that I might explain to you their relative situations on your first visit to the Academy in the hope that it might meet your approval & the circumstances of the case. I have the honor to be [?]

Signed/ RE Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady

306.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington^{City} D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 17 Dec. 1852.

Genl:

In compliance with the direction of the Secty of War contained in your letter of the 14th Inst: leave of absence has been granted to Cadet Cornelius VanCamp from Saturday the 18th. to the 28th Inst.

An application to this effect had been previously made to me by the father of Cadet VanCamp, which for the reason assigned in my reply, a copy of which is enclosed, I felt compelled to decline.

I am very resply your obt Servt
Signed/ RE Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

B. O'Connor Esq.
Port Washington. Wis.

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 17 Dec. 1852.

Sir. I have rec^d. your letter of the 4th Inst: stating that you desire that your son Edgar O'Connor should attend the service of the Episcopal church, & requesting permission for him to do so.

It will give me pleasure to place him on the same footing with other Cadets who on Sunday afternoon, when not incompatible with their duty, attend the Episcopal church about 1 ¼ miles below this place, & he could have obtained this privilege at any time upon his simple application.

Cadets and Officers are required to attend Divine Service at the Chapel, Sunday mornng. Except in cases where being members of certain churches, they entertain conscientious scruples at attending the worship of a different denomination. The present Chaplain belongs to the Presbyterian church, & the service of the Chapel is conducted according to the forms of that church. But I think there is little danger of the feelings on principles of other sects being violated, or that the moral & religious culture of the Cadets will suffer more by their attendance

there than in the prosecution of their studies in Ethics & Moral Philosophy, of which the Chaplain is the Professor. I hope therefore you will not be uneasy as regards your son.

I am very respectfully Yr obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col.

Supt: Mil^y. Acady.

John Sloane Esq.
Treas: United States
Washington D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Dec 1852.

Sir.

I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York.

N^o. 3414 on War Warrant N^o. 7868 for \$3000.

Your obedient Servant

Signed/ R E Lee Bvt Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

307.

John S. Gallaher Esq
3rd. Auditor U.S.
Washington DC

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Decem. 20. 1852

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for three thousand dollars on account of Forage for Artillery & Cavalry horses

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br Col

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Mr. [Ira] M. Harrison
J. C. Johnson &
John B. Campfield
Newark. N.J.

West Point 22 Dec. 1852

I regret that I am unable to comply with your request of the 18th Inst: for permission for Cadet T. W. Walker to visit his relatives in Newark from the 24th to the 28th Dec^r.

It is very important to the Cadets at this time, not to be interrupted in their preparation for the approaching Jany Examination, & the standing of Cadet Walker during his whole term, may depend upon the manner, in which he passes this examination. I could only relax the regulations of the Academy when a Cadet could spend Christmas day at his home, without neglecting any of his studies

I am very resply Gentⁿ.

Your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Lieut: R. S. Smith
4th Art: A. A. Q^rm^r.
West Point

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Dec. 22. 1852.

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury draft. Upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am very resply. Yr ob Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady

H. C. VanSchaack Esq
Manlius
NY.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 27 Dec. 1852

Sir. I rec^d this morning your letter of the 23^d. & regret to say that I see no probability of your son passing his probationary examination in January. I presume that he has himself abandoned all expectation of doing so, from the manner in which he has neglected his studies latterly; & during the past week, though on his last review, his daily recitation mark was 0.

It is owing perhaps to the same cause that he has accumulated so rapidly the amount of demerit you refer to, & although he has not committed any serious offense, he has almost entirely neglected his duties, so that his

308.

demerit to this date amounts to 257. You are aware that the regulations require when a Cadet receives over 200 demerit in any one ^{academic} year, that his case should be reported to the Sec^y of War by the Academic Board, with a view to his dismissal from the service. He has therefore incurred the penalty of dismissal from this cause, independently of a want of proficiency in his studies.

Under these circumstances I see no advantage in his awaiting the examination, or remaining longer at the Academy, & it would save him mortification perhaps, as well as be more agreeable to his friends, if he were allowed to resign.

I do not know whether under the circumstances his resignation would be accepted by the Sec^y of War, but if you decide that it would be the more desirable mode of withdrawing him from the Academy, & send me your approval, I will transmit it to the Dept. & recommend its acceptance. I think you are correct in your opinion that his physical constitution is hardly equal to the performance of his duties, nor perhaps is his mind yet sufficiently developed to master his studies.

I am not able to tell you exactly the state of his accounts. The date of his resignation, could probably be dated ahead to cover his indebtedness at the Academy, & the only difference there would be to him in a pecuniary point of view, is, that if dismissed he would be allowed his transportation home. If he resigns now he would not.

I am very resply Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R E Lee Bvt Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil: Acad^y.
West Point 28 Dec. 1852.

R. F. Tirrou Esq.
70 Wall Street
New York

My dear Sir.

Your letter of the 18th inst. asking in behalf of your nephew Cadet Nicholls, permission to visit you for a few days to include Xmas & New Years day; has been referred to me by the Sec^y of War. It has been just rec^d & has therefore arrived too late for me to grant him the desired indulgence on Xmas, when I might have included him in the list of some Cadets, whose homes were so near as to enable them to spend that day with their parents, without interfering with their duties.

It is yet possible to allow him the privilege of spending New Years day with you, did not true kindness to him as well as consideration for others compel me to withhold it. The semi-annual examination of the Cadets, commence on Monday next, & it is of great importance to your nephew that he should not be interrupted in his preparation for that event. He is now sixth in his class, and I feel sure, it would be more gratifying to the affection you bear him, that he should maintain his present high standing, than that he should run the risk of losing it, for the pleasure of seeing you. He will have ample time for this, during his furlough of two months next summer.

With every disposition then to indulge him, & gratify you, I cannot with a due regard to his welfare, which I understand it is the wish of the Sec^y to consult, comply with your request. I hope therefore you will excuse me for denying it

I remain, very resply. Yr. obedt. Servt
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br Col
Supt Mil. Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U S. Mil: Academy
West Point 29 Dec^r. 1852.

Genl:

I recd yesterday your letter of the 24th enclosing a communication from F. R. Tirrou Esq. to the Honb^{le}. Sect^y. of War. The enclosed copy of my reply to Mr. Tirrou, will show my action in the case.

I remain Very respdy your Obt. Servt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady

P.S. Cadets W. Palmer, Turnbull & Mizner, each request permission to receive some articles of underclothing &c from their homes. which requests are recommended for favorable consideration

Signed/ RE Lee.

Hon: C.M. Conrad
Sec^{ry} of War
Washington DC

U S Mil: Acady
West Point 29 Dec. 1852

Sir.

I rec^d. yesterday by the hands of Cadet Hancock your letter of the 24th Inst: in reference to his recent suspension by sentence of a Genl. Court Martial. The offence for which he was tried having been committed previously to my coming to the Acad^y on duty. I requested him to hand me a statement of the circumstances not presented at his trial, which might have mitigated the sentence of the Court, with the names of the Cadets whose testimony he desired.

The accomp^g communication from him, has been presented to me this mor^g. & the statement of Cadet Plummer the only witness he adduced in reference to the facts charged against him, is appended. The truth of these facts is not denied, not is the original offense diminished by the testimony of Cadet Plummer; but it seems to be considered a just cause for mitigation of punishment, that the memory of the witness had been refreshed by the subsequent conversation of the parties concerned. How far this would have operated on the Court, I cannot say.

It would have given me pleasure to have been able to present to you any evidence disproving the offense charged against Cadet Hancock, or any facts tending to palliate his conduct or that of his associates, so ~~far~~ as to have lessened your unpleasant recollection of behavior so disreputable to the Corps of Cadets. But I know of none, & Cadet Hancock has not brought any to my notice. I cannot therefore see any distinction between his case & that of the other Cadets convicted of the same offence, nor can I with justice recommend any change in his punishment.

In reference to his general deportment, previous to this transaction, I thought it unnecessary to take additional testimony, I know of no previous act of his deserving of suspension or dismissal, & wish to know of none. The official records of the Academy show none, & none are charged. Neither do I know of any against those similarly punished, & that you may be able to compare his general conduct with theirs, I append a statement of each, taken from the official register of delinquencies.

Over

310.

Hon: C.M. Conrad
Continued

	<u>Hancock</u>	<u>Greene</u>	<u>Wright</u>
Amt: of demerit during the 1 st year	95	49	32
“ “ “ “ 2 ^d “	136	116	62
“ “ “ “ 3 ^d “	121	197	197
“ “ “ “ 4 th “	<u>181</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>153</u>
Total to the time of suspension	533	551	444

I do not see that his conduct entitles him to any peculiar indulgence over the others, or that he has any claim to a milder sentence than they have rec^d & regret that I have been able to bring forward nothing more favorable in his case.

I remain very respy. Your obt Servt
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point. 29 Dec. 1852.

Genl:

I enclose herewith a report called for by the Sec^{ry} of War in reference to the case of Cadet Hancock recently susp^d by sentence of a Genl. Court Martial, with a copy of his letter presented by Cadet Hancock.

I am Very respy. Your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 29 Dec^r. 1852.

Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Genl:

In attempting to apply the sum of \$3000 “For improvements & additions to Officers Quarters” approp^d. at the last session of Congress, I have considered it as only applicable to building study rooms for the Professors, for which I understand it was asked & intended. But the amount is so small that when ever divided among the seven heads of Depts it will not admit of any permanent or convenient addition to their quarters, or such as in my opinion will meet the object of the appropriation. I have therefore caused plans to be prepared of such additions as are deemed suitable to the wants of the Professors, & adapted to the different buildings they now occupy. The additions proposed embrace a study room & a sleeping apartment above. The latter is so much needed, there being but two in their present set of quarters, & can be added with so little additional cost, that in arranging permanent improvements, I have considered it advisable to include what may be considered necessary if not indispensable to the long continued residence of a family.

I now therefore submit the question to you, whether commencing with the senior Professor, I shall proceed upon the plans herewith proposed, with such modifications as you may judge proper, trusting their completion to a future grant of Cong. & such aid as the Mil. Acady can properly furnish in old materials; enlisted mechanics; or whether I must limit the additions to all the quarters, to the sum of \$3000. now app^d. In the latter event, I fear the expenditure of the appⁿ. will not be attended with any adequate advantage.

311.

The proposed addition to the qrs: of the Prof: of Drawing will cost about.	\$573.10
“ of Ethics	1424.13
“ of Philosophy	1424.13
“ of French language	600.00
“ of Chemistry	1343.33
“ of Engineering	1343.33
“ of Mathematics	<u>1343.33</u>
	\$8057.35

The QrMaster reports that there is about \$400.00 of old brown stone base course, sills, flooring timber &c which will meet any unforeseen contingencies not provided for & that the labour of enlisted mechanics &c will further diminish the cost of the additions.

I think therefore an additional app^r. of \$5000. will complete the buildings & make them serviceable & permanent.

The estimate for each style of addition is placed on the plan, & the plans will be forw^d by a safe hand. (By Major Porter on 31st Dec^r.) (parenthetical annotation in pencil)

I have the honor to be very resply. your obedt. Servt

Signed / R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 31 Dec^r. 1852

Genl.

I have the honor to transmit herewith plans & estimates for a Cavalry Exercise hall & stables for dragoon & arty horses, with a topog^{cal} sketch of their location & position, called for in your letter of the 11th Inst. I can say nothing in regard to the necessity of these buildings that you are not already acquainted with, or which has not been previously stated.

The general plan of the Cavalry exercise hall is taken from the one at Saumur, France, & conforms to the requirements of experience & reason. It has been reduced in size to the wants of the Academy.

The plan of the stables, is taken generally from what has been practically found best in our own service, & has been adapted to the location of the proposed Cavalry hall. Experience has taught the advantage of having these buildings adjacent, & indeed in other services they have been sometimes placed under the same roof. The horses after severe exercise, heated and wet with perspiration, being brought suddenly into a freezing atmosphere, & carried some distance to a cold stable, become chilled & afflicted with every disease, produced by cold & check of perspiration, & are soon disabled & rendered unfit for service. The stables now at the Academy, in addition to their want of accommodation & dilapidated condition, as stated in my report of the 9 Oct. have perhaps the most disadvantageous position on the point—situated on the North side of a precipitous hill, they are exposed to all the cold winds & storms sweeping down the river; are shaded from the sun & light & shut out from a free uniform circulation of air, so necessary to the health of the horse. The horses are moreover obliged to cross & recross the plain in all weather & go some distance to their work.

The proposed site is sheltered from the north, open to the Sun

312.

& circulation of the air, & adjacent to their place of work.

In the event of the erection of these buildings on the site proposed, & of its being hereafter deemed necessary in the rebuilding of the Dragoon Barrack to place it near the stables, I have marked on the Topog^{cal} plan, a convenient site, & forward a plan of a suitable building adapted to the location. No estimate for this building is submitted, as the object was to show that there is sufficient room on the ground for all the buildings that may be required, & that the whole will be convenient to the water & new wharf. The road to which will pass south of the Cavalry Exercise hall.

The plans of the Cavalry hall, Stables & Dragoon barrack, with the top^{cal}. Sketch of the ground, & additions to the Professors quarters; have been placed in the hands of Major Porter, who will present them to you next week.

I am very respectfully. Yr. Obt. Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY. January 6. 1853

Genl.

In compliance with your request under date of the 11th ulto. I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a detailed estimate of the cost of the proposed new wharf, accompanied with a plan & sketch of the position. Also a restatement of the item for "Repairs & Improvements embraced in my annual estimate showing what proportion of the amount (\$11,000) would probably be applied to aid in the construction of the new wharf.

Signed / R E Lee Bvt Col
Supt. Mil. Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Jan'y 6. 1853

Genl:

In forw^d the application of Lt: D. R. Jones of the 2nd Inf^y, to be relieved from duty as Apt. Inst. of Tactics at the Mil. Academy, I beg leave to present for your favorable consideration the name of 1st Lt. A. D. Nelson of the 6th Infy as a suitable Officer to fill the vacancy in that Dept. Should the application of Lt. Jones be granted, I must ask that Lt. Nelson be ordered to report in his place without delay.

Nothing has yet been heard of Lt. Baird who was ordered to take the place of Lt. Haines in the Mathematical Dept:

I have the honor to be Sir
Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

313.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

US. Mil: Academy
West Point 7 Jan'y 1853

Genl:

I have rec^d the letter of Cadet H. M. Lazelle to the President of the U. States asking for a remission of a portion of the sentence of a Genl. Court Martial, suspending him from the Mil: Academy, referred to me on the 4th Inst. for a report.

In looking back to the conduct of Cadet Lazelle during the past year, I find that he was arrested & punished for attempting to conceal playing cards in Barrack on the night of 3 Jany 1852. That on the 29 April '52 he was tried, convicted & punished by a Garrison Court Martial for insubordinate conduct in the Mathematical Academy. That on 2 Aug. '52, he was reported for unmilitary & discourteous conduct, in persisting to speak to his comm^y Officer after having been forbidden & warned to desist and that on the 22 Sept '52, he was guilty of the conduct for which he was tried & suspended by the Genl: Court Martial.

His behavior therefore during the year does not appear to have been marked by subordination or at all times by courtesy to his superior officers, & in the case in question, his plea of acting under hasty & impulsive anger, if admissible in the deportment of a soldier, is not sustained by the finding of the Court in as much as he is there proved guilty of having repeated his offence against Cadet Latimer, during the day, and the last is more aggravated than the first.

If such conduct, as he states, is frequent in the Corps of Cadets, I hope no opportunity will be lost in correcting it, & should the forfeiture of his pay & emoluments be permitted, I fear all the punishment inflicted by the sentence of the Court will be extracted, & the residue will be a benefit. So far then from preventing the repetition of his offense, or deterring others from follow^g his example, it will operate as an encouragement. You will see by reference to the Cadet Register of last June, that Cadet Lazelle stands foot of his class, & at the time of his suspension 20. Decr. it was considered exceedingly doubtful by his Prof^r: whether he was sufficiently proficient in his course of Phil^y. to pass at the present examination. In this event he would have been dismissed the service. But should he have passed the present examination, unless a very great change should have taken place in his conduct, between this and June next, his amount of demerit would have exceeded 200, which would then have caused his dismissal.

That you may form an opinion of his general deportment since his admission into the Academy, I give below a statement of his demerit from the official record of delinquencies, viz:

Amount of demerit during the 1 st Academic year	110
“ “ “ 2 nd “ “	171
Ditto from July to time of Susp ⁿ . 20 Dec ^r .	140

I see nothing therefore in his case justifying a mitigation of his sentence, or for extending clemency to him more than to others undergoing the same punishment. But on the contrary find cause for belief that the sentence of the Court has probably saved him from the penalty of dismissal from the service, to which he had rendered himself liable by negligence of his studies & neglect of his duties. Neither do I see any ground for postponing the time appointed by the Court for his rejoining the Acady. It is the time prescribed for each class to commence its academic course, & I know no reason why he should

314.

be excepted from the rule applied to others. Upon the recommencement of his pay there will be no object in his continuing in either “near or distant service” for a support, & though painful to mete out punishment, especially to the young, when it becomes necessary, true kindness requires it should be applied with a firm hand, & not converted into a reward.

I regret therefore I can recommend no change in the sentence of the Court.
The letter of Cadet Lazelle is herewith returned.

I remain very respectfully. Yr. obt Servt
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 11 January 1853

Genl.

I enclose herewith the Report of the Progress, Aptitude &c of certain Cadets of the "Fourth Class" who at the present semiannual examination have been found deficient & recommended for discharge.

Heretofore Cadets similarly situated have been allowed to repair to their homes, there to wait the decision of the Secy of War, but the Regulation of the Dept. of 2nd July 1852 requires that the Cadets found deficient shall be retained at the Academy until the report of the Academic Board shall have been approved by the Secy of War.

I have therefore thought proper to forward the particular report in their case, before the general report of the examination in order that I may be notified as soon as possible of the action of the Secy. Their class recommences their studies today. These young gentlemen have been placed in a Section together & a teacher assigned them, but I presume will do nothing & I fear may interfere with the duties & welfare of the other Cadets. They have entirely neglected their Military duties since & in some cases even before their examination & I presume it would be a relief to them, as well as to the Acady to have their case decided at once.

I am very resply. Your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt. Mil. Acady

Ransom Crooks Esq
New York

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point January 11. 1853

Sir. I have rec^d. your letter of yesterday's date in reference to the restoration of your son to the Academy. I am not at liberty to give transcripts of the records of the Academy upon individual application; but should the Secy of War upon your application for the restoration of your son, call for a report in his case, I will be happy to furnish all the information he may desire.

I have been notified of the acceptance of the resignation of your son by the Secy. of War.

I remain Very respectfully Your obt Serv
Signed/ R E Lee Bvt Col.
Supt Mil Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. January 132. 1853.

Genl:

The following named Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names, which have been sent for them to the office of the Quarter Master of the post. viz:

Cadet Church Woolen Socks

“ Ferguson Under clothing. Gloves &c.

which requests are recommended for favorable consideration

I am very resply Your obt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col.

Supt: Mil^y. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

US Mil: Academy
West Point 20 Jan^y. 1853

Genl.

I have the honor to hand you the Merit Rolls of the Cadets of the U. S. Mil: Acad^y. determined at the Semi Annual Exⁿ. in Jan^y. 1853.

The Cadets found deficient in Certain branches of their course & not rec^d. to the Secy of War for discharge have by their attention & conduct, induced the belief in the minds of the Acad^c Board, that they will be able eventually to succeed if more time is allowed them.

In obedience to the requirement of par: 69 Acad^c. Regulations Cadet Henry Clay, has been declared “deficient in Conduct”, & without having committed any grave offence, has by inattention, incurred the penalty of violating the regulations.

I feel that regret that must be common to every American, that the Grandson of Henry Clay should be dismissed from the National Acady of his country, & in consideration of the name of his Gnd father & the devotion of the life of his father on the battlefield, resp^{ly} recommend that he be allowed to resign.

I am very resply. Your obedt Serv

(Signed) R.E. Lee. Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Jan'y 20. 1853

Genl. I rec^d. today the application of the Hon^{ble} Thos. J. Hough for a leave of absence for Cadet W. Palmer from the 16 to the 24 Inst: for the purpose of visiting some friends in New York about embarking for California. I understand the steamer in which they are about to embark, leaves New York today at 3 P.M. It was therefore too late (12M.) when I rec^d your reference to have granted the indulgence; even had there have been no objections to this course.

It may be proper to inform you that Cadet P. had previously applied to me for a leave of absence, & could I have granted it with propriety, it would have given me pleasure to have done so. But the arrival & departure of friends of the Cadets at New York is so frequent, that were I to consider it a sufficient reason for granting them leaves of absence, I fear they would lose much time from their studies & instruction. Their friends can with much more propriety visit them; than they can visit New York.

316.

Cadet Palmer's class had just then recommenced studies after their examination & I considered it more to his advantage to have every opportunity to regain the standing he had last in his class, than to visit New York. I was therefore compelled to refuse him. He has fallen in his class at this examination, 16 in Philosophy, 14 in Draw^g & 1 in Chem^y. The letter of the Hon^{ble} Thos. J. Hough is herewith returned.

I am very resply. your Obt. Servt
(Signed) R.E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Lieut: R.S. Smith
4th a.a. Q^r M^r
West Point

US Mil: Acady
West Point. N.Y. January 21. 1853

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury drafts. Upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am very respectfully Yr Obt Ser
Signed/ R. E. Lee Bvt: Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. J. Faison Esq

U S Mil: Academy
West Point 22 Jan'y 1853

Summerhill N.C.

My dear Sir. I duly rec^d. your letter of the 5th inst: in reference to your son Cadet Faison. & have only delayed replying to it until after the semi annual examination of Cadets which has just closed.

I had hoped he would have passed his examination with credit, & that I should have been able to have relieved your anxiety concerning him. But I regret to inform you that he has failed to do so, & that the report of the Academic Board in his case with others in the same situation, has been submitted to the Sec^y of War for his decision.

In the event of that decision being unfavorable to your son, I hope it will not discourage him in his future course of life, but may serve to stimulate him to greater exertion, & by showing him the necessity of diligent application & steady attention to whatever he undertakes, may tend to his ultimate welfare.

I cannot say what effect his health has had upon his mental exertion, but it does not seem to have caused his absence from duty, or to have prevented his attendance at the recitations of his class, and although he has not committed any serious offences, his conduct has not been marked by that attention to his duties necessary to the character of a Soldier.

His connection with the Academy, does not depend as you seem to suppose upon my will, but upon circumstances entirely beyond my control, & I regret that I can do nothing in his favor.

I remain Very resply Your obed Serv
Signed/ R. E. Lee Bvt: Col.
Supt Mil: Acady

317.

Mr. Hlasko.
Baltimore Md.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 22 Jany 1853

Sir.

Your offer to instruct the Cadets in dancing, during the next encampment, on the former conditions, is accepted.

You will please make your arrangements & notify me accordingly.

I am very resply. Yr. obed Ser.
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U S Mil: Acady
West Point. 24 Jany 1853

Genl:

The edition of the Reg^{ns}. of the Mil. Acady. published in 1839, has been entirely exhausted, & for the last six years there have been no copies for distribution even to the Officers of the Acady. The Reg^{ns} have accordingly been carefully revised with a view of publishing a new edition to supply this want, & I have now the honour to forw^d. for your sanction, & the approval of the Honb^{le}. Sec^y. of War, a copy of the proof sheets.

As no change has been made in the former edition, except to embrace all orders & amendments issued since their publication, & such alterations in phraseology & the arrangement of paragraphs, as would reorder the meaning & intention plainer & more natural; I have not thought it necessary to trouble you with the perusal of the manuscript, & to expedite the publication as much as possible, have had it at once set in type. The printer is therefore now waiting for the return of the proof sheets to strike off the edition & liberate his forms.

I must therefore ask the favor of you to obtain the approval of the Sec^y. at his earliest convenience. The tables "F" "G" & "H", the Rules and Articles of War, & the extracts from the Army Reg^{ns} applicable to the Acady, will be appended as usual.

The paper, printing & style of the edition will be similar to that of the Army Regulations.

I remain. Very resply. Yr. Obed^t Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil^y Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 24 Jany 1853

Genl: The Fourth Class of Cadets has been divided into five sections, to begin the study of the French language, which course they had^{ave} [correction in pencil] commenced since the semi annual Examination. The Prof. of French has been obliged to take one section, & each of his assistants two, in addition to the sections of the 3rd class under their charge. The recitations of the 4th Class in french, alternate with their recitations in English studies & only one hour in the afternoon can be allowed to a section in either so that each of the sections in french, have but 5 hours for recitation in every fortnight.

There are at present 77 members in the 4th Class, & the two first sections in French contain 16 each, & the three last 15 each. The Prof: informs me that with every exertion they can rarely take up more than half at each recitation.

318.

You will therefore see what small facilities they have for learning the language. I know of no other way of increasing them, than by dividing the class into at least Seven Sections, as it is in Mathematics. But this will require one more Instructor, which I cannot provide from the Officers now at the Academy. I am therefore obliged to ask for the detail of another, &

recommend for your favorable consideration, 2nd Lt: Edw R. Platt. of the 2nd Reg^t. Art^y., as well calculated for the duty.

The 2nd Reg^t. has fewer officers on duty at the Acady. than either of the other Regts of Art^y & Lt: Platt may be considered as supplying the place of Lt: Haines of that Regt. who has just been relieved from Academic duty.

I am very resp^{ly}. Your obedt Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr R. C. Ricketts
Elkton.
Cecil Co. Md.

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 24 Jan^y. 1853

My dear Sir.

I have rec^d your letter of the 20th Inst, in reference to your brother, & have agreeably to your request again consulted Prof: Church upon his case.

I see no probability of the Academic Board coming to no other decision than that which has already been submitted to the Sec^y. of War, nor would they have any ground for reexamining him, more than every other Cadet in the Corps.

I sincerely regret the result of your brothers examination, but I can do nothing in the matter, and I assure you I would require no other application than his own to do^{all} I could in his favor.

I am very respy. Your obt Servt.
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U. S. Military Academy
West Point, N.Y. 24 Jany 1853.

Genl:

I had supposed till this evg that the accompanying letter, of 29th ulto: had been forw^d at the time of its date. It was prepared to go with the drawings to which it relates, & at the time they were placed in charge of Major Porter, it was believed had preceded them. Finding its reception had not been acknowledged, I again inquired whether it had been sent, & was told it had been mailed at the proper time. I have just now accidentally discovered it, where it was placed by the recording clerk & overlooked.

I hope it will not reach you too late to effect its object.

I remain Very Truly. Your Obedt Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady.

P.S. Cadet Ketchum requests permission to receive some Socks. Gloves. & Unif. Collars which have been sent for him to the office of the Qr Mr. of the post. Which request is recommended for favorable consideration.

(Signed) REL

319.

U. S. Mil Acady
West Point 25 Jany 1853

Hon^{ble}: Rodman M Price
House of Representatives
Washington City DC

Sir.

I have delayed replying to your letter of the 15th Inst: in reference to Cadet R. P. Lewis, until I should have answered the call for a report in his case, which you intimated I would receive.

Cadet Lewis was brought before the Court Martial assembled here for the trial of other Cadets in obedience to Orders from Washington. His case was so simple that he required the aid of no other counsel, than the Judge Advocate of the Court who acted as such. He was informed of all its merits, & I presumed the Court not doubting the general good conduct of Cadet L. wanted no evidence to prove it.

Although not able to take the same view of his offence, or of the feelings which governed him, as you do, I think I can yet see the credit to which he is entitled, & have accordingly reported all that I know in his favor. I am reluctant to attribute to a young soldier, emotions of unnecessary panic or alarm, nor would that justify me in losing sight of the effect that might thus be produced in others.

Whatever may be the result of his trial, I hope his connection with the Military Academy will be of no ultimate disadvantage to him, but will teach him the importance of earnest attention & application & thus pave the way for future success.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

U. S. Mil. Acady
West Point 27 Jany 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

Genl: I have been informed that Major Hagner of the Ordnance Dept: has got up a machine, by which he is prepared to strike off paper scales of any dimensions. The Prof: of Eng^g. thinks it desirable that the scales used by the 1st Class in drawing their problems, should be procured in this way. He has furnished me with patterns of the two kinds of scales used by them, which I herewith forward with a descriptive memorandum. It is supposed that the expense will

be small, & that by getting about 200 of each kind, the cost can be refunded to the Mil: Acady, by charging them to the Cadets as issued.

If there is no objection to this course, I beg leave to request that you will refer the matter to the Chief of the Ordnance Bureau & obtain his sanction & order to Major Hagner to have them executed & transmitted to the Acady.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

P.S. Cadet Stivers of the 4th Class requests permission to receive from home Twenty five dollars. for the purpose of reducing his indebtedness at the Acady, which is recommended for favorable consideration. He having made no deposit of funds on his admission into the Acady.

(Signed) REL.

320.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
My dear Genl.

West Point 29 Jany 1853

I have just rec^d your letter of the 27th Inst. in relation to the practice of turning back deficient Cadets & the propriety of a regulation prohibiting it.

I think par: 59, Art VI if carried out, would cover the whole ground, for 99 out of 100 Cadets found deficient at eh Annual Examination, arises from “incapacity or want of application” Sometimes their deficiency arises from sickness or some unavoidable cause; & where they show merit & good conduct, & possess youth and soldierly qualities, & produce the belief in the minds of the Academic Board, that by giving them another trial, they will succeed & become efficient officers, they have recommended they should be turned back. I think by reference to the Army Register, you will find some very good officers who have been turned back. I believe under proper restriction the practice would not be injurious, but might afford relief in some meritorious cases.

How it originated I cannot inform you, for on consulting Prof: Mahan, the oldest graduate, as well as the oldest member of the Academic Board, he says it was practiced in his day when a Cadet, & he thinks to a greater extent than now. It might have been, to diminish as far as possible the number of dismissals, allways painful to all concerned; & to relieve the Cadets & their parents not only from mortification; but the Institution from the charge of a want of consideration of every extenuating claim in favour of the unfortunate. It might have been also with a view of relieving the Dept: at Washⁿ. from pressure & importunity.

The deficient at the semi Annual Examⁿ. in Jany. you are aware, that are not discharged, continue with their class till June when if proficient, they go on with their class, & as only such are recommended by the Academic Board, as they believe will succeed, it is very rarely that they fail.

The idle, incapacitated & vicious ought certainly in my opinion always to be discharged, & give place to abler & better men.

Very truly yours

(Signed) R. E. Lee

Reuben Willetts Esq.
Port Elizabeth. N. J.

U. S. Military Acady
West Point 29 Jany 1853

My dear Sir. I have rec^d. your letter of the 26th Inst. & truly sympathize in the disappointment of yourself & son, at the separation of the latter from the Mily. Acady. I wish I could give a more satisfactory reply, to your enquiry as regards his restoration; but the Reg^{ns}. of the Acady prescribe, that Cadets discharged, or otherwise separated from it, shall not be reappointed or restored under any circumstances, unless it be recommended by the Academic Board; and requires the Board at each examination to present to the Sec^y of War a list of such Cadets, with an expression of its opinion on the merits of each individual, having reference to his return to the Academy. The report of the Board at the late Examⁿ., I regret to say was unfavorable to the return of your son, not on account of his conduct, to which no exception could be made, but under the belief, that he would not be able eventually to succeed. I hope he will not let his disappointment in this instance, discourage him as to the future. But on the contrary, that it may stimulate him to greater exertion, & by showing him the importance of earnest application & ceaseless attention, it may secure him certain success in whatever

321.

walk of life he may think fit to pursue.

No discredit attaches to him for his failure, & he may in some other profession be more distinguished, as well as more useful to his country, than in that he had first chosen, & thus do equal honour to his name and lineage.

Trusting such may be the case, he has my best wishes for his success & I remain.

Very resply. Yr. obedt Servt.

Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady.

W. Palmer Esq
Pittsburgh. Penn^a.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 31 Jany. 1853

Sir.

I have rec^d. your letter of the 26th Inst. in relation to your son Cadet Palmer. I am happy to inform you that he is very well & in the daily performance of his duty. The Semi Annual Examination, which recently terminated, may so much have engrossed his time as to have prevented his writing. He has promised however to write by this mail.

I regret to inform you that he has fallen in his studies at the recent examination, which I fear has proceeded from a want of attention. I hope you will urge him to be more diligent, that he may if possible recover his last standing.

Very resply. Yr. obedt Servt
Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady

W^m Prather Esq
Louisville. Ky

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 1 Feb^y. 1853

Sir. It is with much regret that I have to inform you, that Cadet Henry Clay having rec^d. over 200 demerit (289), was in compliance with the reg^{ns} of the Mil Acady declared “deficient in conduct” by the Academic board, at the recent Semi Annual examination of Cadets.

The Sect^y. of War in approving the resolution of the board, has extended to him the privilege of resigning. & his resignation was forwarded to Washington yesterday.

He can in the meantime proceed to his friends, & leaves the Acady this mor^g for Louisville. He has rec^d. the sum of \$136.47, being the amount found to be due him on the settlement of his accounts, together with the customary traveling allowance to his residence at Lexington.

It would have been a source of much pleasure to me personally, & to the Officers of the Acady, had he continued at the Institution, & graduated with the distinction he could easily have attained; & which might have been expected from his name & talents; but he has latterly from some cause appeared to have lost all interest in his duties, & I understand has for several months wished to retire from the Acady.

I am very resply. Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

322.

Genl. Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City
D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 8 Feb. 1853

Genl. On the 24th Ulto: I had the honour to forward for approval, the proof sheets of a revised copy of the Reg^{ns} of the Mil: Acady. Their receipt not having been acknowledged, & the printer waiting to strike off the edition & to liberate his forms &c, causes me to enquire whether they have been rec^d., & to ask that they be returned to me as soon as the decision of the Secy can be conveniently obtained upon their merits.

I remain Very resply. Your obedt Servt
Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

Henry A. DuBois Esq.
Livingston. NY

U. S. Military Acady
West Point 9 Feb^y 1853.

Sir. I have rec^d. your letter of the 7th Inst: & regret that I can not with propriety, grant the leave of absence to your son you desire, to attend a wedding in your family on the 17th.

I have been obliged to refuse many similar applications; for what is granted to one must be given to all; & you can readily see the serious interruption that would take place to their studies & duties. The whole time of the Cadets is necessary to master their courses at the Academy, & any withdrawal of their attention affects them injuriously.

You have no doubt rec^d. the result of the recent Examination in the case of your son, & have seen that he has fallen in Mathematics from 5th to 16th. I think it is more to his advantage to have every opportunity to regain the high standing in his class, he held last June, than to enjoy the gaities of the wedding. He will have many occasions for the latter I hope in after life.

I remain With much respect
Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady

Hon^{ble} G. M. Conrad
Secy. of War
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 10 Feby 1853

Sir. I had the honor to receive yesterday, by Mr. J. P. Sherburne, your letter of the 4th Inst:, in reference to his recent dismissal from the Mil^y. Acady. The official record of his delinquencies was submitted to his inspection & he has handed me this morning the accomp^g excuses, which in obedience to your directions are forw^d. to the Dept. Some are now presented for the first time. Others are the repetition of those rendered at the proper time, with the present endorsement of the reporting officers. The whole are arranged in the manner thought best calculated to save trouble in their review.

Should all be considered satisfactory, the amount of his demerit would be reduced to 82. Should only those be considered valid, now favorably recommended by the reporting officers, it will be reduced to 102. Should he receive credit for none, the amount of his demerit will be 126.

Upon referring to the members of the Academic Board, the majority of those who voted for is discharge, state they were not influenced by any consideration of his

323.

conduct, but purely by his want of proficiency in his course & the belief that he could not eventually master it. The three others state they did take his conduct into account in forming their opinion, but in connection with the facts, that he had been once before turned back in his course (having taken 2 years to his 3^d class course), was now deficient in Chemistry – poor in Phil^y, & in their opinion would not be able to succeed in June, if allowed to continue with his class.

My opinion is therefore, that the decision of the board would have been the same, had his demerit been reduced to the stated minimum of 82, under all the circumstances of his case.

I ought to state in justice to M^r. Sherburne, that before the decision of the Academic board had been made, he applied to me for permission to hand in some further excuses for his delinquencies. But I considered the time had passed for their consideration. The report for the year had been closed & forw^d to Washington. There must be a limit to everything. Every delinquency against a Cadet is published on parade on two successive evenings. Their excuses are submitted when necessary to the reporting officers, & are examined by the Commandant of the Corps & the Supt:. The official record of those not removed, is exposed every day to the inspection of Cadets, & two weeks is given to the reconsideration of any further excuses they may have to offer. It is their own fault if any stand against them to which they are not entitled.

I will state also that subsequent to the examination of M^r. Sherburne, he presented to me the accomp^s Statement of the 18th Jan^y., which I laid before the Board while his case was under consideration. Upon reference to the Official register, it was ascertained that since the 1st Sept. at different periods in the months of Sept. Nov. & Dec^r. he had missed recitations on 14 days & was in hospital at no one time more than 4 days. His complaint being Catarrh, It was thought his indisposition was not of that nature to prevent his studying & that it ought not to excuse his deficiency.

I believe every circumstance was considered by the board before coming to their decision, & I regret that the result was not more favorable to him.

I have the honour to be Very resply

Your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R.E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point. 10 Feby 1853

Genl: I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of a letter of the 4th Inst: which I have rec^d. direct from the Secy. of War. & of my reply thereto of this date, which I have thought it necessary according to par: 926, to send in the same way.

I remain very resply.

Your obt Servt

(Signed) R E Lee Bvt Col:

Supt: Mil^y. Acady

324.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 14 Feby 1853

Washington D.C.

Genl:

The proof sheets of the new edition of the Academy reg^{ns} arrived this morn^g. I will reply to your notice of the variations from the original in the order in which they stand in your letter of the 11th Inst:

Par. 5. Conforms to usage & existing practice. The Comdt. of Cadets & Inst. of Inf^y Tactics has been, with two or three exceptions, an offr. of Inf^y. The Inst^r. of Artilly always an offr. of Art^y. The off^{rs}. of Infy complained, when an Arty officer was selected to instruct in Inf^y Tactics, & I presume the Arty would do the same in a similar case.

Proviso. Par. 12. Authority, par.12 old reg^{ns}, & letter of Engr. Dept. 20 Sept. 1841. The letter of Secy Spencer Nov 26/41, was not constructed as amending par. 16 (old). Par. 166 (new) requires officers making disbursements at West Point, to render their accounts according to the Reg^{ns} of Engr. Dept. which it was thought embraced its spirit, especially as the Supt. is an Offr. of Eng^{rs}. But to remove all doubt par. 14 new, has been made to include pars 9 & 11 Eng^r. reg^{ns}.

The authority for relieving the Profs from teaching one particular section, & making them responsible for the instruction of all, depends on practice, which was first commenced under Col: DeRussy, extended under Major Delafield & completed in 1847 under Capt Brewerton. By confining the Prof. to the 1st section, he could pay less attention to the others, that required it most, & could have no opportunity of seeing how their instructors performed their duty of teaching. I found it so established & made the regn. Conform to the fact.

There is nothing on file at the Acady to shew that any proviso was added by Mr. Spencer to par 24 (old), 64 (new).

Par. 71. The amt. of demerit is not increased. An intermediate grade is introduced to relieve the Cadets from offences for which 8 demerit was considered too great.

Par. 99. The uniform of the Cadets is taken from the Genl. Orders prescribing the uniform of the Army. The number of coats &c is not prescribed to soldiers, some Cadets require more than others, all are obliged to have at least one of each article of dress, & enough to present a neat appearance.

Par 118. Par. 116, 117 & 118 were intended to embrace par. 113 (old) which was thus sub-divided for convenient reference. Par 118, was meant more clearly to prohibit a Cadet's getting drunk either on or off limits.

Par. 163. Embraces the requirements of par. 157 (old) & covers the actual state of things. ordnance stores are furnished to the Mil. Acady as to other posts. Sometimes from one arsenal, & Sometimes from another.

Par. 183. The necessary regulations for interior police have been established by the Sup^{ts}. under authority of par. 170 (old). The hour for reveille has been changed so as to bring it more within daylight than before.

Par. 188. No uniform was prescribed for Cadets acting as Asst. Prof^{ts}. By the former reg^{ns}. That prescribed in par 188 is the uniform worn by them.

Par 187. Conforms to practice. Cadets have not worn whiskers, except occasionally in the 1st. class when about to graduate. It is embraced in the authority of par 170 (old).

Par. 219. The letter of Secty Spencer of Dec. 10/41 was considered rather as explanatory of par 215 (old) than as amendatory, & intended more for the government of inspecting officers than the Cadets. An acknowledgment of a violation of reg^{ns} on the part of a

Cadet ^{or} Officer, does not criminate him in the correct acceptance of the term, & its addition might lead them into error. The principle is distinctly laid down it was thought, by Secy Spencer in his letter of 5 Jany 1843. & by Secy Conrad in his order 6 Sept. 1852. If the reading of this principle is incorrect, the addition in question can be added.

Pars. 251, 252, 261, 262, 291, 293, 310, 311, & 313 are new, & are considered necessary for interior police &c & established under authority of par. 170. (old)

Tables "F" "G" & "H" the rules & articles of war &c, as stated in my letter of 24 Jany 1853, will be appended as usual, but being exactly the same in the new as the old edition, it was not considered necessary to forward them.

It was intended to embrace in the new Edition of the Reg^{ns}. the whole meaning & intent of the old & to make no changes not authorized, except where the existing practice at the Academy required. I have therefore to request that you will make any alteration or amendment that you may find necessary.

I have a copy of the proof sheet, & should any further reference be necessary it will not be required to return the copy now forw^d to you.

I am very respy. your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 15 Feb^y. 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Genl. I have rec^d your letter of the 12th Inst. in reference to Cadet Craig. He is correct in his statement that he & his classmates are the first members of the 1st class that have been dismissed at the Semi annual examⁿ. in Jany, since the regn. that formerly applied only to the 4th class, was amended on the 18th July 1849, to embrace all the classes. But they may be the first to whom it has been found necessary to apply it. They are certainly the first that since that time have been found deficient in Engineering at the Jany Exⁿ. In Jany 1851 several of the 1st Class were declared deficient in Min^y & Geol^y, & one in Jany 1852. But under the belief that they could redeem their deficiency in that branch by June, they were not recomm^d. for discharge.

Cadets in the 2nd & 3rd. classes were however discharged under this amended regulation in Jany 1850 & '52. The whole Corps ought to have known of its existence & their liability under it, if not from these facts, from its publication, & the printed extracts from the Acad^y. reg^{ns} which include the regⁿ thus amended (in precisely the same words as par 63, proof sheets revised edition) that have been distributed to them. Although Cadet Craig might not have expected to come under the rule, I am inclined to think he knew of its existence, as after the standing of his class was published on parade, he enquired of me whether he had been recommended for discharge.

Cadets of the 1st Class are rarely deficient in their courses, but when so declared have been dismissed. In June '48 & '50, on the very eve of graduation, Cadets of the 1st Class pronounced deficient in Engineering were dismissed.

It is also no doubt true that in his opinion he might not be deficient in his course. His Prof^r. Had formed a different opinion from his daily recitation, & called the attention of the board to his examination at the time, that they might satisfy themselves. Unfortunately his examⁿ. corroborated this opinion. He was found deficient by them and so declared.

They knew nothing of his conduct, nor were aware of the number of his demerit until some days subsequently. Though his conduct

326.

has not been marked by any grave offences, it has not been distinguished by attention to order or discipline & his amount of demerit for the half year is 147 at the same rate for the year, it would cause his dismissal.

I believe I can add nothing to what has been said but my opinion, that the board was governed in their recommendation of the discharge of Cadets Dwight, Craig & English, by what they considered the necessity of the case & the general benefit of the Cadets demanded.

I know it was with regret that Cadet Craig was included in this recommendation.

I have the honor to be very resy

Your obedt Servt:

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

West Point 15 Feby 1853

Mr. M. L. Montague.
Washington. D.C.

My dear Sir.

I send the enclosed in compliance with your request of the 11th Inst: which I hope will answer your purpose.

Wishing you every success & happiness.

I remain very truly yours
(Signed) R E Lee

Mr. M. Lawrence Montague of Alabama, entered the U.S. Mil. Acady. West Point 1st July 1851 & served till Jany. 1853. During the whole time he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, he was conspicuous for his good soldiership & military deportment & in June 1852 was selected from his class for one of the appointments of Corporal, which office he held till he left the Academy.

He was considered by his Command^g Officer attentive to his duty, Subordinate in his conduct, Correct in his deportment, & well acquainted with the school of the soldier, Compy. & military police.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady
West Point 15 Feby 1853.

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER BOOK NO. 3

1

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Feby 21. 1853.

Genl.

I have the honor to inform the Dept. that my Statement of Funds Exp^d during the month of January & Estimate of Funds required for the present month which were forwarded on the 2nd Inst: have not been acknowledged.

Cadet Pease requests permission to deposit \$15. to reduce his indebtedness at the Academy. Cadet A.P. Porter to receive underclothing &c from his father & Cadet Bursley a pair of Slippers which have been sent him from his friends. All of which are recommended for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully. Yr. obedt St.
(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. 21 Feby 1853

Genl:

I have rec^d this morning your letter of the 19th Inst: directing that Cadet William Craig be restored to the 1st Class in the Academy. He will resume his studies at the Institution, so soon as he reports to me for duty.

His discharge was dated 31st Jany, & between that period & the date of his restoration 19th Feby, he was out of the service. In preparing the rolls for muster the last day of this month, the question arises how he shall be taken up? Shall his pay be continuous, or commence from

the 19th Inst: The difference will only be about \$16. But the question is beyond my authority to decide. I beg leave therefore to request your instructions at your earliest convenience.

I am very resply your obed Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mil. Acady

P.S. 22nd. Feby.

Cadet Craig has reported to me this morn^g. It may be the intention of your order to him of the 19th to allow him transportation from Washington to West Point, as in the case of Cadet Schofield. If so please inform me. He has already been paid transportation to his home.

Very resply (Signed) R.E.L.

U.S. Mil: Acady

West Point 22 Feby 1853

Jos. F. Ames Esq.
Chicopee Mass.

Sir. In compliance with your request of the 15th Inst: I enclose a sketch of a view up the river from West Point, which I have thought might answer your purpose. It embraces but a small portion of the Point, the flag staff on the left, & a portion of the encampment on the right, but the view up the river is perhaps of more general notoriety than the point itself. It has been taken by an officer of the Academy, Lt. Richard S. Smith, & is a size adapted to your purpose.

There have been various views of the Point engraved, of a large size, giving the buildings &c. I have seen none very good, & when reduced, I should think would be indistinct & confused. You might however enquire for them at the Print shops & satisfy yourself. There are none here or I would send you one.

2.

There is hanging in the parlor of the West Point Hotel, a view of the Point taken from "Fort Putnam, publ^d by L. R. Munger, 12 Dey St. New York." which you could find perhaps at the publishers. I can refer you to no other.

I am very resply. Yr obt Servt

(Signed) R E Lee BtCol:

Supt. Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil: Acady

West Point NY. 24 Feby 1853.

Dwight Jarvis Esq.
Mussillars. Ohio.

Sir. I have recd your letter of the 17th Inst: & in compliance with your request, will endeavor to explain to you the principle adopted in determining the standing of the Cadets in their studies & conduct.

His amount of demerit for the end of Jany. was 101. Thus far in Feby he has rec^d. but 2 in addition. I hope you will use your influence to stimulate him to greater diligence in his studies & more attention to his duties, in order that he may take a creditable stand in his class at the next June examination.

I fear my time has not allowed me to be sufficiently explicit in my explanations, but hope they may enable you to understand more clearly the reports from the War Dept: in future.

I remain Very resply. your obt St.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

U.S. Military Academy

West Point. N.Y. 25 Feby 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington DC.

Genl: Agreeably to the request contained in the Dept: letter of the 23rd Inst: I have the honor to enclose herewith, duplicates of my Statement of Funds expended during the month of January, and Estimate of Funds required for the present month. Please have the amounts of the later forwarded as early as possible.

I am very respectfully. Your obdt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

U.S. Mil: Acady.

West Point 25 Feb^y. 1853

R. V. Montague Esq.
Richland. Alab^a.

Dear Sir. I have rec^d your letter of the 16th inst. in reference to the recent separation of your son from the Mil: Acady.

I assure you its necessity was the cause of much regret to the Academic Board, & the Officers of the Institution, to whom his good Soldiership & correct deportment were well known. The recommendation of the Board in his case, was based entirely upon the want of proficiency in his studies, & the belief that he could not master them sufficiently to graduate, though he should have remained longer at the Institution. His advancement last June was very questionable & due principally to his character & the hope of his ultimate success.

My opinion is therefore that the recommendation of the Board at the recent Jany examination, would have been the same, even had he have had no demerit.

He deservedly has many has many friends in the Corps & at the Institution, & it is natural that your correspondence should have rec^d the impression of his case which he has communicated to you; and to shew you my own opinion of his character, I enclose

4.

for your perusal, a copy of a statement sent to him at his request in Washington, where he informed me he was applying for a situation in the Marine Corps.

The revision you request of his case by the academic board, with a view to his reinstatement, is beyond my power; & if practicable, it would not in my opinion result in any benefit to him.

Wishing him all success and happiness. I remain.

Very resp'y. your Obt. Servt.

(Signed) R.E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Military Acady.
West Point. 25 Feb^y. 1853

Genl: Cadets Edward M. Crampton & Wainwright Heil[e]man of the 4th Class, sick in hospital, have applied to me this day for a leave of absence on account of ill-health.

I enclose the certificates of the Surgeon of the state of their health, presented some ten days since, which I have kept back in the hope, that some favorable change might occur, to enable them to resume their studies with their class, & render unnecessary the granting them a leave of absence; which besides the injury to the individuals, I feared might grow into an evil to the Corps & service.

But from their representations to me today, I believe it is impossible for them to continue with their present class, even were they in a situation to resume their studies at once, which they are not. I do not see therefore that any good is to be obtained by retaining them at the Institution.

You will observe that the Surgeon is of the opinion that Cadet Crampton will be restored in a few months, & a visit to his home and friends would no doubt expedite his recovery & render him better able to commence with the next 4th class in June, should he be allowed the opportunity.

With respect to Cadet Heilman he is more doubtful, & recommends freedom from study, exercise & diet. I think it is certain he cannot continue with his present class. Whether he will be better able to resume his duties in June next, I have no means of judging, nor am I aware of any place to which he can repair for the benefit of his health.

I therefore submit the whole to you for your orders.

I am very resp'y. your Obt. Servt.

Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Mr. Edw^d. Knisely
West Point

U.S. Mil: Acad^y.
West Point 26 Feb^y. 1853

Sir. It has been reported to me that on the afternoon of Wednesday last, a little after 4 O'Clock, one of your pupils whose name is Cooper, was seen to bring from Mr. Clark's store a quantity of tobacco, about a dozen papers, & give them to some Cadets who were standing near the shoemakers shop.

I feel convinced such acts do not meet with your approval, & perhaps this was done by the young gentleman in question, without knowing he was violating the regulations of the Academy, or considering the injury he was doing to the Cadets.

My object is therefore to bring ^{it} to your notice & to ask that you take such
forw^d

5.

measures as you may judge best to prevent its repetition.

I am very resply your obedt Servt.
Signed) R E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

West Point 28 February 1853.

Mr. M. L. Montague
Washington City DC.

My dear Sir.

I have rec^d. your letter of the 23^d Inst: in reference to your joining the present 4th class at the Academy next June. I really do not see how it can be accomplished. So far as I know there is no precedent for such a course, & it is contrary to the regulations of the Academy. The Academic board could not therefore recommend it, or with propriety make any other suggestions to the Sect^y. of War than that already contained in their official report.

I am unable therefore to give you any aid, or to hold out any expectation of a different report from the Board, than that they have submitted.

I remain with much consideration
Very truly yours.
(Signed) R. E. Lee.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. 4 March 1853

Washington D.C.

Genl: In compliance with your instructions of the 18th ulto: I submit the following changes in the Revised Edition of the Regulations of the Mil: Acad^y., the proof sheets of which are in your possession.

Par. 61 (Substitute) “any Cadet found deficient in his studies at the Annual examination, shall not be admitted to the next higher class, but his case shall be presented to the Secy of War, to the end that he be discharged; and if in the opinion of the Academic board, there should be any circumstances entitling him to indulgence, they shall be reported to the War Dept: [see form C.].

Par. 64. (Strike out the words from ‘Candidate to or’ inclusive, so that it shall read) “no Cadet discharged from the Academy, or otherwise separated from it, &c. &c.”. There will then be nothing forbidding the reexamination of any Candidate in the last week of August. If this in your opinion, does not cover the case, then the Proviso of Secy Spencer must be added to the Par. as it now stands.

Par: 219 (add) “Provided, that by such answer he will not incriminate himself.”

Certificates of proficiency are invariably given to Cadets who resign before graduating, no mention of the practice however is made in the old reg^{ns} & it has been overlooked in the new. It is therefore proposed to add to par: 174 “Upon the acceptance of the resignation of a Cadet by the Secy of War, a certificate of his proficiency, in his Academic & military exercises, will be furnished him by the Superintendent.” This conforms to the present practice.

The course of instruction laid down in the revised edition, conforms to that now taught, & to the best of my knowledge has been from time to time, sanctioned & ordered.

Should these alterations meet your approval, please have the necessary corrections made in the proof sheets. I have endeavoured in carrying out your instructions, to economize space, so as not to break up paragraphs or pages; & have to request that in any further changes you may find necessary, that regard may be had to the same.

As there are no copies of the reg^{ns} for distribution either to Cadets or Officers, & as some of the

6.

Professors have never received one since their appointment I am anxious to publish the new edition for the benefit of the Academy and the Board of Visitors on their arrival, that they may understand the organization & object of the Institution. The printer is only waiting for the sanction of the Secy of War to strike off the edition.

Should the proviso proposed to par. 219 be added, I think it will be advisable to state what is understood by “self examination”. Whether the acknowledgement of the violation of a regulation or order as regards police or duty which would render the perpetrator liable to demerit or punishment, is so considered, or whether the principle stated by Secy Spencer in his letter of 5 Jan^y 1843 is to govern. The Cadets will understand it in the first sense, & I fear will carry that understanding into the performance of all their duties. The officer of the day will not be able to answer the official questions of the Commandant of the Corps, touching his tour of duty, for fear of criminating himself. The Orderly Sergeants will not be able to report the presence of their companies at roll calls for the same reason. The Sentinals, cannot give account of the state of their posts to the inspecting officer, on the same ground, & so on throughout; & to be satisfied that the prescribed duties of each are performed, the Officer responsible for its performance,

must see it executed himself. I wish the Cadets to know what is required, & that I may know the intention of the Dept., so as not to demand more than is authorized.

I consider it my duty, to answer every official question, concerning the duties for which I am accountable, put to me by my superior having cognizance of, or responsibility for the execution of that duty, though such answers may cost me my commission in the Army. This will illustrate my understanding of self examination in a military sense, & you can see whether such is the interpretation to be given to the proviso in question or not.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

Signed) R E. Lee. Bct: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl. Jos. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. March 5. 1853.

Genl:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Dept's letter of the 28th Feby. concerning the condemned horses now in charge of the Instructor of ^{Artillery &} Cavalry at this post. Since the horses are unserviceable, notwithstanding every effort to remedy them, & the Government is at the expense of foraging them, I would respectfully recommend that I should receive authority from the Dept: to sell them, at the first favorable opportunity; & to apply the proceeds to the purchase of others.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col

Supt. Mil: Acady.

7

John S. Gallaher Esq
3rd. Auditor US
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. March 7. 1853

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Two thousand four hundred and Eighty dollars on acct. of Forage for Art^y. & Cavalry horses.

Very respectfully Sir. Yr. Obt. Servt

Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col: Engr

John Sloane Esq
Treas^r. of the U. States
Washington City D.C.

West Point. U. S. M. A.
7 March 1853.

Sir.

I have received the following Treasury drafts payable to my order by the Asst: Treas.
New York No. 3820 on War Warrant No. 8304 for \$2480.

Your obedient Servant
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 9 March 1853

Genl.

I have rec^d the letter of Gen^l. Wm H. Richardson, Adj^t Genl. of Virg^a., addressed to the
Sec^y of War, which you addressed to me on the 3rd Inst.

I have to report in reply that none of the works recd. from Mons. A Valtemare &
transmitted to the Acady. were previously in its Library, & that consequently there are more that
could be furnished to that state.

There are however in the Library many copies of Mil. works formerly used as text books,
which have been superceded by others & are now only useful as books of reference. Some of
these could be advantageously spared to the Mil Academies of Virg^a. & other states, if desired &
they could be so appropriated.

I will mention	Fays Official accounts of the War of 1812
	Tousard's Artillerist Companion
	Duanes Hand Book for Inf ^y .
	Duanes Hand Book for Riflemen
	Hutton's Mathematics 2 nd Vol. <u>only</u>
	O'Connor's Science of War & Fortification
	Garnett's Tables for finding the Lat: & Long.
	L'allemand Artillery.

Some of these reach to hundreds of volumes.

I remain Very respectfully Yr. obedt. Servt.
(Signed) R E. Lee. Br. Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady.

P.S. The letter of Genl. Richardson, is herewith, returned.

Cadet Craighill in anticipation of his graduation in June, requests permission to receive
some shirts from his home. & Cadet Gentry asks that he may receive some shirts, Gloves, Socks

&c which have been sent for him by his friends to the Office of the Q Master of the Post—which requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

Signed/ REL.

8.

Jos. T. Ames Esq
Chicopee. Mass.

U. S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 12 March 1853

Sir.

Agreeably to your request of the 10th Inst: I have had prepared a sketch of the Library & park of Artillery, of a size corresponding to that of the view, which is herewith enclosed & which I hope will answer your purpose.

It has given no trouble, but on the contrary pleasure to furnish you the sketches, but as I have had to call a Second time upon the same officer who made the first, I have told him I would pay him \$5. for his assistance in the matter, which if you will remit to me, I will give him.

Very resply your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee. Bt: Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 14 March 1853.

Genl. I have recd your letter of the 10th Inst authorizing certain amendments in the new Edition of the Reg^{ns} of the Mil: Academy. Before directing the printing of the edition, I should like to have back the copy of the proof sheets in your possession, to compare them with those retained by me, to be sure that all the necessary alterations have been made. The proof sheets I have, were the first that were struck off. Some corrections were ordered & a second copy struck off, which are those you have. If you do not require them at present, please return them to me by mail, & I will have all the ordered amendments made & a new copy struck off with an index & examined, before ordering the whole edition. By that time I hope to receive the sanction of the President's name.

I am very resply. Yr. obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bt: Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point. 14 March 1853

Hon^{ble}. Gouverneur Kemble
Coldspring. N.Y.

Dear Sir. I have rec^d. your note of the 7th Inst: in reference to the proposition of some of the inhabitants of Coldspring to build a proper steamer to run between that place & West Point, provided they can be assured of the ferry on both sides of the river.

I shall have no objection to accord them that privilege, as far as West Point is concerned, subject to such regulations, as the discipline, order & convenience of the Post may require, & I consider the interest you will have in the matter, a sufficient assurance, that the management of the boat & ferry will only be entrusted to proper persons.

I think it right however that the interests of the ferryman on this side of the river should be so far regarded, as to allow him the privilege of taking an interest in the proposed boat, or that he should be indemnified in some other way, for the outfit in boats &c he may have already made.

I must also inform you that an appⁿ. has been made at the recent session of Congress to build a new wharf, which it is proposed to place on the south side of the Point, & which will be more accessible to Passenger Steamboats & more convenient for communicating
with

9.

with the R.R. Station at Garrisons, than the present wharf. This I have thought might reduce the profits of the ferry to Coldspring, & it was proper that you should know.

I remain, Very truly yours.

(Signed) RE Lee

Br. Col: Supt: Mil: Acady.

Bvt: Capt: G. W. Smith
Corps of Eng^r.
West Point.

U.S. Mil: Acady.

West Point. NY. March 12. 1853.

Sir. You will proceed to the city of New York for the purpose of seeing Surgeon Mower [?] and endeavoring to have a Surgeon sent to this post by the first train after your arrival after which you will return to this post.

Very respectfully-Your obed Servt

Signed/ R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Capt: Seth Williams
Adj. US Mil: Acady.

U. S. Mil: Acady West Point
(at night) 14 March 1853.

West Point. N.Y.

Sir.

The continued illness of Dr Simons, & the absence of Dr Cuyler, render the services of a skillful Surgeon at this Post necessary.

You will therefore repair to the City of New York by the first train acceptable to you, & in consultation with the proper Medical officer in the City, procure the earliest probable attendance of an experienced Physician, capable of consulting with Dr Cuyler, should he in the meantime return, on the present cases of sickness at the Post, or of taking the management of them during his absence.

Upon the completion of this business, you will return to the Post & resume your duty.

Very respectfully. Your obt Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Mil: Academy
West Point 15 March 1853.

Genl:

The present Cadet uniform dress cap is heavy, harsh & uncomfortable to the head. The black patent leather crown, when exposed to the hot sun in summer is particularly objectionable, causing headache, dizziness &c. The supply on hand is nearly exhausted, & in preparing for the admission of the next 4th class, I have considered it a good opportunity to endeavor to remedy these evils.

I have caused therefore a model to be prepared under the direction of the Comdt. of Cadets, & to be submitted to some of the manufacturers in New York, with the view, in case of its adoption, of obtaining proposals for a supply for the Corps, accompanied by a specimen of material & workmanship.

It is proposed to make the new cap of a better kind of silk fur than the old, lighter, shaped more to the head, of the form & style of the present army cap, which is warranted to last five years. To have the crown of the same material as

the

10.

the body, the edge only reinforced with a patent leather rim & a patent ventilator in the center. The Castle and mountings the same as in the present cap. The pompom for the privates, black as at present, but of an egg or illipsoidal shape, instead of an inverted cone. The Plume for officers, black, & of the same character as at present, but rather lower, to correspond with the style of cap.

Patterns have not yet been rec^d from all the manufacturers from whom proposals were invited, but enough is known to state that the cost of the cap will not exceed \$2.50.

Should you not be able from my description, to decide between the relative merits of the cap now in use & that proposed, after rec^d all the patterns & proposals expected, & selecting the one preferred, I will forward by express, a cap of the old & proposed pattern, that you may compare the one with the other. Should you however consider this unnecessary, I request authority to make the proposed change in the dress cap, on or after the 1st of July next.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

John Sloan Esq.
Treasurer of the United States
Washington City D.C.

US Mil: Acady
West Point 16 March 1853.

Sir.

I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst: Treas. New York No. 3865 on War Warrant No. 8340 for \$2000.

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ RE Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt. Mil. Acady.

John S. Gallaher Esq
3rd. Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil^y. Acad^y.
West Point. NY. 16 March 1853.

Sir. I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Two thousand dollars on account of Current & Ordinary Expenses of the Mil: Acady.

Very respectfully. Sir. Yr. obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Tho S. Jesup
Qr Master Genl. U.S. Army
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 17 March 1853

Genl:

Since the reception of your letter of the 7th Inst: objecting to the reasons assigned by a board of Survey on the 18th of October last, for condemning as “unserviceable” certain Saddles at this Post, I have examined them in person.

I find that six saddles are in good condition. The remainder cannot be used without extensive repairs. The parchment seats will have to be renewed. The brass rims of many of the pommel & cantels restored, and leather skirts &c repaired or replaced. I should think that more than one half would have to be stripped to the tree & entirely renewed. But if thoroughly repaired they would still be unsuited to the use of the Cadets. Not because they are of the

11.

“old pattern” or do not correspond with the present saddles; but because they are so large & harsh in the seat, that the Cadets become chafed & excoriated to such a degree, as to be incapacitated for riding. I am informed by an officer, now on duty at the Academy, that when a Cadet, his legs were frequently so excoriated as to bleed after the usual lesson of instruction on the Saddles in question; and that he was safe in saying, his class was excused half the time from riding, by the Surgeon, from the same cause. They may be well adapted to a heavy dragoon, who lives in his Saddle, & has to carry on it his blankets, arms, clothes, provisions &c &c but I have seen even them with the overcoat & valise [?] shaped inside the pommel & cantle, to contract the seat. But for a youth, to use for an hour or two in the day, in hard and rapid motion, with every other hour of his time closely occupied. I hope you will agree with me in thinking, that due consideration for his proper instruction will require Saddles better adapted to his condition. The top blanket will in that case be dispensed with, which in addition to its cost, is the harshest seat I have ever tried, for violent & rapid motion, & in warm weather, have found the naked wooden tree preferable.

The only instruction in cavalry tactics that can now be given the Cadets is in the field. No time can be taken from this present course to teach it in the Section room. I am therefore the more anxious that the former shall be extended as far as possible, & shall endeavor this Spring to have them instructed in the School of the Squadron. It is for this purpose I desire additional Saddles, to mount the 1st & 2nd Classes. But I do not wish to expend a dollar more than necessary for the purpose, & if you think that no other Saddles can with propriety be furnished the Cadets, they must do without them. But I think it poor economy to be at the expense of Instructors, horses & Cadets & without the means of using to the greatest advantage. So convinced am I that the Saddles in question will be of no use to the Academy, that I recommend they be withdrawn, & applied to the general service of the Army. They have not been used for more than three years & probably never will be again. If repaired they would be of service, where adapted to the duty required; but I should prefer for the Academy, the number of Saddles of a smaller pattern that could be bought for the price of repairing these, [?] double their number if new.

I forward a letter of Major Thomas, Inst. of Arty. & Cavy. Tactics on the subject. &

Remain Very respy. Your obedt Servt

Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl. Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U. S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 17 March 1853.

Genl. I enclose herewith a communication of this date to the Qr M Genl. of the Army in reference to certain saddles that were condemned last Fall as “unserviceable”, which I have to request you to forward to him. You will be able to see the uselessness of the Saddles to the Academy, & I hope will endeavor to have them replaced by others more suitable.

I have the honor to be very resply. Yr. obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

12.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 19 March 1853.

Genl.

I have not rec^d an official copy of the Bill, passed at the last session of Cong. for the support of the Mil: Academy, for the next fiscal year. Some of the items for which I have seen in the public papers appropriations were made, the wharf especially, it would be convenient for me at present to make preparations for their construction. I would therefore ask your instructions on this point at your earliest convenience, for though I am aware that the appⁿ will not be available till the first of July, arrangements can be made for its application more economically now than later

I remain very resply. your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 21 March 1853.

Genl:

In submitting a report of the board of Survey ordered at the request of the Instructor of Art^y. & Cavalry Tactics, to examine the condition of three horses under his charge, I take occasion to say that the sale of those authorized by you on the 9th Inst: has been advertised for

Monday next the 28th; & that it would be convenient to dispose of these at the same time, should such a disposition of them seem to you proper.

The disease which has destroyed these horses, & those already ordered to be sold, is said to have been brought to the Point by the horses rec^d from New Port R. I. in May 1851. It shewed itself among them the day after their arrival, & every horse in the stables was seized with a kind of distemper, which in the general number of cases was cured in a few days. The most obstinate cases have either terminated fatally in Glanders, or the horses have been so completely broken down, ^{as}~~to~~ [correction made in pencil] to have been incapable of Service since. The three in question are all that remain affected with the disease. Every precaution has been used to prevent it spreading. The sick horses have been entirely separated from the others, & every article of horse or stable furniture in their use, has been destroyed or purified. All the remedies prescribed in the veterinary books, have been exhausted without success, & the disease appears to be incurable. I therefore recommend that they be disposed of as soon as possible, as I am in constant fear, upon the approach of Spring, that the disease may spread among the other horses.

If ordered to be sold, I would think it right to state at the time of sale, what is believed to be the nature of their disease, & should they not be sold, that I receive authority to destroy them.

I am very respectfully. Yr. obedt Servt.

(Signed) R E Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

13.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 21. March 1853.

Genl: It will be necessary to purchase for the use of the Academy additional Arty & Cavalry horses.

You are aware tha^tn [correction made in pencil] an appⁿ. of \$3000. was made 6th of Aug^t. 1852. for the purchase of 30. The want of stables & the high price of forage, has induced me to delay applying for them till absolutely necessary. The instruction of the Cadets this Spring, will require more horses than we have, but as we will have only stable room for 17 additional horses, after disposing of all those condemned as unserviceable, I recommend that only that number be purchased at this time.

If the horses are not to be purchased by the Q^r. M^r. Dept as heretofore. I must ask your instructions as to its accomplishment.

To send an officer specially into the western part of this state, the best market accessible to us, will not I fear enable us to procure the limited number we can now receive at the average price of \$100. & I have thought that 17 might be selected from those purchased by the Q^r. M^r. Dept: Suitable for our purposes, without injury to the general Service, & more economically than in any other way.

We require compact and active horses, & rather lighter than in the general service.

I am very resply. Your obt Servt.

(Signed) R.E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 21 March 1853

Genl. The price of the present Cadet dress-cap, without trimmings, is \$2.00. The proposals for that described in my letter of the 15th with the ventilator, that have as yet been recd are \$2.20. \$2.35 & \$2.50. The former has been preferred of those offered, but it is possible that we may have to pay higher than the price named. The cause of the additional cost on the present cap will be, the lighter & better material, the ventilator, & the crown being made to vary with the size of the cap.

In the present cap, the crowns are all of the same size, & struck from a common round mould, giving a stiffness and rigidity to the whole cap. In the proposed cap, the crown will be elliptical, conforming to the shape of the head, & varying with the size.

I fear however it cannot be made of the same material as the body of the cap, as I had proposed. The manufacturers think, that there will be so little surface exposed between the leather edge & ventilator, as to endanger its stability, & in consequence of the reduced size of the crown, & the addition of the ventilator, that the inconvenience of the present cap will be removed.

I am very resply. Your obedt Servt.
Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

14.

Lieut: R. S. Smith
4th Art^y. A. A. Q. Mr.
West Point

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. March 21. 1853.

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury drafts. Upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt Servt.
Signed/ R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. March 25. 1853.

Washington City D.C.

Genl.

The authority given the Supt: of the Acady by par. 79 A. Reg^{ns}, to grant leaves of absence to the Cadets during the period of encampment, provides “that each Cadet so permitted to be absent shall have been present at not less than two entire encampments.” Cadets admitted in September cannot under this provision, receive the indulgence of the usual leave of absence granted to their class, at the commence-ment of the 2nd Class course. Yet the practice has been to extend to them the same indulgence as the others, & I can find no authority for this departure from the Reg^{ns}. The records of the Adj^{ts} office do not go back further than 1838, when the office was destroyed by fire, but there is no reference to a change of the Reg^{ns} in this respect since, & the provision in question is embraced in the edition of the Reg^{ns} published in Jan'y 1839. I find however in that very year, 1839, that leaves of absence were granted to the Cadets that were admitted in September, & the present Comm^{dt} of the Corps informs me that he was of the number. It has been continued since, & I take it for granted must be authorized. The course of instruction is now such, that if they do not go at that time, they cannot go at all. For after entering the 1st class, the morn^g during the encampment is devoted to Practical Eng^g & Art^y & the afternoon to recitation in Inf^y & Art^y tactics.

My object is therefore to ask whether I shall continue the practice as heretofore. There are five Cadets in the present class that will be entitled to a furlough in June, who entered in September, & who have applied for the usual leave of absence.

I am Very respectfully

Your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 26 March 1853.

Genl. I have rec^d. the letter of the Hon^{ble} Geo. W. Jones: transmitting an application from Judge J. Bayard for a leave of absence of two weeks for his son, Cadet G. D. Bayard, immediately after the next June examination; referred to me on the 22nd. Inst:.

You are aware that the Cadets go into camp at that time, & that the graduation of one class, & the regular furlough of another, devolves the whole Camp duty upon the members of the 3rd classes, until the 4th, then just admitted, becomes sufficiently

15.

instructed to bear a portion of the burden.

Cadet Bayard will have just then commenced the 3rd class course, & will not be entitled to a furlough until the encampment after the next, when he will have the same indulgence granted to the rest of his class. I think it would be unjust to his class & the rest of his Corps, to grant him leave of absence, equally desirable to them all, & retain them to perform his share of Camp duty.

Cadet Bayard will besides commence at that time with his class, practical instruction of Art^y. tactics, & continue the practice of Inf^{ty} Tactics.

I regret therefore that the general interests of the Corps & a regard for his own instruction, obliges me to recommend that a leave of absence be not granted him, until it can be accorded to the rest of his class.

The letter of the Hon^{ble} Geo. W. Jones, with its enclosure, is herewith returned.

I have the honour to be your very Obt. Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Jacob J. Fort Esq.
Oswego. N.Y.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 29 March 1853.

Sir,

The Surgeon has this morn^g reported to me that your son Cadet J. E. Fort has had a serious attack of hemorrhage of the lungs, which though not alarming as to any immediate consequence, leads him to fear, may result in pulmonary disease. He was taken into Hospital last Saturday, 26th, where he still remains & receives every attention that his case requires, that is in our power to afford; & is as comfortable as can be expected from the nature of his attack.

As this, though not the first, is the most serious attack of the kind he has had, I have thought it right to advise you of the fact, & to apprise you of the apprehensions of the Surgeon, that you may take the course best calculated in your judgement for his present relief & future benefit. I shall have every attention paid to him in my power, & you need not therefore be uneasy as to his present comfort.

I remain very resp'y. your obt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Major Jos. S. Donaldson
Q^rM^r. Baltimore
Md.

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 29 March 1853.

A similar letter sent April 1st
to Lt. Col. Tho^s. Swords. New York [marginal note]

Major.

I have been authorized to purchase 17 horses for the use of the Mily Academy, for which an appⁿ. has been made by Congress; but it is thought at Washington, that the Act of Appⁿ. requires that the average price of the horses shall not exceed \$100. in as much as it appropriates "\$3000. for the purchase of 30 horses."

We have only stable room at present for 17, & I did not wish to purchase more at this time, & my object is to enquire of you the prospect of procuring such as are suitable for our purchase in Baltimore, & the probability of getting them at the average price of \$100. or the probable price we would have to pay.

You are aware of the kind of horses we require for Arty & Cavalry exercise. Compact, Active & kind, rather lighter than are required for the

16.

General service of the Army, & with their natural tails.

Should you be purchasing any for the Gov^t. could you procure us the desired number without inconvenience, or select them from any you may have in depot, & allow me to pay for them out of the Appⁿ. for the purchase?

Very truly your obedt Servt.

Signed) R E Lee Bt Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: W^m. H. Richardson
Adj. Genl. of Va
Richmond

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point. 29 March 1853.

Sir.

Your letter to the Secretary of War, proposing that such books as had been presented to the U.S. Mil. Academy by Mons. Alex. Valtemare, of which it previously possessed copies; might be transferred to the Mil: Acady of Virginia; was refered to me on the 3^d Inst.

None of the works presented by Mr. Valtemare were previously in the Library of the Academy, & there are therefore no superfluous copies to be disposed of; but I have just received authority to offer you for the use of the Mil: Acady of Virginia such Military works as can be spared from the Library, of which we have duplicate copies.

I enclose you a list, & if you will select such as you may judge useful or desirable, it will give me pleasure to forward them according to your directions.

I remain Sir

Very respectfully, Your obedt Servt.

Signed) R.E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

Mason Cleveland Esq
Hampton. Conn:

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 31 March 1853:

Sir. I reply to your note of the 28th Inst., in reference to the instruction of your son, preparatory to his admission into the Mil: Academy, I have to state that I know of no arrangement that could be made for his tuition, prior to the time appointed for him to report at West Point, by any of the officers connected with the Institution.

There is a school near the Point, of which ^{Mr} Edw^d. Kinsley is the Principal, where you could no doubt place him for instruction, & which I believe to be a very good one; but the subjects upon which he will be examined for admission, are so simple, that I should think they could be as well taught nearer home, as anywhere.

Of this however you can better judge. If he has the power of application & a serious determination to comply with the Reg^{ns} of the Acady, you need not be uneasy as to his success.

I remain very respectfully

Your obedt Servt.

Signed) R E Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady.

P.S. I have just learned that the usual vacation of one month in Mr. Kinsley's school commenced yesterday.

Signed) REL

[page misnumbered in original] 7.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. 1 April 1853

Genl:

In compliance with your directions of the 22^d. Ulto; I herewith forward drawings exhibiting the changes proposed in my letters of the 15th & 20th March, in the Cadet dress cap; with the price & weight of each; which in addition to what has been said, may enable you to judge of the comparative merit of each pattern.

I am very respect^y. Your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil^y. Acady.

Note. Weight of present dress cap 10^{1/4} oz: Cost \$2.00. of proposed cap 6^{1/2}: Cost \$2.20

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 1 April 1853.

Genl.

I have rec^d. your letter of the 28th Ult^o., relative to the propriety of granting the same leaves of absence to those Cadets who enter the Academy in Sept. as are extended to the rest of their class who are admitted in July.

I think it important that every Cadet should serve three encampments, & have the benefit of the Military instruction taught at those periods; & the loss of this instruction, during the first encampment, forms great objection to their admittance at any other time, than the 1st of July. But unless those Cadets who under the Reg^{ns} may be admitted on the 1st Sept. receive a leave of absence with their class at the period of its third encampment, they must be deprived of it altogether. For during the period of the second encampment, their first, their class is instructed in practical Arty., in addition to camp duties & other military exercises; and their fourth & last encampment is devolved to the study of Inftry. Tactics, Arty & practical Engineering. At neither of these encampments could they with propriety be absent, or without disadvantage to themselves.

At the time of framing the Reg^{ns} on the subject, the loss of instruction during the first encampment, & the favour of being admitted on the 1st Sept., might have been considered a fair offset to the indulgence granted the rest of the class, & still is of weight. But at that time a subsequent leave of absence might be granted them without injury.

These reasons I presume have induced the practice mentioned in my letter of the 25th; and upon further investigation, I have found the record of a letter from Major Delafield to the Dept: of the 26th June 1839; & the sanction of the Sec^y. of War requested in that particular case, contained in the last paragraph of your reply of 2nd July, copies of which I enclose, which I infer has been taken as a precedent in all subsequent cases.

A leave of absence to the Cadets once during their academic term, I think a benefit. It is a great gratification. Its prospect holds out encouragement to better behavior; & its enjoyment has a tendency to enlarge their ideas; ameliorates many contracted notions, & renders them more happy & contented during the rest of their course.

Should you therefore think it preferable to amend par. 79 of the Reg^{ns} to continuing the practice pursued under the former sanction of the Sec^y of War

I

18.

I offer for your consideration, in compliance with the tenor of your letter of the 28th Ult^o., a substitute for the 2nd proviso of said par.: viz: "Provided further that no Cadet shall be allowed but one leave of absence, & that every Cadet before graduating shall have served at least two^{entire} encampments

I have the honour to be

Very resply your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady

Cadet W. Hei[e]man
New York
Care of Mr. Joseph Wais [?]
at Miss^s. Tiffany Hullings
321 Broadway NY.

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 2 April 1853.

Sir. I have just rec^d. your letter of the 1st Inst: in reference to your pay to which you consider yourself entitled during your absence from the Academy.

At the time of your departure, 12 March, you were in debt for articles furnished you by the Comm^{ry} &c \$70.60. For cash to defray your expenses to New York &c \$10.00. Making your whole indebtedness \$80.60. This amount can only be met by your pay as it becomes due, & the whole will be absorbed till June to pay off the debt to those by whom you have been furnished with articles & money.

I regret therefore to inform you that nothing will be due you till that time.

I am very resply. Your obedt Servt
Signed) R E Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Hon^{ble}. Jos G. King
New York.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 6 April 1853

[Marginal note in pencil]
Cadet G. is [?] - in
Hospital from 20 Oct '52
to 1 Feby '53. & from 8 Feby
1853 to 28 Mar '53

Dear Sir.

In reply to your note of the 4th Inst: asking whether an application for a leave of absence for your nephew Cadet Gracie, during the first part of the ensuing encampment would be in rule & not otherwise objectionable; I have to state that your nephew had his leave of absence last encampment. That the next encampment, his class will commence the course of Practical Engineering in the field, & the study of Arty. & Inft^{ry} Tactics, & that he could not be absent without injury to himself. In addition, that the graduation of one class, & the usual furlough of another, devolves the whole camp duty on the 3rd & 1st. classes (of the latter of which Cadet G. will then be a member) until the 4th class, just admitted, shall have become sufficiently instructed

to share the burden. It would neither be just to his class or the rest of the Corps, to grant him an indulgence, equally agreeable to them all, & retain them to do his share of duty.

I regret therefore, that a regard for his own instruction & the general interests of the Corps compel me to object to the leave of absence desired.

I remain Sir, with great respect.

Your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bt Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady

19.

Cornelius L. King Esq
Columbia College
New York

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 6 April 1853.

Sir

Your request of the 4th Inst: for a leave of absence for your cousin, Cadet Gracie, to attend your wedding on the 28th Inst. has this day been rec^d. It would give me great pleasure to extend to him this priviledge, which I know would be as gratifying to him as pleasing to you; but I have been obliged to refuse so many similar applications, with even stronger claims to indulgence, that I could not with propriety grant this.

If given to one it must be accorded to all, which would seriously interfere with the duties of the Cadets, & the object of the Institution

I regret therefore to be unable to comply with your request.

I remain with great respect

Your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City, DC.

U. S. Mil: Academy
West Point 6 April 1853.

Genl. In obedience to your instructions of the 5th Inst. this day rec^d. I have detailed Lt. A. J. Donelson, 1 Sergt., 1 Corpl., 4 Artificers & 4 Privates of the Engineer Company, for the duty specified therein.

Lt. Donelson has been directed to report the readiness of the detachment to Gov^r. Stevens at Washington by letter, & to await orders at this place. I will see that they are provided with all that they require that can be furnished from this Post.

It was with some hesitation, in the absence of Capt. Cullum, that I selected Lt. Donelson for this service, but under all the circumstances of the case, I consider him the most available for the duty.

I remain very respectfully
Your obedt Servt.
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Swift
56 Exchange Place
New York

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 9. April 1853.

My dear Genl: I have just rec^d. your letter of yesterday's date, & hasten to inform you, that I know of no immediate necessity for a republication of the Register of Officers & graduates of the Mil: Acady, & should think you would be in sufficient time, were you to furnish the desired information in reference to Col: Williams during the summer.

It is very desirable that he should receive honorable mention in the next edition, & I therefore hope you will be able to furnish all the necessary data.

Your journal I am sure would give interesting information as regards the history of West Point, the early state & progress of the Academy, & the instruction of the Cadets. I hope its contents will not therefore be lost, but you are the proper judge of the best means of giving it publicity

I remain faithfully. Your friend & Servt
Signed) R. E. Lee

20.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. April 11. 1853.

Genl: I have the honour to transmit herewith, my Accounts for the 1st Quarter of 1853. Consisting of Statement of Funds. Account Current, Abstract of disbursements & Voucher No. 1 to 64 [?]: on account of US Mil: Acady. Also General Account Current for Mexican Hostilities & Contingencies of Fortifications

I am very respectfully, Your obedt Servt
Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

S. Casey Esq
Treas^r. of the U. States

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. April 15. 1853.

Washington City DC.

Sir. I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst: Treas^r.
New York. No. 4047 on War Warrant No. ~~87~~ 8576 for \$2000.00.

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Capt Engrs.

John S. Gallaher Esq
3rd. Auditor U.S.
Washington City DC

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. April 15. 1853.

Sir. I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Two
thousand dollars on Account of Current & Ordinary Expenses of the U.S. Military Acady.

Very respectfully. Sir.

Your obedt. Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

W^m H. Terrill Esq
Warm Spring Va.

US Mil: Acady
West Point 19 April 1853

Dear Sir. I rec^d. today your letter of the 15th Inst. in reference to the large amount of “
demerit” aquired by your son. I assure you it has given me much concern, & I have more than
once called his attention to its consequence, & urged the advantages of a different course.

In answer to your inquiries, I think I can state that it arises more from carelessness or
recklessness than from perverseness or dissipation. I have no cause to accuse him of the latter; &
though a large portion of his demerit for March (over half) was rec^d for being absent form his
quarters during the ev^g, (before tattoo) & I have reason to believe he was off the post. I do not
think he was at any improper place. The rest was made up of acts of dilatoriness or carelessness.
I know of none that can be removed consistently with Reg^{ns} of the Acady., or without injustice to
others, who are charged with similar acts. All are carefully examined and scrutinized before
being recorded, & those that can be justly erased, are taken off at the time.

Up to the 15th Inst: none have been recorded against him for the present month; & though
as you say he requires but 17 to cause his dismissal, they can easily be avoided by attention, as
was proved by himself during his first years course. I can readily understand the regret &
mortification you would feel at his dismissal, which I sincerely hope you may be spared, & that
your son will practice that attention and

self denial for the short remainder of his term, that will secure his success. Unless he does so, no one can help him.

I remain Very resply. Yours
Signed) R E Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U S Mil: Acady
West Point 19 Apl. 1853.

Enclosed.

Letter of Hon: J. Washburn Apl 12. 53
Order of J. Stevens Feb^y. 26 “
Copy of Sec^y's letter June 29 '52

Genl. I have rec^d the letter of the Hon^{ble} J. Washburne of the 12th Inst: presenting a claim for travelling expenses of Cadet J. Stevens, from Washington City to West Point, on the 29 June 1852, referred to me on the 16th Inst: for a report.

Cadet Stevens was found deficient at the last June Examination & recom^d to the Secy of War by the Academic Board to be discharged from the service. He was ordered to his home by Capt: Brewerton the Supt: to await the decision of Secy Conrad, & paid the usual transportation allowance to Bangor, Me. Amounting to \$29^{46/100}.

Instead of repairing to his home, he went to Washington, & upon the representation of his friends, was allowed by the Secy of War a reexamination & permitted to return to the Academy. He failed to obey the summons of the Board at its first meeting on the 6th July, but at its meeting on the 30th Aug^t. was again found deficient in his course, discharged from the Academy, & rec^d continuously his Cadets pay up to the 6th Sept:.

I have stated briefly the facts of the case, as I can find no other similar to it; & the decision of the Secy must depend upon its own merits. The principle involved seems however the same as in the case of Cadet Bowen of Georgia.

On the 4th Feby 1852, the Secy of War directed that Cadet Bowen should be sent to his home, & suspended from the Acady till the 1st July following. Upon his representation or those of his friends, the Secy directed on the 13th Feby, that he should return from Washington to W. P. & be tried for a Court Martial. He was dismissed by the Court, but his sentence commuted by the Secy to the same punishment he had previously inflicted. He was not considered entitled to transportation for either journey, nor has he rec^d any.

Cadet Stevens visited Washington for his own purposes & without orders. He was granted a re-examination & permitted to return to the Academy, & rec^d his pay as Cadet till finally discharged. He might have with the same reason gone to New Orleans or elsewhere, instead of his home, & claimed transportation from there.

It may be proper for me to refer to the decision in the case of Cadet Schofield, which though not a parallel case, may be well to recall.

On the 13th July 1852, Cadet S. was dismissed from the Academy by the Secy of War. On the 30th the Secy rescinded the order with a view to his trial by a Court Martial. He was ordered by the chief Engineer to report himself at W. P. for the purpose by the 3rd Sept: claimed transportation from Washington City to W. P. & was allowed it by the Secy of War, as communicated in your letter of the 17th Sept. Having been dismissed, he was according to usage, allowed no transportation home. The order of the chief Engineer, after his restoration, made it obligatory upon him to return. His case therefore differs in both points from that of Cadet Stevens.

The letter of the Honb^{le}. J. Washburn with its enclosures is herewith returned.

I have the honour to be very resply. Your obedt. Serv.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Bt: Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

22.

Bvt: Capt: S. Williams
1st Art^y. Adj. Mil: Acady
West Point

U. S. Mil^y. Acady
West Point N.Y. April 19. 1853.

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of attending to business connected with the printing of the New Edition of the Reg^{ns} of the Academy & Catalogue of the Library, upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

Very respectfully. Your obedt Serv

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 20 Apl. 1853.

Genl: I have rec^d your letter of the 11th Inst: returning the drawing of the proposed uniform Cadets dress cap with the direction of the Secy of War for its alteration. Major Garnett who was on the board that adopted the present army cap, informed me that an effort was made at that time, to adopt it to the inclined visor preferred by the Sec^y.; & that he was sent on to Phil^a. for the purpose of having one made. Upon its presentation to the board it was rejected, & it was found impracticable to make the inclined visor accord with the style of the cap. I fear I should be equally unsuccessful, & presuming that the cap referred to by Major Garnett is still at Washington. I take advantage of the opportunity of Lt. Donelson's visit, to send you the model of the proposed Cadets Cap, that you may compare the one with the other. Major Wayne who

was the Sec^y. of the board can give you all information on the subject. Should the proposed cap not meet the views of the Secy of War, it may perhaps be better to adhere for the present to the one now established, as I fear we should not be able to provide another in proper season. The field exercises & preparations for the approaching examination, gives close occupation to all.

Please return the Cap by Lt. Donelson, if not wanted.

I have the honour to be your obedt. Servt

Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

PS. Cadets Lomax, Porter & Rudd request permission to receive some articles of underclothing &c from their homes, which is rec^d. for favorable consideration

(Signed) REL.

U.S. Mil^y. Acady

West Point NY. April 20. 1853.

Lieut: R. S. Smith

4th Art^y. A. A. Q^rMr.

West Point.

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury drafts. Upon completion of which business you will return to this post

Very respectfully. Your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Bvt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

23.

Col. Lee has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of M^{rs}. Agnells' note of the 20th. The subject of her communication has engaged his attention since the commencement of his duty at the Post he has more than once endeavored to provide a more suitable place of worship for the Catholic community of the Point. He regrets he cannot with propriety appropriate the room designated by Mrs. Agnel, to that purpose, as he does not consider himself at liberty to apply the Academic buildings to any other use than that to which they are devoted. He besides fears that any promiscuous assembly in the vicinity of the Cadets Barrack would be attended by evil consequences. He hope in time that a more convenient place of worship for the Catholic members of the Post may be provided, but at present sees no way of making a change for the better.

Mr^s Agnel.

West Point. 21 April 1853.

US Mil: Acady.

West Point 25 Apl. 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Genl.

Upon the reception of your letter of the 24 Ult^o., on the subject of procuring horses for the use of the Mil. Acady, I have communicated with the QrMasters in Baltimore & New York, & with individuals in the western part of Pens^a. New York & Vermont, relative to this purchase.

Major Donaldson Q^rM^r. Baltimore writes, that he has recently completed the purchase of 44 horses for Light Co. A. 2nd Art^y. at an average cost of \$124. He is satisfied they could not have been got for less & singly would have cost considerably more. Horses have advanced in the last four years from 20 to 25 per cent, & could not be got of the kind suitable for the Acad^y. for less than \$125. which with the necessary attendance, transp^r. &c would make their cost per horse over \$130.

Col: Swords Q^rM^r. New York, says there is no probability of such horses as are required for the Acady. being purchased in the City at \$100. per horse. That he had the week previous paid \$130. for an ordinary cart horse for Bedlows Isl.

I am informed by a person having much experience in purchasing horses in & about Carlisle, that horses suitable to the wants of the Acad^y., could not be purchased in that vicinity for less than \$125. to \$130.

M^r. C. Tuxbury of Vermont, writes that horses such as described can be procured in that country, but not for less than \$125.

M^r. Luckett from the Western part of New York writes, that any number of good Saddle horses may be obtained in the vicinity of Coburgh, Canada West of English blood, varying in price from \$100. to \$150. That if permission could be obtained to import them free of duty, he thinks better horses could be obtained there than any where else in that section of Country.

You will perceive by the above correspondence that there is little prospect of procuring horses at an average cost of \$100., which in my letters to the several individuals named was stated as the maximum amount allowed by the act authorizing their purchase. If such therefore is the construction of the law, Canada seems to be the only place, where there is a probability of procuring them at that price; & then permission must be obtained from the Secy of the Treasury for their introduction free of duty.

I could cause advertisements to be published, that 20 good Saddle horses

24.

of a certain description were wanted, & that a person would be in Coburgh on a fixed day for their selection, & would not give more than \$100. a head. I could detail an officer for the duty, & they be transported across the Lake in a Steamboat & driven down to Albany.

I submit the whole matter to your judgement & shall await your orders.

I remain Very resply. Your obedt Servt

Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

P.S. Cadet Merrill requests permission to deposit Ten dollars to the credit of his acct. for the purpose of enabling him to go on furlough with his class, which is recom^d. For favorable consideration (Signed) REL.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. April 28. 1853.

Genl: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Dept; letters of the 22nd Ulto: & 26th Inst: the former containing Appropriations made by the last Congress for the US Mil. Acady. & the latter being in reference to Studies for Professors.

I am very resply. Your obed Servt.
(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City. D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. 4th May 1853.

Genl: In answer to the application of Tho^s. P. Treadwell Esq. for a leave of absence for his son; from the 20th June to the 10th July next; referred to me on the 2nd Inst: I have to state that the annual ~~examination~~ encampment of the Cadets commences about the 20th June. That the graduation of one class & the regular furlough of another, devolves the whole Camp duty upon the then 1st & 3rd classes, until the newly admitted 4th class is sufficiently instructed to share the burden. That Cadet Treadwell had his furlough last year, from the 17th June to the 28th August. That his class commences this encamp-ment, the course of Practical Engineering, & the study of Inf^y. & Art^y. Tactics. That it would be unjust to his class & Corps, to grant him an indulgence equally desirable to all, & return them to do his portion of duty. And that a regard for his own instruction & the general interest of the Cadets, compels me to recommend that a leave of absence be not granted him.

Very resply. Your obed^t. Servt.
(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady.

The letter of M^r. Treadwell is returned. (Signed) R.E.L.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. May 4. 1853.

Genl: An appropriation of \$2.500. "for Warming Academy and other buildings" was made 3d. March '51_ which sum will revert to the Treasury unless drawn out previous to the 30th of next month.

I have now in my hands \$2000. for the Riding hall_ which I cannot dispose of.

I

25.

I do not wish to retain more funds in my hands than are necessary for current expenses. I have therefore the honor to draw your attention to these items; also to the appropriation of \$5000- for erecting quarters for Engineer troops app^d. March 3d. '51 and to ask your instructions in regard to them.

I am respectfully

Your obedt. Servt

(Signed) R.E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Mrs. Arthur
Sing Sing. N.Y.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. 6 May 1853

It would give me much pleasure to grant your application of this date, for a leave of absence of a few days, for your son, Cadet Arthur, could I with propriety do so. But I am not at liberty to relax the Regulations of the Academy, for such a purpose. Cadets are placed here by Government for their instruction, with a view of entering the service of the Country. The devotion of their whole time & attention is necessary for their preparation. You can readily see that their course of studies would be seriously interrupted & the object of the Academy interfered with, were they liable to be called off on other business. For if granted to one it must be granted to all.

I hope therefore that the business you wish your son to transact, can be satisfactorily accomplished by some other agent, & that you may experience no inconvenience by his adherence to his regular duty.

I remain very resply. your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

US Mil: Acady
West Point 10 May 1853.

Genl: I have recd. the application of the Honble. A. P. Hascall, for a leave of absence of from four to six weeks for his son Cadet Hascall, referred to me for a report on the 7th Inst:

Cadet Hascall will commence this encampment with his class to receive practical instruction in Art^y. & the study of Inft^y. Tactics, which would be materially interrupted by a leave of absence. He would also be prevented from bearing his share of Camp duty, which in consequence of the graduation of one class & the regular furlough of another, falls heavily upon his comrades, until the new Cadets are sufficiently instructed to take part. He will^{have} with his class, the privilege of going on furlough the encampment after the next. In addition to the disadvantage to himself, it would be unjust to the rest of the Corps to grant him an indulgence equally desirable to them all & retain them to do his duty.

I regret therefore I cannot recommend that the application be granted.

The letter of Mr Hascall is returned & I

Remain very respdy. your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady.

26.

U. S. Mil: Academy

West Point. 11 May 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Genl: In answer to the application of M^{rs}. R. Cunningham, for a leave of absence for her son, during the next encampment, referred to me on the 5th Inst: for a report: I have the honour to state, that Cadet Cunningham was found deficient in Mathematics at the Examination in June 1852. & turned back to go over his course with the class then admitted. He has consequently served during two encampments, but has not recd. the instruction in Inft^y. Tactics which will be given to his present class, the 4th, this encampment. He will be entitled to a furlough with his class, the encampment after the next, & I should recommend for his sake that he should receive it then, rather than at the next. Still if there are considerations sufficient to outweigh this advantage, & to make it more desirable that he should have his furlough at the next encampment, instead of the succeeding, a similar indulgence was granted to Cadet Scott, & might be, if the Secty thought fit, extended this year to Cadet Cunningham. It should however in my opinion be only granted on the condition that he relinquishes his furlough with his present class.

There are others in the same situation who may probably make similar applications. The letter of Mr^s. Cunningham is returned.

I am very respdy your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Cha^s. M. Perry Esq
Washington City D.C.

West Point 13 May 1853.

My dear Sir. I have just rec^d. your letter of the 9th Inst: & I regret very much to learn your necessitous condition. I wish it was in my power to afford you any aid in the attainment of an office, but if your own statement of your case, supported by the recommendations of those acquainted with the facts, have not sufficient weight to procure you a situation. I am very sure that nothing I could say would have any effect. I therefore hope that the merits of your case will prove sufficient, & that your application will meet with the success it deserves.

I remain with much consideration

Your obedt Servt

(Signed) RE Lee.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Acady
West Point 16 May 1853

Genl: I enclose herewith a sketch, giving a section through the set of qrs. occupied by Lt. D'Oremieulx, in which he has applied to have a door cut, which I think would add to their convenience, but which under the new Reg^{ns}. of the Acady. I do not think I have the power to authorize. Par. 11 of the Reg^{ns}. for the Eng. Dept: applied to the buildings at West Point, seems to require the approval of the Secy of War, to any additions or alterations

I have the honor to be very resply.

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

27.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 16 May 1853

Genl.

The time is approaching when it will be necessary for me to know your decision in regard to the subject of my letter of the 1st Inst: viz: The propriety of extending to those Cadets who are admitted into the Academy the 1st of Sept: the usual furlough granted to the rest of their class.

Those in the present 3rd class will require some previous notice & preparation, to avail themselves of the indulgence if granted; & after the commencement of the examination, little time or attention can be devoted to them.

I should therefore be glad to learn the views of the Dept: if practicable before that time:

I have the honour to be.

Your obedt Servt.

Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

West Point 24 May 1853.

Genl. R. B. Campbell
Care of Mrs. Stow Esq
New Orleans. La.

My dear Sir.

Your son Frank came to me yesterday to request permission to resign. I was the more unprepared for his application, as he had dined with me Saturday, & responded cheerfully to my expectations of his success at the approaching Examination. He stated his belief however in this interview that he could not pass, & his preference of resigning now to running the risk of being found deficient in his course. I endeavoured to encourage him to persevere to the end. That he would have two weeks yet before being called upon, & that he must make a last & vigorous effort to succeed. In the evening I took occasion to converse with his Professor, who thinks the probabilities of his success so very doubtful, that I have determined to refer the matter to you. He says he has not on his general review exhibited that knowledge of his course he had expected. That his irreproachable conduct & gentlemanly manners in the section room, has always drawn his attention to him, & made him particularly anxious for his success. He would therefore regret his failure the more- yet unless some good change should take place between this & his Examination, or that he should exhibit a full knowledge of his course at his examination, his could not pass. He is a youth of such fine feelings & good character that I should not like to subject him to the mortification of failure, to which he might give more value than it deserves. For I consider the character of no one affected by a want of success, provided he has made an honest effort to succeed.

I shall however be governed by your wishes & judgement in this matter, & should I not hear from you before your sons examination & should both he & his Prof. be of the opinion that he will not pass, I shall consider that I am following your wishes, by using the authority you have left with me, & not bring him before the Board, but allow him to resign. I need not tell you how much I regret what I have to communicate, as I had hoped for a different result.

I remain very truly your friend
Signed / R. E. Lee.

28.

Hon^{ble} G. Dean
Poughkeepsie. NY.

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 24 May 1853.

Sir. I have been directed to reply to your letter of the 17th Inst: to the Secy of War; enclosing a communication from Cadet Geo. D. Ruggles, relative to a leave of absence during the next encampment. I have accordingly the honour to inform you that the Regulation restricting this indulgence to those Cadets who have served two encampments, had upon my application been so modified as to place the Cadets who may be admitted in September on the

same footing as those that enter in July, & that consequently there is nothing to prevent my extending to Cadet Ruggles at the proper time, the same leave of absence as will be granted to the rest of his class.

It may be unnecessary for me to add; that until so modified, it was as binding upon me, as any other reg^a established by the Sec^y of War for the Government of the Acad^y., & that I could with as much propriety have violated any other article that interfered with the convenience or pleasure of the Cadets, as the one in question. It bore the same date & same authority as all the other articles in the code.

I remain Sir. Your obedt Servt
Signed / R. E. Lee Bvt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 24 May 1853.

Genl. In reply to the letter of the Honb^{le} Daniel Mace, asking an extension of the sick leave granted to his nephew Cadet O.[E.] M. Crumpton, referred to me on the 21st Inst: for a report, I have the honour to state that upon consultation with the Surgeon of the Post, he thinks that provided Cadet C. is not entirely restored, it might be more prudent for him to defer returning to the Academy until after the encampment; He having been afflicted with rheumatism. That at that time^{he} should be examined by a Medical Board, previous to his joining the then 4th class, for the purpose of ascertaining his fitness for service.

Concurring in these views, & as I think it probable that a Medical Board will as usual have to be assembled here the latter part of August, his leave of absence might under these conditions if you thought proper be extended to the 28th Augt. But should there be any objections to this course which does not occur to me, I enclose extracts from the Reg^{ns} of the Acad^y. which will show him what course to pursue, in the event of his health not allowing him to return at the expiration of his present leave.

The letter of the Honb^{le}. Dan^l Mace is returned.

I am very resply. your obedt Servt
(Signed) R E. Lee. Br. Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

29.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 25 May 1853.

Genl:

Prof. D. H. Mahan has been invited to attend the Annual Examination of the Cadets at the Virginia Mi: Institute, which will commence on the 20th June. The examination of the Cadets at the Mil: Acady will in all probability have been finished by that time, after which his services could without disadvantage be dispensed with.

But the order of the Sec^y. of War, contained in your letter of 3 Sept: 1852 requires that “the Academic Board shall not separate after the annual June examination until notification that their further action in regard to the examination will not be needed.” This will prevent his attending the examination at the Virg^a. Institute, which for reasons that will occur to you would be desirable & advantageous, unless in your opinion a majority of the Board, as provided for in Par. 12. Acad^c. Reg^{ns}, would be sufficient for the transaction of the business that might be brought before it.

I have the to be your obedt Servt:

(Signed) RE Lee. Br. Col. Supt. Mil: Acady

P.S. Cadet Hunter requests permission to deposit Fifty dollars to his credit previous to his graduation & Cadet Venable asks that he may receive some articles of underclothing &c from his friends—which requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

(Signed) REL.

M^{rs}. Anne M. Whistler
Brooklyn N.Y.

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 26 May 1853.

Madam. I regret to inform you, that your son Cadet Ja^s. A. Whistler is quite sick. He was taken this day week with an attack of rheumatism, & went into Hospital, where he has remained ever since, under the treatment of the Surgeon. He does not suffer much pain, but his attack does not seem to yield to remedies, & the surgeon has this morning informed me that the he fears his lungs are seriously involved.

Although I knew it would be painful news to communicate to you on your return to the country, still I thought it right that you should know the apprehensions of the Surgeon, & thus have the opportunity of doing all that was possible, for the present comfort & future benefit of your son.

You may be assured that he will receive every attention & treatment in our power to bestow.

I remain Madam—Yr Obt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Brig: Genl: Tho^s. Childs
Fort Brooks. Tampa
Florida

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point. N.Y. June 2. 1853.

Sir. I have received this day yours of the 23rd ulto: with check on the Bank of America, New York, drawn for Fifty dollars in favor of your son Cadet F. L. Childs-which will be handed to him previous to his leaving on furlough

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil. Acady.

30.

S. Carey Esq
Treasr. of the United States
Washington D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. June 9. 1853.

Sir. I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York No. 4417 on War Warrant No. 9041 for \$2500.

Your obedient Servant

Signed / R E Lee

Br. Col: Eng^{rs}.

F. Burt Esq
3rd. Auditor U.S.
Washington City DC

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. June 9. 1853

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Two thousand five hundred dollars on acct. of as follows. viz.

For Current & ordinary Expenses	\$2000.00
Increase & Expense of Library	<u>500.00</u> = \$2500.—

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt.

Signed / R. E. Lee
Bvt Col. Eng^{rs}.

J. Parkin Scott Esq.
Baltimore. Md.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. 11 June 1853.

My dear Sir.

I have rec^d. your letter of the 6th Inst: applying for a leave of absence for your son during the ensuing encampment. Upon refering to the authority granting him a furlough last year. I find it states, that it was done, with the understanding, as in the case of another Cadet, "that he was not to receive a furlough during the encampment of 1853." Moreover the Regn. of the War Dept of the 13th May '53 provides that "no Cadet shall be allowed but one leave of absence," & I am sorry to say in addition, that your son having an amount of demerit exceeding 150 (161), would in any event have deprived me of the power of complying with your request.

I am happy to inform you that he has passed a very creditable examination in Mathematics & has risen in his class, & hope that you will be able to visit him this summer, & enjoy his company here.

I remain with great respect truly yours
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

Hon^{ble} Danl. Goodenow
Pres^d. B^d. of Visitors, pro tempore

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. 13 June 1853

Sir. It will give me much pleasure if possible, to comply with the wishes of the B^d. of Visitors, expressed in their Resolution of this date; that the diplomas to the Graduating Class be presented in the presence of the Board & Corps of Cadets on Thursday evg next.

It is expected to finish the examination of the class on Wednesday evg. The standing of the members in conduct & all the branches of their course at the Academy, will have to be considered with care, & their general, or graduating standing in

their

31.

their class, fixed by the Academic Board, before the diplomas can be made out. It is more than probable that this cannot be accomplished with the required care & accuracy in the limited time proposed for their presentation. But the class can be assembled as desired, & this occasion be considered as the formal delivery of the diplomas, which if ready can be presented. If not they can be handed to them informally afterwards.

I remain with great respect.
Your obedt Servt
Signed / R. E. Lee Bvt Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Head Quarters Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. June 13. 1853

General.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of "Special Orders" No. 79 of June 10th from the Adjutant General's Office, convening a Board of Officers at West Point on the 18th Inst: to examine into the physical qualifications of the Cadets of the graduating class. The examination of the class will be completed on Wednesday the 15th inst., and I deem it very desirable that its members should be relieved from duty at the Military Academy as soon thereafter as practicable. I have therefore respectfully to request that the 16th or 17th instant may be designated as the day of meeting of the Board, in lieu of the 18th.

I am Sir. Very respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

Signed / R. E. Lee

Capt. Corps of Eng^{rs} & Br. Col.

Superintendent M.A.

General Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington. D.C.

Head Quarters Military Academy
West Point. NY. June 14. 1853.

General.

I have the honor to request that Cadets William R. Boggs, and Thomas Night, of the graduating class, may be detailed for duty at the Military Academy in the Department of Artillery, during the ensuing encampment of the Corps of Cadets, and that at its expiration they may be granted the usual leave of absence of three months.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully

Your obed^t Servant

Signed / R. E. Lee

Capt. Corps of Eng^r. Br. Col.

Supt. M.A.

Lieut: R. S. Smith
4th. Art: A. A. Q^rM^r
West Point

U S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. June 13. 1853.

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury draft, upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am very respectfully

Signed) R E Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady

32.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 14 June 1853.

Genl: I have recd. the application of M^r. Ja^s. H. Forsyth, for a leave of absence for his son, Cadet Forsyth, during the ensuing encampment, referred to me on the 11th Inst: for a report.

Cadet Forsyth was turned back at the last June examination to go over his 4th class course. He has consequently served through two encampments, but has not recd. the instruction in Inf^y. Tactics which will be given his present class this encampment. He will be entitled to receive with his class a leave of absence during the encampment of 1854, & I should recommend for his sake, that his visit to his father be deferred till that time.

Although fully aware of the gratification he would derive from this visit, I know nothing that entitles him to such an indulgence over his class, who would have to bear his share of Camp duty, & be deprived of a similar enjoyment.

I regret therefore I cannot recommend the application of Mr. Forsyth for favorable consideration, which is herewith returned.

I have the honour to be

Your obedt Servt.

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil^y. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 17 June 1853

Genl.

I have not lost sight of the subjects of your letter of the 14th ulto:, referred to in that of the 14th Inst:, but have delayed till this time in the hope that you might have found it necessary to have been present at a part of the Examination of the Cadets this June; when I could have had an opportunity of submitting to you a plan & site for quarters for Engineer troops, as well as for the disposition of the app^l

As it is now necessary to secure the latter, I recommend that it be remitted to Capt: G. N. Cullum, to whom I presume the construction of the quarters in question, when definitively arranged will be entrusted.

The Appⁿ of \$2.500. for warming Academy &c, has been rendered inapplicable from the fact that the basement of the building in which the furnaces are to be erected, is occupied as a Cavalry Exercise hall, & would be destroyed for that purpose if constructed. But in the hope that a proper Exercise Hall will in time be obtained, & that there will then be no obstacle in the way of its application, should you concur with me in opinion, and should no better course present itself, I would propose that it be placed in my hands for that purpose

I have the honour to be

Sir.

Your very obedt Servt.

Signed / RE Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady.

33.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U S Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. June 17. 1853.

General.

The following members of the Board of Visitors say that the mileage allowed them by letter of the Post Office Department, under date of April 27. & forwarded to me by the Engineer Department on the 28th of the same month—is short as follows. viz:

Genl. D. Jarvis. Massillere, Ohio—allowed 1214 miles—claimed 1408 miles
his route being –through Cleaveland-Buffalo & ~~New York~~ Albany.

E. N. Andrews. Esq. Cornwall, Conn: allowed 246 miles—claims 346 miles—his
route being through Bridgeport & New York City.

If these computations are correct, they should be paid.

I am Very respectfully

Your obedt Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mil. Acady.

Wm Batcheler Esq.
Clarkes—Coshocton Co
Ohio

U. S. Mil. Acady
West Point. 20 June 1853

Sir. I have received with much regret the intelligence communicated in your letter of the 18th Inst: concerning the critical condition of the brother of Cadet Orlando M. Poe.

I am aware that his presence at this time would be a great comfort to his widowed mother as well as a satisfaction to himself, & I assure you it would afford me much pleasure to be able to comply with your request to grant him a leave of absence. He is just about to commence with his class, to receive instruction in Inf^y. Tactics & Practical Art^y. & his absence from the Academy at

this time would be an injury to him, without being a benefit to his brother. I hope that the malady of the latter may yet have a favorable termination, & that he may still be spared to his afflicted mother. But should this hope be disappointed, her son Cadet Poe will have an opportunity to visit her next summer during the two months of the Encampment of the Cadets, when he will have more time & be better able to assist her in the arrangements of the affairs of the family, which I trust in the meantime may be better arranged by her friends than himself.

With much Consideration

I remain Your obedt Servt

Signed / R E Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

U. S. Mil: Acady.

West Point 21 June 1853

Alpheus Frank Esq.
Gray. Cumberland Co.
Maine

Dear Sir. I have just been informed by the Surgeon of the Post, that your son Cadet Frank, who has been sick in Hospital since the 10th Inst: has exhibited some alarming symptoms, & that he apprehends congestion of the brain.

I have thought proper to give you the earliest intelligence of the condition of your son, & the apprehensions of the Surgeon; & while assuring you that every thing will be done for him, that is in our power to do, to hope that his disease may have a favourable termination & that he may soon recover. He has been labouring under the effects of fever, which was supposed to be of a typhoid character

I remain Sir, very resply your obedt. Servt: (Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

34.

U.S. Military Academy

West Point. N.Y. June 21 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

Among the Cadets found deficient, and recommended for discharge by the Academic Board, are the following, the distance to whose place of residence is unknown here viz. Cadet Mahan F. Wright. app^o. at large-his father, (Br. Col.& Maj: Wright) stationed in California.

“ Chapline Good. Buffalo Knob. Pike Co. Missouri

“ George W. Palmer. Vancouver. Clarke Co. Oregon

also the following-whose places of residence have been changed. viz:

Cadet F. A. Harrington. from Albion, Orleans Co. N.Y. to Aurora. Portage Co. Ohio.

“ G. R. Wilson “ ~~Nash~~ West Alexandria-Washington Co. Pa. to Scottsbrough.

U...[?] Co Oregon.

“ W. E. Kingsbury “ Franklin, New London Co:Conn:to St Louis.St Louis Co.Misso.
Are these last to be paid Transportation to their present place of residence-or to that from which
they were appointed? if the former, I fear the amount of transportation, will exceed the
appropriation.

The table of distances which we have, was published on 31 January 1842, and many
changes of Post routes have since been made, if there is any later one to be had from the Post
Office Dept:- I should be glad to be furnished with it.

I have the honour to be. very resply Your obedt Servt
Signed/ R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 21 June 1853

Genl: I have rec^d the letter of Geo: Gay & others asking permission to dig for money buried at
West Point, which was referred to me on the 11th Inst: for a report.

As far as I could understand from M^r Gay, without wishing to ask for the exact locality of
this treasure, the search will not disturb or jeopardize any of the public buildings or permanent
fixtures of the post, & as he proposes it shall be conducted under the direction of the
Superintendent, I see no injury that can result from the gratification of this curiosity.

As there is however a possibility of its existence, as well as some grounds for
apprehending inconvenience, & as the treasure of any belongs to the owner of the land, under our
laws, it would seem fair that a proper salvage be paid for its recovery. I would therefore suggest
that permission be granted under the condition he proposed, & that 50 per cent of the value
recovered be paid to the Post Fund of the Mil^y. Acad^y.

The letter of M^r Gay is herewith returned.

I have the honour to be
Sir. your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

35.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 22 June 1853.

Genl.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Report of the activities of the Academic Board in the case of certain ~~Cadets~~ Candidates for admission who were found not duly qualified at their initiatory Examination.

In suggesting, if you deem fit, that the usual indulgence of a re-examination in the last of August be extended to them, should they be renominated, I would call your attention particularly to the case of Henry W. Fowler, from at large. He is the son of a Deceased officer of the Army, very young, & seems bright & intelligent, but failed on Decimal fractions, which he says he had not studied & did not know were required. From the manner in which he acquitted himself in other things I have no doubt he can prepare himself, on this subject by the last of August, if he should have the opportunity.

I am very respectfully, your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bt: Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

J. E. Wilson Esq
New Orleans. La.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 22 June 1853.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 14th Inst: with enclosure for Joshua Baker Esq. was rec^d. yesterday. Mr. Baker left his address_ to care of Sturgess & Co. New York City_ to which it was forwarded by this mornings mail.

I am very resply. yr. obedt Servt
Signed / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: M. A.

Genl. Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 22 June 1853.

Genl. In submitting for your approval & the sanction of the Secty of War, the accomp^y Resolutions of the Academic Board, passed at its session of the 20th Inst: I beg leave to state that the object of the first is to give the 4th Class such instruction in the school of the Soldier & Comp^y in the beginning, as will aid in their learning it practically; & to the 3rd Class from which the guides are taken, the same instruction in the school of the Battalion. This will save the necessity of the oral instruction in the field, under arms & a hot sun, & will consequently diminish the length of the field exercise, & add to their interest.

The object of the Second is to shorten the period of accountability provided for in ~~par~~ the 72nd. Par: Academic Reg^{ns}. It is found that in the beginning of the Academic year, many Cadets run up a large & unnecessary amount of demerit, to the detrement of discipline & their own injury; leading with them the thoughtless & inconsiderate, & when having nearly acquired the

maximum amount, attempt to stop suddenly. Most generally they succeed and escape the penalty, but often fail & suffer. It is believed that the change proposed will have a good effect in remedying this evil. Make the Cadets more careful in the beginning of their course & prevent their becoming irretrievably implicated, or in other words operate as beneficially as the change made some years since, in the application of the penalty attached to deficiency in studies, which formerly was limited to the annual Examination in

36.

June, but is now extended also to the semi-annual examination in Jan^y (Par. 61 & 63)

I have the honour to be

Your obedt Servt

Signed / R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. June 25. 1853.

General.

I received notice yesterday from the 3rd Auditor that a requisition had been made upon the Treasury for \$10.000—for Eng^r. Barracks. As I have not received a similar notice in regard to the \$2500. for warming buildings, I fear it may have been overlooked.

I have the honour to be

Very respectfully Yr. obedt Servt

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Saml. Casey Esq
Treasr. of the United States
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point June 27. 1853.

Sir. I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York No. 4509 pm War Warrant No. 9167 for \$10.000.

Your obedient Servant

Signed / R E Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady

F. Burt Esq
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point June 27. 1853.

Sir. I have received form the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for \$10.000 on account of Engineer Barracks.

Very respectfully
Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

Head Quarters Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. June 28. 1853.

General. I have the honor to request that a General Court Martial may be ordered to commence at this station for the trial of Private William E. Jones, of Company "A" Engineers, and Private Michael Alforde, of the Military Academy detachment of Dragoons, and such other enlisted men as may be brought before it. Private Jones and Alforde have been in confinement for several weeks and I deem it advisable that they should be tried at an early day.

I am Sir
Very respectfully, your obedt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee.
Capt: Corps Eng^r & Br. Col.
Supt: M. A.

Geo. Manning Esq
New York

U S Mil: Academy
West Point. NY. June 29. 1853.

Dear Sir. Your note of yesterdays date is just received. I am sorry to inform you that the rumor of the failure of Mr. Dabney Sterndon is correct.

He left here yesterday for his home. The official announcement will be forwarded to his parents by tomorrows mail.

Very respectfully. Your obedt Servt
Signed / R. E. Lee.

Alpheus Frank Esq
Gray. Cumberland Co.
Maine

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 29. June 1853

Sir. It is with extreme regret that I announce to you the death of your son, Cadet Charles W. Frank who expired at the Cadet Hospital last evg.

My letter of the 21st Inst; will have informed you of his disease, its nature & progress, which notwithstanding all the attentions & skill of the Surgeons of the Post has proved fatal.

He was attended during his illness by the chaplain of the Academy, & will be buried tomorrow evg with military honours in the Cadet Cemetery.

Allow me Sir to offer you my sincere sympathy in your deep affliction & to hope that you will find consolation in your loss, by reflecting upon his gain.

I remain Sir with much consideration

Your obt Servt

Signed / R E Lee Bt: Col:
Supt: Mil. Acady.

S. Casey Esq
Treasurer of the U.S.
Washington D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. July 1. 1853

Sir. I have received the following Treasury Drafts payable to my order by the Asst: Treas. New York No 4515 on War Warrant No. 9173 for \$2.500.

No. 4521 on War Warrant No 9180 for 2724.12.

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) R. E. Lee
Bt: Col: Engr

F. Burt Esq
3rd. Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. July 1. 1853

Sir.

I have received Treasury drafts as follows from the Treasurer of the U.S. viz:
One for Twenty five hundred dollars on Acct: of Warming buildings &c
One for Twenty seven, hundred & twenty four ^{12/100} dollars on Account of Expenses of Board of Visitors.

Very respectfully Sir

Your obedt Servt
(Signed) R E Lee Br. Col
Supt. Mil: Acady

38.

Lieut: R. S. Smith
4th Art^y. A. A. Q^rM^r
West Point N.Y.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. July 1. 1853

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of settling out-standing accounts against the Military Academy, upon completion of which duty you will return to this post.

Very respectfully Sir. Your obedt Servt.
Signed/ R E Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. July 2. 1853.

General. I have the honor to transmit herewith, account Current & Abstract of disbursements in duplicate, together with voucher No. 1 to 16 inclusive, all on account of Expenses of the Board of Visitors for the present year.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt Servt
Signed / R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 5 July 1853

Genl: Having arranged such matters as require my personal attention, & knowing of nothing calling for my presence, I wish to avail myself of the opportunity to take a leave of absence & will report myself to the Dept: in person in a few days, which I hope will meet with your approbation.

I am very respectfully your obedt Servt
Signed / R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

J. W. Canfield Esq
Morristown N.J.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. July 6. 1853.

Sir. Your note of the 2nd. Inst: addressed to Col: Lee, asking a leave of absence for your son, is at hand.

Cadet Canfield has just commenced with his class to receive practical instruction in Artillery & the study of Infantry Tactics – to interfere with which would be a disadvantage to him – besides which such leaves are unusual & not authorized by Regulations. It would give me great pleasure to grant ~~him~~ this privilege, which no doubt would be as gratifying to him, as pleasant to you, could I with propriety do so.

I am however compelled to decline granting the leave asked.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

Signed / Geo. W. Cullum
Capt. U.S. Engineers
Supt. Mil. Acady

39.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. July 6. 1853.

Bvt: Capt. Seth Williams
1st. Lt. 1st. Artillery
Adjutant. Mil: Acady

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of attending to the Printing of the Register of Cadets. Upon completion of which, you will return to duty at this Post.

Very respectfully. Sir. Your obedt Servt

Signed / Geo. W. Cullum
Capt: U.S. Engineers
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. July 8. 1853.

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz:

Cadet Lomax	Gloves
“ Marmaduke	Text books & histories
“ Meade	Writing desk
“ Anderson	Writing desk

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be.

Very respectfully. Sir.

Your obedt. Servt.

(Signed) Geo. W. Cullum

Capt. U.S. Engineers

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. July 16. 1853

Sir. Cadets Snyder & C. Berry request permission – the former to deposit \$30. to reduce his indebtedness at the Academy, and the latter to receive 2 prs. White pants which have been sent for him to the Office of the Quarter Master of the post—all of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be Sir

Very respectfully

Your obdet Servt

(Signed) Geo. W. Cullum

Capt. U.S. Engr.

Supt. Mil. Acady

U.S. Military Academy
Lt: R S Smith
Lt. 4th Art: A. A. Q.

West Point. N.Y. July 13. 1853

Sir. You will repair to the City of New York, in order to procure specie for Treasury Drafts_ upon completing which you will return to this Post.

Signed/ Geo: W. Cullum
Capt. U.S. Eng^{rs}
Supt. Mil: Acady

40.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. July 18. 1853.

General.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication from Bvt. Major R. S. Garnett, Comdt. of Cadets, reporting the arrest of Cadet Lazell for being absent from Reveille & Camp under circumstances which leave no doubt that his absence was caused by drunkenness.

It is with mortification that I am compelled to bring to the notice of the Hon Sect^y of War, so flagrant a violation of the regulations of the Mil^y Acady, which standing by itself is punishable by the 118 paragraph with dismissal from the service; but superadded to this last offence; it appears from the Academic records that Cadet Lazell has persevered, during his connection with this Institution in a course of conduct highly disreputable to himself, totally unworthy of his position as a member of the Corps of Cadets, and entirely subversive of good order & military discipline. The report of Major Garnett, and a letter from Col: Lee to you, dated Jan^y 7. 1853, so fully set forth his various offenses, high demerit, & low standing, that it is unnecessary I should enter into further details.

I know of now palliation of his scandalous conduct, so seriously reflecting upon the moral tone of the Corps of Cadets, in which I trust these are few such to be found, so unworthy of the fostering care of the government. I am therefore under the painful necessity of urgently recommending the prompt dismissal of Cadet Lazell from the Military Academy.

Very respectfully Sir.

Your obedt Servt
(Signed) Geo. W. Cullum
Capt: U.S. Eng^{rs}
Supt. Mil. Acady

General Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. July 21. 1853.

General.

I have the honor respectfully to request that the authority contained in your letter of May 20th to import horses from Canada for the Military Academy free of duty may be extended to include Cape Vincent N.Y. at which port Lieut. Sacket, who is charged with the purchase of the horses desires to make the importation.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

Signed/ Geo W. Cullum

Capt. U. S. Engineers

Supt. Mil: Academy

41.

U.S. Military Academy

West Point. N.Y. July 25. 1853

Lt: R. S. Smith

Q^r.M^r. U.S. Mil: Acady

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treas^y dfts.—Upon completion of which business you will return without delay to this post.

Very resply. Yr. Obt. Servt.

(Signed) Geo: W. Cullum

Capt: U.S. Engineers

Supt: Mil^y Acady.

U. S. Military Academy

West Point. N.Y. July 30. 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten

Chief Engineer

Washington City D.C.

Application of Capt. Seymour

Endorsed. Approved &c [Marginal note]

General

I have the honor to transmit the application of Bvt: Capt: T. Seymour. 1st Lt: 1st Art^y. to be relieved from duty at the Military Academy, and t request that one of the following named officers be detailed for duty at the Mil: Acady. in the Dept. of Drawing to supply the vacancy—preference being given in the order named. viz:

2 nd	Lieut. G. K. Warren.	Topl. Engr.
1 st	“ S. V. Benet.	Ordnance.
2 nd	“ T. C. English.	5 th Inf ^y .
2 nd	“ Cuvier Grover	4 th Art ^y .
1 st	“ A. J. Cook	2 nd Art ^y .
1 st	“ T. H. Neill	5 th Inf ^y .

Very respectfully Sir.

Your obedt. Servt.

(Signed) Geo. W. Cullum

Capt. U.S. Engineers

Supt. Mil: Acady.

P.S. The officer detailed should be ord^d. To report by the 28th Augt.

(Signed) G.W.C.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington, City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy

West Point. N.Y. August 1. 1853.

General. I have the honor to request that one of the officers hereafter named may be detailed for duty at the Military Academy in the dept: of French, preference being in the order named. viz:

Bvt: Capt: Innis N. Palmer

Mounted Rifles

“ 2d Lieut. John G. Parke

Topl. Engineers

“ Capt: H. L. Shields

3rd. Artillery

to supply the vacancy caused by Lt. Platt, 2nd Art^y having been ordered to join his compy. The officer detailed should be ordered to report by the 28th Inst:

I am very resply. Your obedt Servt.

Signed/ Geo W. Cullum

Capt: US Eng

P.S. Cadet Langdon requests permission to receive a parcel from his friends containing some paper & a water colour drawing--& Cadet DeHart asks that he may receive 3 Blankets from his home—which requests are recommended for favorable consideration

Signed. G.W.C.

42.

General Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy

West Point. Augt. 4. 1853

General.

If no officer has been detailed for duty at the Military Academy in the Dept: of Drawing_ I have the honor to request that preference be given to First Lieut. R. H. Rush. 2nd Art^y., who it is understood by Prof. Weir, is desirous of coming to West Point.

Cadet Ryan requests permission to receive some underclothing from his home, which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully Sir.

Your obedt Servt

Signed / Geo W. Cullum

Capt. US. Engineers

Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City DC.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Augt: 5. 1853.

General.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Chief Clerk of the War Dept: with your directions to grant a leave of absence for two weeks to Cadet W. P. Sanders, agreeably to the request of the Hon: Sect^y of War “unless there should be controlling objections.”

Although fully aware of the gratification Cadet S. would derive from a visit to Maj: Sanders, I know of nothing that entitles him to such an indulgence over his classmates, who would have to bear his share of the Camp duty, and who will be deprived of a similar enjoyment till the next encampment.

Cadet Sanders demerit for the last year was 193, within eight of the number which would have dismissed him, and since the June examination his conduct has not improved, he having received 57 demerit in less than two months.

With these “controlling objections” in view, I think justice to himself and his classmates forbid that I should, unless directed by the Sect^y. of War, grant him a leave of absence, which under similar circumstances has been invariably refused by the Superintendent.

The letter of Mr. A. Campbell is returned.

Very respectfully Sir

Your obedt. Serv

Signed. / Geo. W. Cullum

Capt. U.S. Engineers

Supt. Mil: Acady

43.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Augt: 6. 1853.

General.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Bt: Brig: Genl. Bankhead's letter of the 29th Ult^o., with Regimental order No. 35, transferring Lieut: Mebane to Light Company "A" 2d. Art^y.

In reply to your instructions I have the honor to report that Lieut. Mebane could not be relieved from duty at the Military Academy without serious detriment to the Mathematical Depart^t. as is fully set forth in the communication of Prof: Church to me, a copy of which is enclosed. Should, however, controlling circumstances render his withdrawal from the Institution imperative, I have to request that one of the following named officers be detailed in his stead, preference being given in the order named.

Bt: 2d Lieut: G. K. Warren	Top ^l . Engineer
2 nd Lieut: B. DuBarry	3 rd Artillery
1 st Lieut: T. S. Rhett	2 nd . Artillery
2 nd Lieut: James Thompson	2 nd . Artillery

Lt: Thompson it is proper to say, is Prof: Church's 2nd Choice, but I have placed him last, in consequence of his having graduated but two years since.

Lieut. DuBarry, I understand had applied for a leave of absence, but I have reasons for believing that he would forego the indulgence if ordered on duty here. Genl: Bankhead's letter and order are returned, herewith

Very respectfully. Sir

Your obedt Servt:

Signed / Geo: W. Cullum

Capt: U.S. Engineers

Supt: Mil: Acady.

P.S. The letter of Mr. A. Campbell omitted to be enclosed with my letter of yesterday's date is herewith.

Signed G.W.C.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Augt: 9. 1853.

General.

I have the honor to return the letter of Mrs. Catherine L. Ward to his Excellency the President of the United States, making application for her son Lieut: J. N. Ward, 3rd Inf^t^y to be detailed for duty at the Mily. Academy.

From what I learn of Lieut: Ward he would be well suited for an assistant in the Dept: of Inf^t^y. Tactics, in which no vacancy now exists, but his standing in Mathematics (41), French (30), & Drawing (20), is too low to authorize me to add his name to he list of officers I have forwarded for details in those departments.

Very respectfully. Sir.

Your obedt Servt

Signed / Geo. W. Cullum

Capt: U.S. Engineers

Supt. Mil: Acady

44.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY. August 10. 1853

General.

I have the honor to inform you that I received at six o'clock last evening your telegraph from Washington, directing the detail of four non Commissioned Officers & four Artificers or Privates from the Engineer Company to report to Major Delafield, Corps of Engineers, at New York. The names of those detailed will be seen by referring to Special Orders No. 98 from Head Quarters Mil.Academy.dated to-day. The four non com^d. officers are superior men, and the four artificers are the very best of those remaining in the Company_the balance now here being pretty indifferent for selection for future details. The detachment left this post at 1 P.M. to-day fully equipped, armed with muskets, and supplied with one thousand ball cartridges. That there should be no failure in complying with your specific instructions, I directed Lieut. Duane to accompany them to New York. If there is any probability of the Company being ordered to the Rio Grande. I should like to be apprised of it at the earliest possible moment.

I am very respectfully Sir.

Your obedt Servt

Signed / Geo. W. Cullum
Capt. US Engineers
Supt. Mil: Acady

Henry Lorain Esq
Clearfield Pens^a.

U S Military Academy
West Point NY. Augt. 10. 1853.

Sir. Your note of the 6th Inst., asking a leave of absence for your son is at hand.

Cadet Lorain is now receiving practical instruction in Artillery & Infantry Tactics, and general Camp duties, to interfere with which would be a disadvantage to him, besides which, such leaves are unusual & not authorized by regulations. It would give me great pleasure to grant this privilege, which no doubt would be as gratifying to him, as pleasant to his brother & sister, could I with propriety do so. Upon their arrival here he will have abundant opportunity for seeing them.

Very respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

Signed / Geo. W. Cullum
Capt. U.S. Engineers
Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Augt: 18. 1853

General.

In accordance with the directions contained in the letter of the Dept: of the 5th Inst: I have the honor to mention the names of the following Officers, one of whom I hope may be ordered to report at the earliest possible moment to supply the vacancy in he Dept: of French, caused by Lt: Pratt's having been ordered to join his Company. viz.

2d Lieut: B. DuBarry	3 rd Arty
2d " A. J. S. Molinard	2 nd "
2d " H. E. Maynadier	1 st "
2d " E. A. Palfrey	7 th Infty.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt.

(Signed) Geo. W. Cullum
Capt: U.S. Engineers
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. August 18. 1853.

General.

I have the honor to enclose herewith, a copy of a communication from the Police officer of the Post. Br. Major G. H. Thomas, 3rd Art^y, reporting repeated violations of police regulations and orders. These offences, on the part of persons prohibited from coming upon the post on account of their notoriously bad character, have become so frequent and daring, that measures more summary and stringent than mere expulsion must be resorted to, to prevent exististing orders from being utterly disregarded and the discipline of the post destroyed. According to my understanding of the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States (Hon. B F. Butler) of July 13. 1837, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, we can drive of trespassers, but not seize and retain their horses, wagons, or other effects, introduced upon the public domain in contravention of police regulations. At a large post like this, it is impossible to guard every avenue of approach, and were the chances of eluding the vigilance of the police much less, these lawless people would still venture here if there is no other penalty than forcible expulsion. They must be made to feel the weight of military authority by confinement of their persons, or suffer pecuniarily by the imposition of fines, or the award of Courts. I have therefore to request that explicit instructions may be issued for the future guidance and maintenance of the authority of the Commandant of the Post; and that legal proceedings, through the proper channels, be

instigated in the United States Court against Killiam Schneider for his repeated trespasses upon the ceded territory of the United States, particularly that of the 9th Ultio: when his wagon and horses, driven by his servant Fritze Bloutze, came upon the post in direct violation of repeated orders,

A copy of the Act to cede to the United States the jurisdiction of the State of New York to certain lands at West Point is herewith transmitted.

I am very respectfully Your obt Servt

Signed) Geo. W. Cullum

Capt. U.S. Engr. Supt. M. A.

46.

U.S. Military Academy

West Point. N.Y. Augt: 23 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten

Chief Engineer

Washington City D.C.

General. I have the honor to submit the following report in the case of Thomas J. English, late a Cadet in the U.S. Military Academy referred to me on the 18th Inst:

Cadet English was found deficient in Engineering and was discharged under the regulation adopted July 18. 1849. three years and five months prior to his dismissal. It is true that he and two of his classmates were the first of the senior class that were discharged under that regulation, though others of the 2d. & 3d. classes were less fortunate in January 1852 and 1853. The very object of the regulation was to prevent a neglect of studies constantly practiced by Cadets low in standing, who, if found deficient in January escaped dismissal at that time, and by greater diligence, during the succeeding six months, were enabled ^{to} prepare for, and pass their June examination.

Mr English's plea that he "entered the Academy with the condition not to be sent off for deficiency at any January excepting the first" is not correct. The government bound itself by no such obligation, though the regulation, when he entered the Academy, authorized discharges only in the fourth class in January. According to the same mode of reasoning no regulation could at any time, during a Cadets connection with the institution, be changed without a breach of faith on the the pact of the government.

He is correct in stating that a classmate (Cadet now Br. 2 Lt. Craig) was found deficient in the same branch, and under the same circumstances, and unconditionally re-instated, not however with the approval of the Academic Board, but by the express order of the late Sect^y of War.

Though sincerely regretting Mr. English's separation from the Institution, I cannot with my sense of duty recommend his case to the favorable consideration of the Hon: Sect^y of War, especially as the 64 paragraph of Academic reg^{ns} expressly declared that "no Cadet discharged from the Academy, shall be re-appointed or restored under any circumstances, unless the same be recommended by the Academic Board"

I am Very respectfully Sir,

Your obedt Servt

Sig: Geo. W. Cullum

Capt. U.S. Engineers

Supt. Mil. Acady

47.

General: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. August 24. 1853.

Genl:

The following named Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names from their friends—which requests are recommended for favorable consideration. viz:

Cadet Clossen	Underclothing
“ Rudd	Uniform shoes
“ J. C. Walker	Writing desk—Shaving case—Socks & Gloves

I am very respectfully Sir,

Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. Geo.W. Cullum
Capt. U.S. Engineers
Supt. Mil: Acady

Col: S. Cooper
Adj: Genl: U.S. Army
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Mil: Academy
West Point. N.Y. Aug: 29. 1853.

Col: I found on my arrival here, S. order No. 112, Current Series, assigning Asst: Adj: Genl: S. Williams, to duty at the Head Qrs. of the E. Division together with the orders of the Sect^y. of War of the 16th Inst: directing him to report in person to the Comm^g. Genl. of said Division.

You are aware that at this particular time, in addition to the quarterly & monthly Returns &c. the section rolls of all the Cadets in each branch of study have to be made out & the duties of the Acady arranged for the ensuing term. The assistance of Capt: Williams is particularly necessary to me until I can obtain another Adj: He has reported to Genl. Wool who has no objection to his remaining at the Acady until this service is accomplished, or till the 20th proximo, & I therefore respectfully ask your assent thereto.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

S. B. Phinney Esq

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point. N.Y. August 30. 1853

Collector
Barnstable

Dear Sir. I enclose my reply to the letter of M^{rs}. Bursley, which I had the honour to receive in yours of the 18th Inst: From it you will be able to see the action on the subject of her request, & why it was not sooner acknowledged. Please cause it to be handed to her.

I have the honour to be.

Your obedt Servt

Signed / R E Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady.

48.

U.S. Mil: Acady

West Point 30 Augt. 1853.

Mrs. Bursley

I did not have the pleasure of rec^g your letter of the 18th Inst: till my return here Saturday, but I feel less concern at its late acknowledgement, as your request had been anticipated before it arrived, & a leave of absence granted to your son for the purpose desired. I hope therefore your object has been accomplished, & that he as well as his aged^{Gnd} father, had ample opportunity of enjoying each others society, even for their short meeting.

I know it will be a gratification to him, as well as yourself, to learn the high estimation in which your son is held at he Acad^y. & that although in compliance with the Reg^{ns} he had been deprived of his furlough during the encampment, his conduct has been at no time discreditable, or affecting his character.

He returned to his post at the proper time, & has resumed his duty; & for his attention to duty & good conduct during the Encampment has rec^d one of the highest Military Appointments in his class.

I remain Your obedt. Servt.

Sigd. / R E Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil: Acady

West Point 30. Augt. 1853

Stephen Lee Esq
Buncombe N.C.

Dear Sir.

I found on my arrival here Saturday, your letter of the 8th Inst: enclosing a draft on New York for \$10. which you desire may be given to your son.

The Reg^{ns} prohibiting Cadets from rec^g money from their friends, also forbids my furnishing them any, or with supplies of any nature. The object of the Regⁿ. is not only to save them from temptation to injurious indulgence & violation of the rules of the Acad^y., but to teach them that economy which they will be obliged to practice on entering the Army, & to place all Cadets on an equality. As I find, however, that your son at the last settlement of his

accounts, was \$11.61 in debt, I shall feel justified as has been done in other instances, to request

authority from the Secy. of War to place the sum you have sent transmitted to his credit on the books of the Treasurer of the Mil^y. Acad^y. which I have every reason to believe will be granted. If it is not I will be compelled to return you the draft.

It gives me great pleasure to assure you of the wellbeing of your son, & of the high estimation in which he is held at the Acady. There is none in his class more highly estimated for conduct, deportment & acquirement than himself, & he gives every promise of being an ornament to his family & an honour to the Institution. I congratulate you very sincerely on his high standing.

I remain resply Yours
Sig^d. / R.E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

49.

US Mil: Academy
West Point 31 Augt. 1853

Mrs. Anna M. Whistler
Care of G. W. Whistler Esq
New Haven Conn

I take pleasure in informing you that your son Cadet Ja^s M. Whistler having reported for duty on the 28th Inst: agreeably to the orders granting him a leave of absence for the benefit of his health, & having expressed his readiness to be examined in his course of last year, was this day brought before the Academic Board & has passed a satisfactory examination.

His standing in his class is 37 in Mathematics

13 in French

1 in Drawing

& 32 in Genl. Standing

He will accordingly resume his position in his class, as if he had been present at the last June Examination & prosecute the studies of the course.

I am very respectfully Yr. Obt. Servt
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 1 Sept: 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

Capt. S. Williams having been appointed Asst: Adj. Genl:, & directed to report at the H^d. Qrs. E. Division, I have appointed Br. Major Fitz John Porter Adj. of the Mil^y. Acady in his place.

I am accordingly obliged to apply for the services of an officer to take his place in the
Dept: of Artillery, & recommend as well qualified for the position

Bt: Major Jno. F. Reynolds, 1st Lt: 3^d Art^y, or
1st. Lieut. J. P. Gausche 4th Art^y.

I have the honour to be

Your obedt. Servt.

Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil^y. Acad^y

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Sept: 9. 1853.

General. The following Cadets request permission to receive the articles sent from their
friends, set opposite their names respectively, all of which is recommended for favorable
consideration. viz:

Cadet Villepigue

Woolen Socks

“ Ruggles

Solar Lamp

“ C. C. Lee

Ten dollars to reduce his indebtedness at the Academy.

I am Very respectfully

your obedt Servt

Signed / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

50.

H. Robinson Esq
Yonkers

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point. N.Y. 9 Sept: 1853

Dear Sir. I have rec^d. this morning your letter of yesterdays date, & beg leave to inform you
in reply, that for reasons that will be obvious to you, it has been found necessary to prohibit the
landing on the Point, of all Steamboat & Excursion parties; Yet all persons who desire to visit the
Academy, can do so in the usual manner, & that I shall be happy at any time that may suit your
convenience to afford you or your friends every facility in my power to see the Institution.

I have the honor to be

Your obedt Servt.

Sig^d. / R E Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil” Acady

Lieut: R. S. Smith
4th Art^y. QMr USMA
West Point. NY

U.S. Military Acady
West Point. NY. Sept: 9. 1853.

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury draft, upon completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am Very respectfully
Your obedt Servt
Signed / R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

General Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City
D.C.

U.S. Military Acady
West Point. N.Y. Sept. 12 1853

General

In obedience to the requirements contained in your letter of August 1. I have the honor to report that 17 horses have been imported at Cape Vincent N.Y. for the use of the Military Academy.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obedt Servt
Sigd. R. E. Lee
Capt: Corps of Engrs Br. Col.
Supt: M.A.

Samuel Casey Esq
Treasr of the U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point. NY. Sept: 12. 1853

Sir.

I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treasr. New York. No. 4958 on War Warrant No. 9789 for \$7.330.

Your obedt. Servant
Signed / R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Sept: 12. 1853

F Burt Esq
3rd Auditor US
Washington City D.C.

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for \$7.330. on account of as follows. viz:

Current & Ordinary Expenses of Mil. Acady	\$3.000.
Construction of a Wharf	<u>4.330</u> = \$7330.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt Servt
Sig^d. R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt Mil: Acady

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Sept: 12. 1853.

General Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

Having found it necessary to send Lieut. Smith to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury draft required to pay labores. mechanics freight &c—I have the honor herewith to transmit a copy of my order to him, in obedience to a paragraph in General orders No. 17 of June 27. 1853.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt Servt.
Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady

US Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

West Point 15 Sept: 1853

General. I have the honour to submit for your approval the report of a board of survey, ordered at the request of the Instructor of Art^y & Cavalry Tactics, to examine the condition of four public horses under his charge, which have been found to be affected with the glanders. This disease, which in the last year or two, has destroyed several of the Public horses, is believed to have been brought to the point by the horses rec^d from New Port in May 1851; as immediately after their arrival every horse in the stables was seized with a distemper, the obstinate cases of which terminated fatally in Glanders. Every remedy given in the veterinary books, has been tried without success & the disease appears to be incurable. The sick horses were entirely separated from the others & every article of horse & stable furniture in their use has been destroyed or purified, & yet cases of the disease occasionally occur, & I am in constant fear of its spreading.

If these horses are ordered to be sold, I shall consider it proper to state the nature of their disease, & require them to be at once removed from the Point. In the event of their not being sold, I request authority to have them shot.

I am very respectfully Yr. Obt. Servt
Sig^d. R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady

52.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 15 Sept: 1853

General. It is found that the black stripe, down the outer seam of the riding pantaloons, for the Cadets, is soon worn off by the Sabre, & constantly liable to be torn off by contact with the horses on either side.

The Instructor of Art^y & Cavalry Tactics therefore proposes that it be replaced by a black welt, the first cost of which will be 8¢ less than the stripe & not require such perpetual repairing.

Although the saving in expense will be small, it is still desirable on the score of convenience. I therefore propose that par 95. Acad^y. Reg^{ns} be modified as follows.

95. Trowsers x x x x x x x ____.

For Riding. gray kersey; reinforced on the inside; black welt 1/8 of an inch “diameter, down the outer seam; faced at bottom with black leather for the space of “eight inches; outer seam slashed at bottom the same length.”

I have the honor to be.
Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt. Mil. Acady

US Mil: Acady
West Point NY Sept. 17. 1853

Genl. Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General. In reply to your letter of the 15th Inst. enclosing a communication from M^r. F. S. Campbell, on the subject of his transportation: I have the honour to state, that on the receipt of the decision of the Sect^y of War, his accounts were made out and transmitted to the place of residence he now claims, as you will see by the accomp^g letter of the 15th July & the return of the vouchers has been waited for. Duplicates will now be made out & forw^d to him at Baltimore.

As regards the mistake in his place of residence which he alludes to it was made by himself. He entered his residence in the book of the Acad^y. "Emmitsburgh M^d.

Very respectfully your obedt Ser
Sig^d. / R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil. Acady

The letter of Mr. Campbell is returned herewith

53.

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 19 Sept: 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General. Having learned from the H^d. Qrs. of the Army, that neither Bt Major John F. Reynolds or Lt. J. P. Gauche can be detached for duty in the Dept: of Art^y & Cavalry Tactics, as requested in my letter of the 1st Inst: I have the honour to recommend for that service the following named officers in the order in which they are given, viz:

1 st Lt. Samuel F. Chalfin	1 st Arty.
1 st Lt. John Gibbon	4 th Arty.
1 st Lt. James B. Fry	1 st Arty.
2 nd Lt. William Silvey	1 st Arty.

I am very respectfully. Yr Obt. Servt
Sigd. R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 19 Sept: 1853.

General. I enclose a letter from 1st Lt: W^m G Peck asking an addition to his present qrs., with a plan of the same; upon the first of which are endorsed the reasons that prevent my recommending his application for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully. Yr. Obt. Servt:\
Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt Mil: Acady.

Endorsement on W^m Peck's letter. "The addition within applied for can be put up in 40 days, as per following estimate.

18 floor planks @ .31	\$5.58	Sills, posts, roofboards &c to be supplied from
52 boards 19	9.98	old lumber on hand
1700 Shingles 5.12	8.70	Sig ^d . R. S. Smith
40 ft. Pine 35.	1.40	Lt. 4 th Art. Q ^r M ^r .
1200 Laths 2.	2.40	
8 lbs Lime 1.19	9.52	
22 joists & 9 Wall Sticks	4.00	
110 lbs. Cut Nails	5.50	
9 Qr. White Lead	.63	
labor-40 days @ .15	<u>6.00</u>	
	53.61	

"The house occupied by Lt. Beck is small & uncomfortable; the rooms in the 2nd story being smaller than those in the 1st. It stands out of position & is con-sidered too old & ill arranged to remove or rebuild. It is therefore in contempla-tion to replace it by a new building. Altho the cost (in money) of the proposed addition is but little, yet when added to the labour & material available, it will deduct so much from the means on hand, to make better & more permanent quarters—I cannot therefore recommend its construction

Sig^d. R E Lee Bt Col.
Supt. Mil. Acad

54.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point NY Sept: 26. 1853

General. The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz

Cadet W. Bedford.	Letter paper, Envelopes & Steel pens
" Hazen	Articles of underclothing &c
" R C Lord	Stationery, Poetry, hand.chfs, Gloves, Collars & pr Slippers

The father of Cadet Clinton Berry has sent a draft for \$16.51 which he requests may be deposited to his sons credit to settle his indebtedness at the Academy. All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully Your obt Serv.

Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

J. Burnet Esq
Ticonderoga. N.Y.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point NY 26 Sept: 1853.

My dear Sir. I have rec^d. your letter of the 19th Inst: & take the earliest opportunity to reply to your enquiries. It is true that your son Cadet E. Burnet has rec^d. up to the present time 80 demerit, & that 20 more between this & the approaching January Examination will subject him to dismissal.

You must not however infer that his conduct has been in the least disgraceful, or calculated to affect his moral character or standing. His amount of demerit has arisen from acts of carelessness: inattention to his duties, & to the reg^{ns} of police & discipline of the Academy which it is necessary for a good soldier to correct. There is therefore no necessity for his recg. Another mark of demerit, & he can thus easily avoid the penalty you apprehend, which however mortifying to friends, I can assure you would be equally painful to the authorities of the Academy.

I know of no way of his escaping this penalty, but a firm determination on his part to perform punctually & rigidly every duty: or anything you can do, but to urge him with all the force & affection of a father, to a strict ~~compliance~~ & constant adherence to every regulation. You can judge whether this can be done better in person or by letter.

He has been engaged since the 1st Inst: in his Academic Studies, & it is yet too soon to form an opinion of his proficiency. His recitations have not however been as good as others in his sections. But I hope by severe application he will improve.

I remain Sir

With much consideration

Your obed Servt

Sig^d. R. E. Lee Bt Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

55.

Comm^r John Thom^s Newton
U. S. Navy

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 26. Sept: 1853

Commodore.

Your letter of the 24th Inst:, has been just handed to me by your nephew. I deeply regret the sudden death of your brother. The application of Cadet Newton for a leave of absence till 1 Dec next, is out of my power to grant. I will however forward it to the Sect^y. of War if he desires it. But the injury to him will be so great that I cannot recommend it to be granted. It will prevent his continuing with his class, or of his even regaining his position in it. This will be a great injury, It will diminish so much his interest & pleasure in his course & Studies, that it may eventuate in his leaving the Academy. I hope therefore that the necessity of the case does not require it; & although I know how grateful it would be to his feelings to accompany his mother home & see his fathers remains deposited in their last resting place, I hope that some other arrangement can be made, by which he can continue in his course, & that his mother may not suffer by his absence. Please offer her my respectful compliments & sincere sympathy.

I am very truly your friend & Servt
Sig^d. / R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 27 Sept. 1853

General.

The transfer of the Recruiting Depot for the mounted Service from Carlisle to Jefferson Barracks directed in Special Orders No. 127 may throw on the hands of the Q^r.M^r. Dept more horses than there is immediate use for. If so, & they be suitable for the service of the Mil: Acad^y., I would ask that 10 or 12 be turned over to the Acad^y. for which I could pay out of the appropriation available for the purpose.

I am very resply. your obedt. Servt.
Sig^d. R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil^y. Acady

T. Parkin Scott Esq
Baltimore M^d.

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 29 Sept: 1853

My dear Sir. I have recd. your letter of the 27th Inst: requesting that your son Cadet Parkin Scott might obtain a leave of absence, for the purpose of attending his brothers wedding in Phil^a. on tuesday next.

It would give me great pleasure to afford him the opportunity you desire, which I know would be equally gratifying to him; but his is not an occasion on which I can relax the Reg^{ns} of the Acad^y., nor could I grant ^{to} him what I have been obliged repeatedly to refuse to others, to prevent the interests of the Cadets & the duties of the Acady being materially interrupted.

I hope your son will have after graduating many opportunities of attending such ceremonies, & that in the meantime he may find pleasure in preparing himself in his Academic course.

He is now in the

56.

commencement of his course of Philosophy, & though his progress so far has not been as great as I had hoped, I expect it will improve. In Chemistry & drawing he has done very well & his conduct for the month has been exemplary.

I remain very resply & truly yours
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: J. Addison Thomas
New York City

West Point NY. 30 Sept: 1853

My dear General.

Your letter of the 28th Inst: has for some cause unknown, only just reached me, & as our mail for the day has departed, I am obliged to take advantage of a private hand to say, that I shall be happy to see Gov^r Seymour & Staff, if it will be convenient for them to visit on their return to Albany, or at any other time.

You are aware that the Cadets at this time are engaged at their Academic duties & that their Military Exercises are performed after 4 P.M.

Wishing you a pleasant passage & a safe & speedy return to your home & friends.

I remain. very truly yours
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee

Lt. R. S. Smith
4th Art^y. A. A. Q^rM^r

U. S. Mil: Acady West Point N.Y.
Oct. 1. 1853

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury draft upon completing which business you will return to this post.

Very respectfully. Yr obdt Serv
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point 5 Oct: 1853.

Genl.

In answer to your letter of the 4th Inst., I have to state that the Principal Musⁿ at the Acad^y. receives his pay from the Pay Master of the Army at New York, & I believe out of the App^{ns} made by Congress for the support of the Mil: Acad^y.

I am very resply.
Your obedt Servt
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

57.

Capt: S. G. French
Qr Mr. U.S. Army
Carlisle Pens^a.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 5 Oct: 1853

Capt:

I enclose a copy of a letter this day recd. from the Chief Engineer, containing the authority of the Q^rM^r. Genl, for you to turn over to me such horses as I may require for the Mil: Acad^y.

I have therefore to request should you have ten good horses, sound, serviceable & kind, & suitable for the service of the Academy, that you will turn them over to me, & send them to the Qr. Mr. at New York, who will ship them to this place.

I have thought that you would know the best means of sending them to Phila., whence they could be conveyed by Canal to New York, & sent up to the Point by Steamboat, at a less cost to the Gov^t. than by any arrangement I could make, & I am willing to abide by your judgement & selection.

I hope therefore you will pardon the trouble I have imposed on you.

I am very respectfully. Your obt Servt
Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Capt: S. G. French
Qr Master U.S.A.
Carlisle Penn^a.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 6. Oct. 1853

Captain. Since writing my letter of yesterdays date, I have determined to send Sergt: Turner, to accompany the horses you may select for the Mil: Acady; in order that he may relieve you from as much trouble as possible in the matter & take your orders for carrying them to this place.

Please make such arrangements as will best serve the interests of the Govt.

I remain. Very resply Yr. Obt. Servt.

Sig^d/ R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 8. Oct: 1853.

Genl: I have the honour to hand herewith an Estimate of Funds for the U.S. Military Academy, for the fiscal year ending June 30 1855

The objects embraced in the Estimate for Current & Ordinary Expenses, are those already authorized, & the amount differs but little from that appropriated last year.

In the Dept: of Infantry Tactics \$50. has been included to increase the Army pay of the enlisted Soldier employed in the Office of the Comm^{dt}. Of Cadets, to command the services of one, capable of performing the Copying, as well as other duties of the office.

In my report of last year the want of quarters for the Officers on duty at the Academy was stated. Experience since that time has convinced me of the advantage of also adding to the houses of the Professors. They are inadequate to the healthful accommodation of their families & inferior to those provided at the Colleges & State Institutions. An appropriation of \$5000. is asked to render them more comfortable.

A portion of the Cadet Barrack is devoted to the accomodating of the Officers. These quarters are much needed for the use of the Cadets, & there are other disadvantages attending their present application. It is therefore proposed to construct a suitable

58.

Annual Report

building for Officer Quarters. A plan & Estimate now in preparation will be submitted for your approval, & \$20.000 is asked for its commencement.

I think it my duty also to inform you that the Cadet Hospital does not furnish sufficient or suitable accommodations to the sick. It is so contracted that several patients have frequently to be crowded into one small room, & is besides entirely destitute of those necessities & comforts so advantageous to a sick room, & particularly agreeable to the young, distant from home & departed from their friends. It is inferior in every respect to the Hospital for the enlisted men of the Post, & not equal to other Army Hospitals. It is proposed to add a second story to the building, a covered Gallery & certain other arrangements, of which a plan will be submitted for your approval; & for which \$6.5000 are asked.

I cannot help again calling your attention to the necessity of a Hall for Cavalry Exercise & instruction. The knowledge of Cavalry Tactics is necessary to the Cadets in the performance of their duty in the Army. It is so recognized, & a sufficient number of horses, dragoons & Cavalry Officers have been placed at the Academy for their instruction. The three higher classes are instructed in this branch, & are divided into Squads, & parade daily at stated hours as in their other studies. When the weather permits the instruction is given on the plain, but from September to June, the period allotted to this course, the weather & ground in this climate, are so often unfit for this exercise in the open air, that for the want of a Hall the regular lessons must be omitted, & the provision & expense of men & horses lost to the Country, & the time & opportunity to the Cadets. A sheltered room is as necessary in my opinion for the proper & economical instruction of this course, as any other. It requires one of large dimensions & must be built for the purpose. A plan & Estimate of the proposed building has been submitted to you. Two thousand dollars are already appropriated for its commencement, & the balance of the estimate \$20.000 is now asked for its completion.

I am very respectfully. Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

U. S. Mil: Academy

West Point. 7 Oct. 1853

Capt: G.W. Cullum

Corps of Engineers

West Point N.Y.

Captain. You will proceed to the City of New York, & procure from the proper sources, data to enable you to make out a detailed estimate for the equipment of a Pontoon train &c. as called for by the Chief Engineer in his letter to me of the 3rd Inst: handed to you herewith for your information & guidance. After which you will return to this Post.

I am very respectfully Your obedt Servt

Sig^d./ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady.

59.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 8 Oct: 1853

Genl: In submitting for your approval the proceedings of a special Board of Survey called at the request of Br. Major Thomas on the 7th Inst: I think it proper to state, that the horses pronounced therein unfit for Cavalry service, will not in my opinion be able to perform during the winter sufficient service to pay for their forage. They have been in service many years, are advanced in age, worn out, broken down, or diseased, & if retained & nursed, the probability are they would eventually have to be sold after all the care & expense bestowed on them, as was the case with those disposed of last spring, some of which had been two years under treatment. It is to prevent this loss that they are now recommended to be sold.

The condition of the first three forbid all expectation of their recovery. No. 1. has been in his present state since July & there is no sign of improvement. Nos. 2 & 3 are afflicted with the glanders which has hitherto baffled all efforts to cure. No. 4 in addition to being frequently lame & 19 years old, is at other times so sullen & unmanageable, that he can only be used by the Cadets at but few exercises. No. 5 has a scrofulous affection, & is so unmanageable that the strongest Cadet in the Corps cannot control him, & can therefore seldom be used. No. 6 is old & worn out. No. 7 has some affection that causes him to fall on all occasions & is therefore dangerous for the Cadets to ride. No. 8 is equally so, from a species of blindness, which renders him unsafe as well as unfit for service at the Academy.

I am very resply. Your Obt. Servt.
Sig^d. R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mil^y. Acady

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point. NY. 11 Oct. 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General

Cadet Perea from New Mexico has just shown me a telegraphic dispatch from his brother at St. Louis, saying that he had come in to carry him home, & wished him to meet him as soon as possible, that they might return at once. He has also shown me a letter from his father, on first hearing of his appointment expressing a wish that he shall resign, & the Honble. R. H. Weightman, has written to the same effect. In addition, I believe it impossible for Cadet Perea to pass his January Examination, & while waiting for more direct authority from his Guardians,

Mess^r Harmony in New York for him to resign to whom he has written, I have concluded to save time to forward his resignation & recommend its acceptance.

I am very respectfully

Your obed Servt

Sig^d. R E Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

60.

John K. Weed Esq
63 Lenny Street
New York

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 11 Oct. 1853

Sir. I have just recd. your letter of yesterdays date, requesting a leave of absence for your son Cadet Stephen H. Weed, that he may visit the City of New York, & be present at certain family arrangements which require his presence.

You are probably not aware that I cannot authorize the absence of a Cadet from the performance of the duties & exercises prescribed by the Regulations of the Acady, in which he has been placed here to be instructed, except in such extreme cases that may justify my departure from the rules established for my government.

I regret therefore that I cannot grant the leave of absence you desire & hope my inability to comply with your request will subject you to no inconvenience or prove any interruption to the arrangements you contemplate.

Your son is daily engaged with his class in the studies of his Academic course, which are of paramount importance, & which he cannot omit or neglect without injury & loss. I hope therefore you will be able to dispense with his presence home, until they are completed.

I am Sir Very resply

Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br.. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 12 Oct. 1853

Genl.

In compliance with your letter of the 3rd Inst: I have the honour to hand herewith an Estimate prepared by Capt: Cullum, of the entire cost of fitting out for the field, a pontoon train for a span of 300 yards in addition to what can be contributed from the stock on hand.

The letter of Capt. Cullum accomp^s the Estimate, will explain the several parts; & as it was directed to embrace the Engineer train proper, it was supposed that the means of

transportation in the field was to be included. This with the necessity of new pontoons makes the chief expense.

I am Very respectfully your obt Serv
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

61.

H. Tutwiler Esq
Green Springs
Alabama

U S Mil: Acady.
West Point. NY. 13 Oct. 1853

Dear Sir. In compliance with your request of the 6th Inst: I enclose herewith a copy of the Reg^{ns} for the admission of Cadets, which I believe will give you all the information you desire.

I regret very much that you were prevented from attending the last June examination, but hope that you will take an early opportunity of visiting the Acady & of witnessing the exercises of the Institution. It will afford me much pleasure to furnish you every facility in my power of doing so.

I remain Very respy. your Obt. Servt.
Sig^d. R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U S Mil: Academy
West Point 15 Oct. 1853.

Genl. I have received the Communication of the Honble J. P. Hale in the case of Mus^r O'Neil referred to me on the 13th Inst: for a report. Passing over the history of the enlistment & Services of M^r. O'Neil, I will state that no complaint has been made against him, but that it was the conduct of his wife, that the P. Off^r. of the Post found it necessary to condemn. I enclose his report of the circumstance at the time, with the additional statement by him, that M^{rs}. O'Neil was told by the Policeman in charge of her son, that she must not take him away until he had seen him; & that upon his return & sending for him, she refused to send him back, on the plea that she had sent him on an errand & that her husband would answer for him, when he subsequently sent for M^{rs}. O'Neil herself to come to his office (not quarters) she positively refused, though afterwards on the advice of the Sergt., sent word she had a small child & could not come.

The families at the Point, are allowed to reside in such quarters as are available, on condition that they conform to the reg^{ns}. of the Post. If they are unwilling to do so, the only alternative is for them to remove. No other control over them is desired. It was to this condition that M^{rs}. O'Neil by her disobedience of the orders of Major Thomas reduced herself; & for the prevention of similar offences & the necessity of example & good order, it was thought necessary to enforce the penalty. After it had been exacted however, & Mrs. O'Neil had

removed from the Point, in consideration of the cause of the offense & the probable feelings under which the orders of Major Thomas had been violated, & after the application of Musⁿ. O'Neil for a discharge had been refused by the Adj^t: Genl, he was informed that he could recall his family, provided his wife was sensible of her error & would promise in future to give no further cause of complaint. This has been declined.

I do not think that the transgression of a member of the family of an individual in the Army, or the penalty & inconvenience they thereby bring upon themselves, is a proper ground to entitle the individual to be discharged from the service. I was for this reason, that though regretting the circumstances, I could not recommend Musⁿ. O'Neil's application for discharge. He has still the privile^dge of occupying his quarters & that his family has not is their own fault. I return the letters transmitted to me & have the honour to be
your
obedt Servt

Sig^d. R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt: Mil: Acady

62.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 17. October 1853

Genl: Jos G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City
D.C.

General.

Surgeon J. M. Cuyler has been detailed as a member of the "Medical" Board to meet in the City of New York on the 1st Decr. next. The business usually presented to this Board detains it in session about two months & this Post will probably have the services of but one Surgeon ~~at~~ during that time. The duty in my opinion is too much for one to perform, & in the event of his becoming sick or disabled, there is no means of obtaining proper medical assistance whatever may be the emergency. Last spring during a temporary leave of absence of D^r. Cuyler, the Asst. Surgeon D^r. Simons, in the effort to perform ^{the} duties devolving on him, after he himself was sick, became extremely ill; & though D^r. Cuyler returned immediately when notified, it was impossible during the interval to obtain the services of a Physician either for D^r. S. or the Cadets or others requiring medical aid.

Two officers were successively dispatched to the City of New York to procure a Physician, without effect & had it not been for the kindness of D^r. Murray of the Army, who procured a friend to attend to his own duty in New York, & came up two nights to our relief, the sick would have been without any attention whatever. Several Cadets & Soldiers were sick in Hospital at the time, & some extremely ill. The duties & exposure of the Cadets, as well as of the officers & Soldiers, render them liable to accidents & ailments, which require prompt and skilful attention, & which in the absence of a regular Surgeon of the Post, I find it impossible to provide. The Surgeons themselves require occasional relief & relaxation from duty which I am indisposed to grant, unless their place can be supplied by a competent Physician. My object is therefore to ask whither the Surgeon Genl. cannot without detriment to the service make some

provision to meet these emergencies, & to request that some one be ordered here temporarily during D^r. Cuyler's absence, & that he report by the 25th Inst: to enable me to grant a short leave of absence to D^r. Simons, previous to D^r. Cuylers departure.

I have the honour to be. Very resply

Your obedt. Servt.

Sig/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. Mil: Acady

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 21 Oct 1853

Mess^{rs}. P. Harmonys, Nephews & Co.
80 South St. New York

Gentlemen

Cadet Perea from New Mexico informs me that you are his guardians. I regret therefore to have to inform you that neither his progress in his studies, or attention to his duties will enable him to pass the Semi-annual Examination in January next. His Prof^r. informs me that he does nothing in his course of Mathematics, and does not appear to try to recite with his section. He is equally negligent in his military duties, and seems to have abandoned all effort to perform them. I would recommend therefore that he be withdrawn from the Academy, and that if you have the power, you give your assent to his resignation, to prevent the mortification to himself and family, from being dismissed from the Institution. The regulations provide that any Cadet who shall receive over 100 demerit between the June and January Examina-

63.

tions, shall be dismissed from the Academy. He had already about 200. Having received 93 from the 1st to the 16th October. His demerit alone would cause his dismissal. The difficulty of communicating with his father, would prevent my hearing from him before January, and I have thought it best therefore, to refer at once to you.

I am very respectfully

your obedt Servant

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col.

Supt Mil Academy

U. S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 22. Oct 1853

Genl. J G. Totten

Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

I duly received your letter of the 12th Inst: enclosing copies of letters from the Honb^{le}. R. H. Weightman and Mr Juan Perea, duplicates of which reached me by this day's mail. On the date of its reception Cadet Perea informed me that his brother had returned to New Mexico, and that he had not heard from the Mess^{rs}. Harmony in New York to whom he had written. Learning subsequently that these Gentlemen were opposed to his resignation, I have myself written to them, explaining his situation, but have not yet received an answer. I enclose a copy of the letter from Maj Weightman to Lieut Peck, to which I previously referred, and have again to state that in the opinion of Prof^r Church there is no prospect of Cadet Perea passing his Examination in January, and that apparently he makes no effort to learn his course. He is equally negligent in his duties. Has about 200 demerit, more than 100 of which he has received this month, and continues to absent himself from his duty.

To save his parents and friends the mortification of his being dismissed, I would recommend that his resignation be accepted. Had not this step been under consideration, I should have felt it my duty to have arrested him & placed him in confinement at past week in consequence of his flagrant neglect of duty.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servant

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil Academy

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 25 October 1853

Genl J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

I have rec^d. your letter of the 29th Inst. & in compliance with your instructions will return to the Treasury, the balance of funds in my hands on Acct. of "Contingencies of Fortifications" & "Mexican Hostilities," as soon as I can find an opportunity to communicate in person or by some friend with the asst. Treasurer at New York.

I have desired to have my accounts under these app^{ns}. closed at the Treasury that I might be relieved from the charge of these funds without success. The former I presume will not lapse to the surplus fund, though it has been in my hands for nearly five years, but the latter will; and as it may still be of use to the Department, I would suggest the propriety of turning it over to Capt G. W. Cullum, who also has some appⁿ. in his hands & which might with propriety be applied to restoring the Pontoon train, &c, used in the service, to its original state. It will at all events, not add much to his present responsibility

64.

ity

I have the honor to be, Very respectfully,
Your obdt. Servant
(Signed) R. E. Lee Bvt Col
Supt Mil Academy

U.S. Mil Academy
West Point 28 Oct 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

In answer to the proposition, submitted by Capt A. H. Bowman of the Corps of Engineers, that Capt Cullum should assume the Superintendency of the assay office in New York, referred to me on the 26th Inst: I have to state that I do not think it incompatible at this time with his duties at this Post. The time for cessation of outdoor exercises is nearly at hand. The Engineer Company will soon commence recitations, of which the Lieuts of the Company will have charge, & the contracts for the construction of the assay office require its completion before the commencement of active operations in the spring.

It is understood that Capt Cullum is to make the necessary arrangements for the regular instruction & duties of his Company. To be present at the January Examination of the Cadets & to return to the Academy whenever his presence is required for the performance of the duties incident to his position. I hope therefore no injury will arise from his temporary absence, & I have given him authority to assume the direction of the proposed work.

I have the honor to be
Your obdt. Servant
Signed / R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt Mil Academy

U. S. Mil Academy
West Point 29. Oct 1853

Hon R. H. Weightman
New Mexico

My Dear Sir,

Your young friend Cadet Jose Y. Perea of New Mexico at the commencement of his Academic course in September found difficulty in mastering it. This was probably owing to his

want of familiarity with the English language & I hoped would be in time overcome. But during the present month he seems to have been completely discouraged, & to have lost all desire to retain his position at the Academy & consequently to have made no effort to acquire his course, or perform his duties. Upon consultation with Prof^r. Church, he was of the opinion that he would be unable to pass the January Examination, & as in consequence of his neglect of his other duties without having committed any grave or serious offence, he had already acquired over 200 demerit. I thought it useless for him to remain longer at the Academy, as this alone under the Regulations would occasion his discharge. I reported these facts on the 21st Inst: to the Mess^{rs}. Harmonys. Nephews & Co., & also recommended to the War Dept the acceptance of his resignation, which he had previously (11th Oct) tendered, as I believed his continuance at the Academy was only attended by discomfort to him without any corresponding benefit.

His resignation has been accepted by the Secy of War, to take effect 21st

65.

November next, & I will cause his accounts to be at once closed, & allow him to repair in person to the Mess^{rs}. Harmonys, to whom I will also write & inform of his approach; and whom I presume, will make all necessary arrangements for his comfort and well being. I very much regret the circumstances that have rendered his resignation advisable & hope that it may be satisfactory to you & his friends.

I remain. Very Respectfully

Your obdt. Servant

(Sd) R E Lee Bvt Col.

Supt Mil Academy

U.S. Mil Academy

West Point Oct 31st 1853

Mess^{rs}. Harmonys Nephews & Co.
80 South St
New York

Gentlemen

The circumstances in the case of your ward Cadet Perea from New Mexico, which I reported to you on the 21st Inst, induced me to recommend to the War Dept: the acceptance of his resignation, which he had previously tendered. I considered it useless to retain him at the Academy any longer, which was only productive of discomfort to him & no good; as he seemed to have lost all desire to maintain his position. His resignation has been accepted by the Secy of War, to take effect on the 21st Nov '53, & he will leave here this day, with directions to report to you in person, in New York, where I hope he will arrive in safety.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obdt Servant

(Signed) R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt Mil Academy

Hon: Solomon W. Downs
Monroe. Ouchata Co.
Louisiana

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. 1 Nov. 1853

My dear Sir. The interest which I know you feel for your nephew Cadet J. B. Fort, induces me to take the liberty to inform you of my apprehensions of his failure at the approaching January examination, that you may use your influence in urging him to greater application. He is in the last sections of his class in Mathematics & French, & stands among the lowest in each branch. From my conversations with his Prof^r in Mathematics I fear he does not exert himself sufficiently to master his course & that unless he applies himself with greater diligence, he may not acquire it before his examination. He has now two months, in which by proper exertion he might recover his position & secure himself against a failure, which would be I am sure, mortifying to himself & friends. I have thought it probable that he may have lost his desire to retain his position at the Academy, in as much as without having committed any serious offense against the Reg^{ns}. he has become careless in his conduct & has incurred an amount of demerit over 100. Should this be the case, it may be more agreeable to his friends for him to resign, than to incur the risk & consequence of failure. I hope you will pardon the liberty of my suggestions, & attribute them to my earnest desire for the success & future benefit of your nephew.

I remain very resply. Your obt Servt.
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady.

66.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

US Mil: Academy
West Point 2 Nov. 1853

Genl,

I have been informed by M^r. Alex. Valtemare that on the 29th Sept. he had addressed to the Honble Sect^y of War, the 16 last sheets of the great topog^l maps of France for the Mil: Acady. the former numbers of which were presented in 1850. May I ask that when rec^d they be forw^d. to the Acady.

As he at the same time has offered to the Academy some other works, & I wish in return to present in the name of the Mil: Acady such of our national publications, as may be of interest to some of the Institutions of his Country, I desire to procure copies of Schoolcrafts "Historical & Statistical infⁿ. respecting the History, Condition &c of the Indian Tribes of the U.S." "Stansbury's exploration &c of the Valley of the great Salt Lake of Utah", & "Omens "Report of a Geological survey of Wisconsin &c" which with some others may prove an acceptable interchange. I therefore respectfully request your aid to procure from the proper Dept. copies of these works, should this step meet with your approbation. I have the honor to be

Very resply your obt Servt.

Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt: Mil: Acady.

PS. A new Catalogue of the books in the Library of the US Mil: Acady will be forwd. to the
Dept: Sig^d. / R E L

U. S. Military Academy

West Point NY. Nov 3. 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends, the articles
set opposite their names respectively, all of which is rec^d. for favorable consⁿ. viz

Cadet Lomax	socks
“ H. M. Robert	Shirts, drawers, Socks, Pillow Cases, Gloves, Stationery &c
“ Musten[?] ^{J. L. K Smith}	Study Gown—Slippers & Gloves [correction in pencil]
“ C. J. Walker	Drawers, Under shirts, Socks & overshoes

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt. M. A.

U. S. Mil. Acady.

West Point 4. Nov. 1853

Capt: G. W. Cullum
Corps of Engineers
New York City. N.Y.

Sir.

The Secy. of War having declined to approve your assuming the Superintendency of the
Assay Office in New York. I am directed to recall the authority given by me for your
undertaking that duty. You will therefore please resume your position at the Academy without
unnecessary delay

I am very resply. Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

On the 3d. an order to Smith. R. S. Lt. 4th Arty. A.C.S. to proceed to NY for specie [marginal
notation]

West Point. N.Y. Nov. 5. 1853

Mr. James Eveleth
Agent of Engineer Dept.

Washington City D.C.
Under cover to Genl. Totten

Sir. By direction of the Chief Engineer, under date of the 28th Ult: I transmit, herewith a draft, endorsed to your order, on the Assistant Treas^r. of the United States, New York, for Six hundred and forty six dollars and ninety seven cents, being the amount remaining in my hands ~~in my hands~~ on account of "Contingencies of Fortifications" Please date, sign & return to me the accompanying receipt in duplicate.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt Servt:
(Sig^d.) R. E. Lee Bt: Col:
Capt: Eng^{rs}.

Jos: H. Cunningham Esq
Chummenuggee
Macon Co: Ala.

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point. NY. 8 Nov. 1853

Dear Sir. I have just rec^d. your letter of the 1st Inst: announcing the said intelligence of the death of your son, & truly sympathize with you in your heavy affliction. I have communicated the distressing information to your son Cadet Geo: A. Cunningham, & handed to him your letter enclosed to me. I trust he will bear his painful bereavement with fortitude & resignation, & endeavor to supply to you the place of one, whose loss you must so deeply feel. I think you can take much comfort in your son at this Institution. He stands very well in his class. Is in the 3rd Section in Mathematics, in the 2nd in English Studies, & is attentive to his Military duties. I hope he will spare no exertion to maintain his position & to give you all the consolation in his power.

I remain Sir. resply. your obedt Servt
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point. NY. Nov. 8. 1853

Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General. I have the honor to request that if any action has been had by the Department on the claim of Dyer Brewster for compensation for a wooden building on the Post of West Point, which claim was transmitted by the Dept: to Capt: Brewerton, on the 18th Sept: 1850 & returned by Capt: Brewerton to the Dept: on Oct. 4. 1850. I may be furnished with a copy of said action, as Mr Brewster has commenced suit against the occupant of the House for Rent.

If no action has been had, or is contemplated, I have to request that the paper forwarded by Capt. Brewerton on 4th Oct: 1850, may be sent to me as early as possible—a return has to be made to the summons of Court by the 214th Inst:.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil. Acady

68.

Mrs. Adele Fowler
Baton Rouge. La.

U. S. Mil: Academy
West Point NY. Nov. 9. 1853

My dear Madam. I rec^d. by the last mail your letter of the 26th Ult^o., in reference to the attendance of your son at the Catholic Church. I presume you are aware that the Reg^{ns} of the Academy require the Cadets to attend Divine Service every Sunday Morn^g at the Mily Chapel, where services are performed by the Chaplain of the Institution, who is also the Prof^r. of Ethics & Moral Philosophy. His discourses are addressed particularly to the Cadets, are free from doctrinal questions, & calculated to inculcate principles of piety & morality. I am however authorized to excuse such Cadets & Officers as have conscientious scruples, from attendance at this service, provided it is approved by the parent or guardian of the former. There are now two Cadets in the Corps whom I allow on this plea to attend the Catholic service when performed on the Point. The Catholic Church is on the other side of the rive; but service is performed on the Point on Sunday for the benefit of the Soldiers, their families & others who wish to attend. It will give me pleasure to extend this privilege to your son, should you desire it.

I am happy to inform you that he is improving in his studies & is attentive to his duties. I hope you will urge him to make every effort to acquire a sufficient knowledge of his course to enable him to pass the semi-annual examination in Jan^y next.

I remain very resp^y. Yr. Obt. Servt.

Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

Lieut. R. S. Smith
Treas^r. U.S. Mil: Acady

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Nov. 9. 1853.

West Point NY.

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of drawing principal & interest of stocks belonging to the Corps of Cadets & reinvesting the same – on completion of which business you will return to this Post.

I am very respectfully

Your obt. Servt

Sig^d./ R. E. Lee. Bt: Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 10 Nov. 1853

Genl: I have to report that on Sunday last about 8 P.M. Pvt. Benjⁿ. Milling of the Dragoon Detachment, at the time on Guard at the stables, deserted from this Post, carrying with him a government horse, bridle, blanket & surcingle. The horse being soon missed was pursued & found with the other articles, with Austin Spellman within half an hour after being in his possession. They were claimed by the Sergt. in command of the party as the property of the U.S. but their delivery refused by Spellman unless his charges were paid. The next morn^g 1st. Sergt. turner was sent by Major Thomas, with directions to state clearly to Spellman that the horse &c belonged to the U.S. Had been taken from the Gov^t. stables the night previous, that unless he surrendered

them

69.

them, he would be liable to prosecution for retaining stolen property: & to ask what were the charges claimed. He again refused to restore them; acknowledged that he knew Sergt Turner to be a soldier of the U.S. Stationed at West Point, but that he did not know that the horse belonged to the Govt. & that his charges were for money advanced on the horse & his keeping, & amounted to \$8.00 – A Magistrate in the neighborhood was then applied to, to issue his warrant on which the case could be tried & evidence produced; but declined on the ground that a search warrant, the only one he could issue, would not reach the case. Major Thomas was then directed to proceed to New Burgh & procure legal advice as to the proper mode to proceed to recover the property. The opinion of the Lawyer consulted was, that the Magistrate was correct as to the Search Warrant. That the proper mode was to sue out a writ of replevin in the County Court; & that Spellman could be prosecuted under the laws of the State, par. 71. Title 3. Part 4. Rev^d. Statutes. Vol. 2. p. 567. Edition of 1836. Sergt. Turner was again sent to inform Spellman of these facts, & that unless the property was restored, this course would be pursued. He refused its restoration & I have directed suit to be brought. Spellman I am told, keeps a small house of entertainment of some sort on the road through Eagle Valley to Buttermilk Falls, & has before given annoyance to the Post. I can see no grounds for his conduct in this case except a desire to

extort money or occasion trouble. Men of the Dragoon detachment assert that he knew Milling to be a soldier. That he had frequented his house & been in his debt. The horse, bridle, blanket &c, all indicate their being the property of the U.S. & the circumstances so far as I know them, did not warrant his advancing money on them, or in retaining them. I could not therefore yield to his claim, which would open the door to constant depredation & be a means of holding out temptation to other men to further misbehavior. I have therefore felt it my duty to resist it, & hope the course I have pursued will be approved by you & supported by the Secty of War.

I have the honour to be your obt Servt

Sig^d. / R E Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil^y. Acady

West Point. NY. Nov. 15. 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, my General Account Current for Mexican Hostilities & Contingencies of Fortifications with accompanying receipt showing transfer of balances to Capt: G. W. Cullum & Mr. James Eveleth respectively

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servt

Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Capt. Eng^{rs}.

70.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point. 14 Nov. 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Genl.

1st Lt: John Buford, 2nd Dragoons; who by Special orders No. 46 from the Head Qrs of the Army, was directed to relieve 2d Lt. R. Jones from duty at the Mily Acady. having been relieved from that detail by S. orders No. 73. the detail of another officer for that service becomes necessary. I have therefore the honour to recommend the following named officers, in the order they stand for that duty. viz.

1st Lt. Ora^{ren} Chapin^{man}

2nd Lt. Robert Random

2nd Lt. Cha^s W. Field

2nd Lt. J A Moone

2nd Lt. Kenar Garrard

1st Dragoons [correction in pencil]

_____.

2nd _____.

1st _____.

_____.

I am very respectfully. Yr. Obed Serv

Sig^d. R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil. Acady

U. S. Mil: Acady
West Point Nov. 16. 1853

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General. I have rec^d. the letter of E. H. Herbert Esq relative to his son Cadet Thos. L. Herbert, refered to me for a report on the 14th Inst:.

I regret to say that the proficiency of Cadet Herbert in his studies so far gives strong grounds for apprehension of his failure at the approaching January Examination. He is in the last (7th) section of his class in Mathematics, & among the lowest in the section, & does but little better in his English studies. It is the opinion of his Prof^r. that unless some marked improvement takes place between this & Jany., he will not be able to pass the Examination. He has not been attentive to his other duties, & since the 15th of July, the period from which his delinquencies commenced to be recorded, he has incurred 100 demerit. Over one hundred in six months renders him liable to be discharged.

In a conversation I recently held with him, I endeavored to impress upon him the necessity of greater application to his studies & attention to his duties, & that it was proper for him to inform his father of his position, that he might take such steps as seemed to him best. Should he be satisfied that he will not be able to pass his Examination, I would recommend that he be allowed to resign, rather than incur the consequences of failure.

The letter of Mr. Herbert is herewith returned & I remain very resply

Your obt Servt

Sig^d. / R E Lee Bt Col.
Supt. Mil: Acady

71.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point. Nov. 19. 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names respectively from their friends – which requests are recommended for favorable consideration. viz:

Cadet A. P. Porter.	Drawers. Socks. Undershirts &c
— J. H. Robinson	Under clothing & Portfolio
— L.P. Warren -	Writing desk & Stationery &c

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully. Yr. obedt Servt.

Sig^d. R. E. Lee. Br. Col.
Supt: Mil. Acady

Geo H. Devereux Esq
Salem. Mass.

U S Mil: Academy
West Point 22 Nov. 1853

My dear Sir

This is the first moment I have been able to devote to a reply of your letter of the 16th – Since its reception. An official visit of the Inspector of the Academy & some experiments in gunnery, ordered by the Secy of War, have absorbed all the time not necessary to the current business of the Post.

I assure you I sincerely sympathize with you in your deep anxiety about your son, & can fully understand the painful apprehensions you entertain concerning him. I earnestly hope that none of your fears will be realized & all your wishes fulfilled. It is true as you state that his amount of demerit has reached 90. Still there is an ample margin left for him to escape the penalty of the Regulation on the subject, & to show you how easily this is within his power, I take pleasure in informing you that no mark of demerit has been recorded against him since the 25th of last month, & that consequently the amount already reported to you (90) had not been increased. He has also been more attentive to his studies & is rising in his class. The last week his recitation marks in Mathematics were the highest in his section (the 2nd), & among the best in English studies. I have no doubt of either his ability or desire to excel, & he only wants the power of Self control & self denial, so necessary & yet so hard to acquire, to accomplish it. In an interview which I recently had with him, I endeavored to show him the pleasure as well as benefit, of persisting in his present good course; & urged him by all his affection for you, & all your love & reliance on him, to relax no effort & to omit no duty. He has promised me to do so & I am confident of his success. I can assure you that I will give him all the aid & assistance in my power, & I hope you will give him all the encouragement in yours, & all the reward he may deserve.

I remain Very resply. Yr. friend & Servt.
Sig^d. R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt.

72.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Nov. 24. 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, the following papers corrected as requested in the Dept's letter of the 22d Inst.:

Statement of Funds for 3rd Quarter 1853. in duplicate
Sub vouchers No. 1 to 4 inc: of Voucher No. 23 and
Voucher No. 43.

Cadet Canfield requests permission to receive some articles of Underclothing sent him by his Father – which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt Servant

Sig^d. / R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt. Mil: Acady

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 24 Nov. 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General. I have recd. the application of the Honble. Caleb Cushing for a leave of absence for Cadet St. S. Hawkins, to attend his cousins wedding in Dec^r referred to me on the 22nd Inst.:

Cadet Hawkins is in the last section of his class in Mathematics, & among the lowest in his section. He is now reviewing his course preparatory to the approaching Jany. Examination, & it will require in my opinion all his time & all his attention to prepare himself for that occasion. I fear that the leave of absence desired would be fatal to his prospects of success now considered very doubtful. In view therefore of his own interest, I regret I cannot recommend it to be granted; nor do I think that the interests of the Acady would be promoted by considering similar ceremonies, agreeable as I know them to be to the Cadets, proper grounds for interrupting the duties prescribed by the Reg^{ns}, which would be thus materially interfered with; for if granted to one, the same indulgence ought to be granted to all. The letter of the Honble. C. Cushing is herewith returned.

I have the honour to be very resply.

Your obedt Servt.

Sig^d. / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point NY. Nov. 26. 1853

Charles King L.L.D.
Pres: Columbia College

Sir.

I have understood that Lt. W^m. G. Peck of the U.S. Topl. Engineers, on duty at the Mil: Acady, desires to be an applicant for the vacant chair of Nat^l. & Exp^l. Philosophy in Columbia College; & I take pleasure in bringing his name & qualifications to your notice.

Lt. Peck graduated first in the class of 1844, at this Institution, & returned to the Academy in 1846 as an Instructor in Nat^l. & Exp^l. Philosophy. In 1847

forward_____

73.

he was appointed an Actg Asst: Prof of Mathematics & has held the place of 1st. Asst: Prof in that Dept: since Sept: 1851.

In addition to a thorough knowledge of his course, & habits of industry & study, he possesses the art of instruction; & his success at the Acad^y. has given the best evidence of his ability & fitness for the position to which he aspires.

I have the honour to be

With much esteem-your obt. Servt:

Sig^d./ R E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Samuel Casey Esq
Treas^r. of the U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point NY. Nov. 30. 1853

Sir. I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas^r. New York.

No. 5384 on War Warrant No. 491 for \$7.895.84

Your obedient Servant

Sig^d./ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

F. Burt Esq
3rd. Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Nov. 30. 1853.

Sir. I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Seven thousand, eight hundred & ninety five ^{84/100} dollars on acct: of as follows. viz:

Purchase of Artillery & Cavalry horses	\$605.84
Forage of Artillery & Cavalry horses	6.640.00
Increase & Expense of Library	500.00
Additional Compensation to Enlisted Men	<u>150.00</u> = \$7.895.84

I am very respectfully
Your obedt Servt.
Sig^d/ R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. Decr. 1. 1853.

Lieut: R. S. Smith
Q^rM^r. U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point. NY.

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury draft. upon completion of which business you will return to this Post.

I am very respectfully Sir
Your obedt Servt
Sig^d/ R. E. Lee. Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady

74.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Dec. 1. 1853.

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively viz.

Cadet Bryan	Fifty dollars to reduce his indebtedness at the Acady
Dresback[h]	Drawers, undershirts & Socks
E P Alexander	Socks
E. Turner	Dressing Gown

and the father of Cadet G W Holt has written me asking permission for his son to receive some little memorials of his sisters wedding from the family
All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully. Yr. obt Servt
Sig^d/ R E Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil: Academy

E. H. Herbert Esq
Haynesville. Alabama.

West Point 5 Dec. 1853.

Dear Sir.

I have rec^d. your letter of the 22d Ulto: in reference to the conduct & standing of your son. I am happy to inform you that the amount of the demerit which he has rec^d. has arisen from inattention to his duties & violation of regulations, which though contrary to the discipline of the Academy & unbecoming a good soldier, are not of a nature to affect either his moral standing or character. It is nevertheless much to be regretted that this amount has reached the limit (100) which if exceeded, will render him liable to the penalty imposed by the regulations for their infraction: & from which it is not in my power to relieve him. I hope however from the improvement which has taken place in his conduct that he has determined not to exceed this amount & that the penalty will thus be avoided.

I regret very much to have to inform you of his want of due proficiency both in his course of Mathematics & English studies; & that unless some marked improvement takes place between this & Jan^y., it is the opinion of his Prof^r. that he will not be able to pass the semi annual examination of the Cadets at that time. I have endeavored to stimulate him to greater application, but I fear his youth, & the consequent underdeveloped state of his mind may prevent him from being prepared, notwithstanding the efforts he may make.

Should you therefore from your correspondence with him be satisfied of his inability to master his studies, it might probably be more agreeable to him as well as to yourself, to allow him the resign, rather than run the risk of failure.

I remain with much consideration
resply your obedt Servt
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady

75.

U. S. Military Academy
West Point. NY. Dec. 6. 1853.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, my Statement of Funds expended during the month of November 1853.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt
Sig^d. / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady.

Mr. Cha^s. S. Arthur
Metropolitan Bank
New York

U. S. Military Academy
West Point 6. Dec^r. 1853.

My dear Sir.

I have just rec^d your letter of the 5th Inst: expressing your desire to return to the Mil: Acady.

I do not feel at liberty to make the communication you request to the Pres: of the U. States. Any information that the Secy of War may require in reference to your connexion with the Acad^y., not already on the files of the Engineer Dept: at Washington, he will doubtless call for, nor would it be proper for me otherwise to furnish it. The report of the Academic Board in the case of yourself & others, made at the time, contained all the information that could now be given, & I am not aware of anything that could cause the Board to reverse the opinion then formed, which I regret to say was unfavorable to your return. Should you receive a re-appointment I will hope you will carry out your determination to graduate with distinction

I remain with much consideration

Resply yours

Sig^d. / R E Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil: Acady

Richard Berry Esq
New York

U.S. Mil: Acady
West Point 8 Dec. 1853.

Dear Sir. I have rec^d your letter of the 5th Inst: requesting information relative to the standing of your son. to enable you to judge of the propriety of permitting him to resign his appointment of Cadet.

I regret to inform you that his present proficiency in his course, does not in the opinion of his Prof^r. authorize any hope of his being able to pass the semi-annual examination in Jan^y. & that unless some great improvement takes place between this & that time, he can hold out no expectation of his doing so. If from your communication with your son, you find him to be of the same opinion, & that he cannot be prepared for the examination; I think it preferable to allow him to resign, than subject him to the pain & mortification of failure; as I can see no good that would result from his awaiting his examination. Should he however stand his examination & fail; provided his conduct continues as good as at present; he would in all probability be allowed by the Secy of War the privilege of resigning.

This would still I think be more unpleasant to him & to yourself, than resigning

76.

at this time; & I would recommend the latter course, unless in your opinion some benefit would be derived from the former. I can fully understand your feelings on the subject, & sympathize in your embarrassment, which I very much regret it is not in my power to relieve.

I remain

Very resply. Your obedt Servt.

Sig^d. / R. E. Lee. Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady.

Rt. Rvd. W. Ingraham, Esq.
Bishop of California
Albany NY

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 8 1853

My dear Sir

I very much regret the necessity that obliges you to sail for California on the 20th Inst. as I had hoped that you would have been able to have passed the xmas holidays with your son; & not to have departed until after the Jany Examination, that you might have felt no anxiety concerning him. But if you cannot stay or bid him farewell here, I think the circumstances of his case, would authorize me to relax the regulations, & allow him to pass Sunday with you in New York. Of the advantages of this place you must judge, & I therefore reluctantly inform you that I do not feel sure of his success in his course of English Studies. He is in the last section of his class in that branch, stands rather below the middle of the section. His recitations do not show a sufficient acquaintance with the subject. I hope however in the last review, he will acquire it, though he would only lose one recitation by going to New York, still that is of importance to him at this time.

In mathematics he does better. Is in the section above the last & stands rather above the middle of the section. I hope therefore there is no cause of apprehension in this branch.

I am Sir, with much consideration

Your Obt Servt
Sigd: R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Prof. Joseph Terry
Secretary Smithsonian Inst.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 16 1853

Sir.

I have received by Express, a volume of "Observations made at the Meteorological Observatory at Toronto in Canada." presented by direction of the British Government to the West Point Military Academy.

As this very valuable donation came through the Smithsonian Institute, I desire through the same channel to express our grateful thanks to the British Government for this acceptable

addition to the shelves of our Library: and also to offer to your Institute our gratitude for the transmission of the work.

I have the honor to be Sir
Very respt. Your Obt. Servt.

Sigd: R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

77.

Honorable Charles King S.S. D.
Pres. of Columbia College
New York

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 13 1853

Dear Sir

Dr. I. I. Reynolds, U.S. Army & Asst. Prof. of Natl & Expl Philosophy at the Mil. Acady., desires to become a candidate for the Professorship of Philosophy in Columbia College; in the event of this branch of studies being separated from the course of Chemistry, which it is understood is under contemplation.

Dr. Reynolds graduated at this Institution in June 1843, & returned to the Acady in Aug '46 as one of the Instructors in Ethics. He was assigned the following year to the Dept. of Math & Expl Philosophy, & in Aug '49 was made the 1st Ast. Prof. in that branch. He has held this position ever since with much credit to himself & great satisfaction to the Prof. of Philosophy. Possessing an intimate knowledge of his course & experience in its instruction; he has exhibited patience, perseverance, & judgement in the discharge of his duties & acquired the esteem & confidence of all connected with the Academy.

I remain with great respect
Your Obt. Servt.

Sigd: R. E. Lee, Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 14 1853

General.. I have the honour to return herewith, vouchers nos. 23 (with 5 sub vouchers) 24.25.26.27.28.29 & 30 with dates inserted as required by the 3rd Auditor. The dates of the purchase of horses correspond with the dates of payment which were entered in the receipts for the money.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

Sigd: R. E. Lee, Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 15 1853

General.. The following Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names

Cadet Corse-	Stationery & Dictionary
“ Freedley-	Underclothing, Handkerchief, Gloves & Scarf
“ Fowler-	Underclothing
“ Langdon-	Underclothing, Gloves & Stationery
“ Murphy-	Underclothing & Stationery
“ Strong-	Fifty dollars to reduce his indebtedness
“ H.S. Webb-	Money to reduce his indebtedness

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

Sigd: R. E. Lee, Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

78.

Genl. J. Watson Webb
New York

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 15. Dec. 1853

My dear Sir,

I have rec'd your note of the 13th inst., enclosing a check for \$50- to be placed in to the credit of your son Cadet Webb, & will apply to the Sec'y of War for the necessary authority.

It is more, however than sufficient to liquidate his indebtedness to the Commd & provide him an overcoat, but will no doubt be useful.

I am very resp. your Obt. Servt.
Sig: R. E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

W.C. Warren Esq.
Edenton, N.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 15 Dec. 1853

My dear Sir In reply to your letter of the 9th Inst. expressing your wish that your son Cadet S.P. Warren, should attend the Episcopal Church; I have to state that the Regulations of the Academy require all the Cadets to attend the Chapel at the Point on Sunday morning; but that he can go on Sunday afternoon, whenever he desires it, to attend the E. Church, situated about 1 ½ miles from the Point.

The Chaplain of the Post, who is also the Prof. of Ethics and Moral Philosophy, belongs to the Presbyterian Church & service at the Chapel is conducted after that form of worship. His discourses, however, prepared for the Cadets, are free from all doctrinal or sectarian questions, & well calculated to inculcate morality & religion- should your son be a communicant of the E. Church, he can have the privilege of attending on those mornings when the communion is administered.

I am very resp. your Obt. Servt.
Sig: R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Academy.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 19 Dec. 1853

Genl: The substitute for Par. 72 Mil. Academy. Regns.; transmitted in your letter of the 20th July last: requires that "any cadet who shall at the examinations in June & Jany, have an amount of demerit exceeding 100 for the previous six months, shall be declared deficient in conduct and recommended to the War Dept. for discharge."

The date from which the record of delinquencies for each Academic year commences, is the 16th of June, for all the classes except the 4th; the members of which being admitted on the 1st July, are given to the 16th of that month to make themselves acquainted with the regns.

The new regns, or substitute for par. 72, was published to the corps on the 22nd July, & it would seem just, in making up the conduct roll for the approaching Jany examinations, not to make it operative anterior to that time; & provided the Cadets have not exceeded the maximum amt. of demerit since its publication, that they shall not be subjected to the penalty. Many of them I believe, under the

79.

impression at the beginning of the term, that they have a margin of 200 demerit for the year, were less careful of their conduct, than they would have been had the existing reign at the time been in force.

I do not however feel at liberty to adopt this course, without your approval & submit the question to you for decision.

I am very resp. your Obt. Servt.
Sig: R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 19 Dec. 1853

Genl- It has been reported to me by the Comdt. of Cadets, that on the night of the 16th Inst. Cadets Ferguson, Lee, J. & Lord of the 3rd Class, were absent from their quarters and Barrack, from about 12 o'clock at night, till 5 in the mornng. That Cadets Amory and Deveraux of the 4th class were absent from about 12 till 1 o'clock the same night; had spirituous liquors in their possession when they returned, & that Cadets Ferguson & Armory were in citizens dress. Cadet MacGill of the 4th Class was also discovered absent from his quarters, but as it is not known that he was absent over half an hour, & as he states that he was visiting in Barrack, his offense is not of the grave character as that of the others.

The absences of the five named young gentlemen, at the time specified, I regret to say, is positive & acknowledged, that they have subjected themselves to the severe punishment prescribed in par. 121 Mil. Acady. regns. Viz: dismissal from the service. Their offense being beyond my jurisdiction is, accordingly submitted to you, & should the Secy. of War not deem fit to decide upon their punishment, I have to apply for a Genl. Court Martial for their trial.

I am very resp. your Obt. Servt.
Sig: R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

P.S. I refer you to the report of Major Garnett for the particulars of the case & his views.

R. E. Lee Br. Col.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 20 Dec. 1853

General.. The following named cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz:

Cadet Baylor- Neck Comforter

__ W. H. Bell- *do* Gloves
__ Hascall- *do* *do*

I am very resp. your Obt. Servt.
Sig: R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

80.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 23 Dec. 1853

Gen: In reply to your enquiry of the 21st Inst. in reference to the correctness of the extract from Major Garnett's report of the 18th: I have to state that the words specified by you are correctly copied; & that you may know the reasons for the opinion thus expressed, I have caused the remainder of his report to be appended to the extract returned to me, but I do not consider it as a part of my report submitted to you.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

F. R. Tillon Esq.
No. 70 Wall Street
New York

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 23 Dec. 1853

Dear Sir. In answer to yours of the 9th Inst., asking a leave of absence for your nephew, Cadet Nicholls, to visit you. I have the pleasure to inform you that I shall be able to grant him a leave of absence from 1 P.M. tomorrow until 7 ½ P.M. on Monday the 26th inst.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

John K. Weed, Esq.
New York

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 23 1853

Sir. Yours of yesterday's date asking a leave of absence for your son Cadet Weed is received. I regret under the circumstances, that on account of the amount of his demerit, I cannot extend to him the privilege of visiting his home on Christmas, which has been granted in some cases to Cadets residing in the vicinity of the Academy.

(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. S. Bell Esq.
West Chester Penna.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 23 1853

Sir. I have recd your letter of the 13th Inst., asking a leave of absence for your son Cadet M.H. Bell.

I regret the distance is too great to enable me to grant him the opportunity to visit you on Christmas & to return in time to resume his studies, which in some cases has been extended to cadets residing in the vicinity of the Academy.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

81.

Robert Donaldson Esq.
Sylvania
Barrytown N.Y.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 24 Dec. 1853

Sir:

I regret that I am unable to comply with the request of Miss Gaston conveyed in your note of the 20th Inst; & that in consequence of the amount of demerit of her brother, am prevented from extending to him the privilege that, in some cases, has been given to other Cadets, whose immediate relations reside in the vicinity of the Academy.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 28 Dec. 1853

General.- I have the honour to submit for your consideration a special pledge voluntarily given by the members of the 3rd Class, for the purpose of relieving their comrades from the charge reported to you on the 19th Inst.- The subject being beyond my control, I have only to refer it to you & although in a Military point of view I consider this kind of convention between the authorities & the Corps, irregular, & that the oath which each member takes upon receiving his warrant a sufficient guarantee for his effort to perform his duty, yet I believe, experience has shown the happiest results from these specific pledges, & I therefore recommend it for your favorable consideration.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. Geo. H. Deveraux
Salem
Mass.
My dear Sir,

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 30 Dec. 1853

I should have replied to your letter of the 24 Inst: had I been certain where to direct my answer.-

It would not be proper for me to write to the Sec'y of War as you request in relation to your son. Having officially reported the facts in his case, as well as in the case of the other Cadets, should he desire any further information from me, he will call for it.- In that event it will give me great pleasure to state all the circumstances in their favour.

In reply to your inquiry as to his demerit, I am happy to inform you, that up to the 16th Inst: he had not increased the amount formerly reported to you, viz: 90. In his conduct that night, however, he violated several regns of the Acady, viz: absent from his quarters: having spirit in his possession: not halting when ordered & c., which with some acts he has since committed, not of so grave a character, will I am sorry to say cause his amount to exceed 100. I remain very resply. your obt Servt

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

82.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 5 Jany. 1854

Genl. I have the honour to submit for your consideration, the plan of the quarters proposed for the accommodation of the Officers stationed at the Academy, at present quartered in the Cadet Barrack; & the enlargement & addition of the Cadet Hospital, with an estimate for each.

These buildings are in my opinion necessary for the advancement of the institution, & the better discipline & comfort of the Cadets, as stated in my annual report of the 8th Oct. last.

I regret the delay that has occurred in completing the drawings; but the indisposition & other duties of Lt. Gilmore, whose aid I had to engage, retarded them until now.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

P.S. The estimates are herewith enclosed & the plans transmitted in a separate post by this day's mail.
Sgd. R.E.L.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 7 Jany. 1854

Genl. Upon the reception of your letter of the 31st ult. I caused the leaders of the 3rd Class to be informed of the Decision of the Secy. of War in reference to the pledge offered by them in behalf of three of their members; & that provided a similar pledge was given by the 4th Class, that I considered myself authorized to stay all proceedings against them members of each class. On the morning of the assembly of the Court, but before the hour of their meeting, I recd from the 4th Class a pledge signed by all the members except eight, to the same effect as that offered by the 3rd Class, but coupled with the condition that the members of their class should not only be relieved from all the reports & consequences of the offense in question, but that a sufficient number of the other delinquencies should be erased from the record, to secure their continuing at the Academy.

As I considered this going beyond the immunity offered by the Secy. of War, I felt obliged to refuse acceptance of the pledge, & to allow the prosecution to proceed, but that the accused should not lose the advantage of any benefit that might be attributed to the offer of the class. I report the facts to you.

The papers enclosed in your letter of the 31st are according to your direction herewith returned.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

83.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 7 Jany. 1854

General..

I have the honour to transmit herewith my statement of funds expended during the month of December 1853- Also an estimate of amt. reqd. for the present month.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 7 Jany. 1854

Genl,

I have recd the letters of Col. J.B. Crane, comdg 1st Arty. to the Adj. Genl. of the Army: referred to me on the 4th Inst. for a report.

There are not more officers of the 1st Arty. on duty at the Mil. Acady than there are of the 3rd and 4th. Each of which Regiments furnish the same number- until this year the number of arty officers has been about equally divided between the Regts. The 2nd has now less than any other. Before applying for the services of Lt. Frey, at which time were handed in the names of three other officers. I had asked for the detail of either Br. Major Reynolds of the 3rd Arty., or Lt. Garische of the 4th. - Had the necessities of service allowed the detachment of either of these officers from the Regts, there would have been one officer less of the 1st at the Academy, than of the 3rd or 4th.

Of the five officers now present, Br. Captains Coppee & Boynton, are respectively the 1st Apts in the Ethical & Chemical Depts,- to fill these positions requires study, knowledge, experience- neither of them could be relieved without injury to the Acady- 2nd Lt. Baird has charge of 2 sections of the 4th Class in Math & 2nd Lt. Hull of 4 sections of the 2nd Class in Chemistry. The relief of either of these officers would be of great injury to their classes at this time, in the midst of their course, & without other instructors to supply their places.

I fully appreciate the desire of the Comdg Officers, to retain the services of their officers with their Regts., & I have endeavoured in my application to equalize the burden between them. The wants of the service do not always allow the detail of officers requested, & others are substituted.

Should the Comdg. Genl' find it convenient to detail three additional officers from the 2nd Arty. for duty at the Acady: I could after June next, relinquish an officer from the 1st, 3rd, & 4th Arty. & the each Reqt. would be equally represented.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

The letter of Col Crane is returned herewith.

84.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 7 Jany. 1854

Genl: I have had the honour to receive the letter of Capt. B.W. Arthur 1st Inst referred to me on the 4th Inst. for a report. Dr. Gilbert is one of the Asst. Professors in the Ethical Dept. & has charge of more than one half of the 4th Class in that branch of their course. To deprive them of his services before the end of the term in June next, would be greatly to their injury- should the service permit the detail of another officer at that time to take his place, he might if more imperatively required with his company be relieved.

He reported at the Acady on the 28th Feby. 1850 for duty & but a short time before his promotion.

I remain very resply. your obt Servt
(Signed) R. E. Lee. Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 9 Jany. 1854

General. I submit, herewith, the Report of the Progress, Aptitude, & c of the Cadets of the Fourth Class who at the present semi-annual Examinations have been declared deficient by the Academic Board & recommended to the Secy. of War for discharge- The Regn. of the Dept. of July 2, 1852, requires that the Cadets found deficient, shall be returned at the Acady until the Report of the Board shall have been approved by the Secy. of War.

I have therefore thought it advisable to forward the particular report in their case in anticipation of the General. report of the examination, that I may receive as soon as possible the action of the Secy.- the 4th Class resume their studies tomorrow. These young gentlemen have been assigned to sections & Instructors provided, but I presume they will do nothing, & I fear will interrupt the duties & be of no benefit to the other Cadets. It will be a relief to them as well as the Acady. to have their case decided at once.

In obedience to the substitute, for par. 72 Academic Regns, Cadets Amory & Deveraux, having an amount of demerit exceeding 100 (165 & 134 respectively), since the 22nd July last, the date of the promulgation of the regns. At the Acady, have been declared “deficient in conduct” & recommended for discharge.

They are the only members of their class who have subjected themselves to this penalty, & although the decision of their case it not of such immediate consequence as the others, they have been included in the report of their class.

You may recollect they have been recently tried by a General. Court Martial. Should they have been acquitted of the charge & specifications & their reports for this offence be removed, their amount of demerit will be diminished by 16 still leaving it over 100.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

85.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 9 Jany. 1854

General. I have the honour to submit herewith an application from 1st. Lieut. Oren Chapman, 1st Drngns to be relieved from duty at the Mil. Acady. Lt. Chapman has just reported in compliance with orders no. 100 17 Nov. 1853 of the Army, & Lt. R. Jones Mt^d. Rfl^s Has been relieved. I

consider it desirable to have at the Acady. those officers who are willing, as well as qualified, to undertake the duty & on that account had in the first instance applied for 2nd Lt. R. Ransom, 1st Drgns.- On the same grounds I renew that application, provided his services can be obtained by Sept. next and in that event could either 2nd Lts. W.J. Magruder, or Robt. Williams 1st Drgns. Be assigned for duty at the Acady. till June. I would recommend that application of Lt. Chapman for favorable consideration. Should the circumstance not allow the detail of Lt. Ransom, I can only recommend Lt. Chapman to be relieved provided 2nd Lt. W.J. Magruder be assigned to duty at the Acady. in his place.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srv't.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 13 Jany. 1854

General.

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, my accounts for the 4th quarter of 1853. Consisting of General. Accounts current & abstract of disbursements in duplicate, with vouchers no. 1 to 58 incl.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srv't.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. H.W. Peck
Galena, Ill.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 16 Jany. 1854

Sir. I send the enclosed, in compliance with your request, of the 9th inst. I hope it will answer your purpose. I am glad to hear of your welfare & wishing you all happiness and success, I am

Very Truly Yours
(Sigd.) R E Lee, Br. Lieut. Col.
Supt

Mr. Henry Peck of Ohio, entered the U.S. Mil Acady. the 1st July 1851- During the time he was a member of the Corps of Cadets he was conspicuous for his good soldiership & Military Deportment, & in June 1852 was selected from his class for one of the appointments of Corporal, which office he held to he left the Academy in June 1853.

During the two years he was connected with the Institution, he was attentive to his duties, subordinate & correct in his conduct & was deemed well acquainted with the school of the Soldier, Company, & Military Police.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srv't.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

86.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 18 Jany. 1854

Gen.

I have the honour to hand you the Merit Rolls of the Cadets of the U.S. Mil. Acady., determined at the semi-annual examinations in Jany 1854; together with the Reports of the Academic Board, of the progress, aptitude, & c. of the Cadets of the 2nd & 3rd Class, pronounced deficient- their course & the action on others separated from the Academy since June 1853.

Those cadets found deficient, & not recommended to the Secy. of War for discharge, it is believed by the Board will be able to perfect themselves in their course by June, & thus retrieve their position.

Those cadets recommended for discharge, not having rec'd since the 22nd July an amount of demerit exceeding 100- it is respfy recommended be allowed to resign.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 19 Jany. 1854

General..

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz:

Cadet O'Connor- Gloves

“ Snyder- \$35 to reduce his indebtedness at the Acady

“ F. J. Lee Underclothing, table cover, Dictionary &C.

“ E.R. Warner Underclothing, Stationery, pr skates &C.

“ S. B. Warren Comforter & Envelopes

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 20 Jany. 1854

I have the honour to transmit by this days mail the journal of operations for testing the effects of shot against the embrazure Target, conducted under your directions at this place in November last. The delay in forwarding it, has occurred from my being obliged to withdraw Lt. Gilmore for the drawings, & his subsequent indisposition. The original sketches & drawings were however first completed, & all the facts & incidents transcribed as they occurred. The correctness of the record has not been injured by the delay in making the copies, which required more time & labour than first supposed. The appearance of the target at the completion of the experiments is shown by photographic delineations, which will serve to verify the description &c.

87.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

P.S. The instructions of the Secy. of War of Nov. 1st on the subject were herewith returned.
Sigd. R.E. Lee

Hon. W.M. Boyce, Ho. of Repr.
Washington City D.C.
Sir.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 20 Jany. 1854

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 14th Inst. in reference to the application of Mr. Herbert of Alabama for the appointment of cadet at the Mil. Acady. It would give me great pleasure to aid him in his wishes, but you will see by the Accompg. Copy of the Regs. of the War Dept. on the Subject, that the member of Congress representing his District, has the appointment in his own hands & that nothing I can do will be of any avail.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 23 Jany. 1854

Genl, Your letter of the 31st ulto: relative to a Planetarium, by Mr. H. Barlow; was rec'd in the midst of the semi-annual examination. That being finished, Prof. Bartlett will now be at

liberty to examine the instrument at the Crystal Palace in New York at any time that may be appointed by Mr. Barlow. If then he will appoint the day & place, Prof. Bartlett will meet him at any hour he may designate after 11 A. M.

Should Mr. Barlow find it convenient to be in New York about the middle of this week, say Thursday or Friday, he will probably find Professor Bartlett at No. 38 Beech Street.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Samuel Casey Esq.
Treas United States
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 23 Jany. 1854

Sir.- I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York no. 5647 on War Warrant No. 932 for \$5000.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

88.

J. Burt Esq.
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. January 23d 1854

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury Draft for five thousand dollars on account of Current & Ordinary Expenses of the Mil. Acady.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. Arthur F. Deveraux
Salem, Mass.
My dear Sir.

U.S. Mil: Academy
West Point 25 Jany 1854

I have rec^d your letter of the 23rd Inst. & regret to state that I know of no arrangement by which you could rejoin your former class at the Acady. The Regⁿ. To which you refer, respecting Cadets discharged &c, still exists; and the Academic Board at each Examn makes to the Secy of War the report called for. It has been done in your case; & I am sorry to say their opinion was unfavorable to your return; in consequence of your inattention to Reg^{ns}; nor do I see any prospect of their making a different report.

Although your separation from the Academy may be a subject of regret & disappointment to you at present, I hope you will not let it discourage you in your efforts for the

future, or prevent your taking a position in the world, of which you are capable, & which you owe to your character & friends. If it will induce you to prosecute with greater determination & constancy all that is good, & to avoid with care & repugnance, what tends to evil, it will prove a benefit rather than an injury.

I send herewith a certificate of your proficiency while at the Acady & the acceptance of your resignation, & with sincere wishes for your success & happiness in life.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Lt. R. S. Smith
4th Arty. A.C.S.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point January 27, 1854

Sir. You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring Specie for a Treasury Draft- Upon completion of which business you will return to this Post.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

89.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 31 Jany. 1854

Genl: In forwarding the resignation of Cadet Heilman [Heileman], a step which he had meditated for some time, & which in his opinion his health renders necessary, I will state that I consider it impossible he should continue at the Acady, & that I see no benefit in his remaining here longer- since his examination & the commencement of the new term, he has done nothing in his studies & has been so negligent in his duties, as to have acquired in the month of January 130 demerit; & thus has already exceeded 100 which subjects him to dismissal- In addition his conduct to his Instructors has not been proper or respectful, & I was obliged yesterday to place him in arrest for repeated misbehaviour in the Math^{cal}. Academy.

I think it therefore better to allow him to resign, under the circumstances than bring him to trial.

Since the death of his mother, he says he was informed by his sister, that a Mr. Mason had been appointed his guardian, but he does not know his name or residence. I presume it must be Mr. John Mason in Washington, to whom his resignation might be referred for approval if you thought it necessary.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Mrs. Adele Fowler
Baton Rouge, La.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point February 2, 1854

I have your letter of the 21st Ult^o:- Mine of the 9th Nov. was in answer to the inquiries you had proposed to me, on the subject of the practicability of your son's attending the Roman Catholic Service, & I awaited to hear your decision. I have now according to your request granted the permission.

I do not think there is any cause of uneasiness in regard to his health. Although he has not been well the past month, or able to attend to his duties, his indisposition does not appear to be serious, but the result of indigestion & a consequent lack of appetite, which naturally produces debility & depression. He has now however resumed his studies, has a room in the hospital & is excused from Military duty. I hope he will continue to improve & be able to remain with his class. Should he not, he will be allowed to go home. This would however throw him back an entire year, & if possible should be avoided. He has rec^d. The things you sent him, & has procured here woolen socks & overshoes. He is under the immediate treatment of the Surgeon of the post, & received every attention it is in our power to bestow. I hope therefore you will not feel alarmed on his account, & you may be assured he will not be neglected.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

90

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Feby 6, 1854

General.,

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz.

Cadet Bursley	Dressing Gown & Gloves
“ Gregg	Under Clothing & c.
“ Holt	do__ dressing Gown, Gloves, Pocket handkerchief & c.
“ Weldrick	\$35- to reduce his indebtedness at the Academy.

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 8 Feby. 1854

Gen.

I have rec^d. the letter of Isaiah Townsend Esq. In reference to the projected road from Eagle Valley to Canterbury, referred to me on the 3rd Inst. For a report. The road from West Point, was commenced in the Spring of 1844 by Major Delafield, & constructed under the immediate direction of Capt. A.J. Swift of the Corps of Engineers- to its present terminus about 4 miles from the Point. No instrumental Surveys as far as I can learn were made beyond, though the road was selected & staked out to "Christians," formerly "Monks," half a mile further; nor can I find any maps or memoranda in the office relating to it. The design at the time I am told, was to endeavour to carry it to "Turner's Depot" on the Erie R. Road, for the purpose of keeping open communication with New York, getting supplies &c in winter, & to induce the citizens of Canterbury & Cornwall to construct the north branch through the mountains to communicate with them. The road was completed about 1/3 of a mile beyond the public lands in September 1845 & might still be continued to Canterbury by the citizens of that place if they desired it; but the Post of West Point has now no means that could be applied to that object. Any assistance I could give, I would cheerfully furnish. A shorter communication with the region in question, might probably be made up the west bank of the river, along the foot of the Crow Nest & Buttermilk Mountains; but of the practicability or cost of such a road I have no knowledge, nor could it be satisfactorily ascertained without a survey. The letter of Mr. Townsend is returned.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

91.

Wm. G. Webster Esq.
New Haven, Conn.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 9 Feby 1854

Sir.

I have recd your letter of the 7th Inst. In reference to the health of your Son. You must not suppose that any doubts are entertained as to the sincerity of his opinions as regards himself, or the treatment necessary for his recovery. But the Medical Officers have to be governed by their own judgement in his case & be guided by the same rules prescribed for all Cadets. When in their opinion his health requires a leave of absence, or his continuance at the Acady. Is either injurious or unnecessary, they will then be able to give the certificate required by the Regns. Which will be forwarded for the information & action of the War Dept.

Upon consultation with the Surgeon of the Post, this course in his opinion is not more necessary, nor does he see anything in the condition of your son calculated to excite alarm or anxiety., I hope therefore you will not be uneasy, but rest assured that he will receive every attention his cause admits of & every consideration that a due regard for the interests of the Acady & the other Cadets will permit.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Feby 14, 1854

General.. I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the letter of the Dept. of the 14th Inst. Requesting me to deposit the sum of \$34.12 with the Asst. Treas. New York to meet that amount overdrawn on account of Forage of Artillery & Cavalry Horses.

Before doing so I think it proper to make the following Extracts from a letter of Lieut. R.S. Smith, 4th Arty. A.A. Grm. To the 3rd Auditor, under date of December 15, 1853 on that subject in reply to suspension of vouchers for 3rd Quarter 1852, viz:

“3rd Quarter 1852 \$2034.12.” Forage issued in that quarter to 67 Artillery & Cavalry Horses, referred to Engineer Branch” x x “I cannot however understand how the sum of \$2034.12 is arrived at, as a calculation based on my vouchers for the purchase & issue of the forage of 67 horses in that quarter, shows the money value to be \$1448.54. Hay then cost 55 cts & oats \$1.50 for 100 lbs.”

The calculation has again been made as follows.

67 horse for 92 days- 10 lbs hay each per day=	61.640 lbs @ 55 per 100 lbs	\$339.02
67 “ “ 92 “ 12 lbs Oats “ “ “ =	73.968 lbs @ 1.50 “	<u>1109.52</u>
	Total	\$1448.54

Difference between amount actually expended & amount charged \$585.58- Copies of the above mentioned vouchers showing the price of Forage in that Quarter, are herewith transmitted- the originals or in the 3rd Auditor’s Office.

The charge made against “Engineer Branch” is at the rate of \$10.12 for Horse for Month whereas from the vouchers it appears it should be about \$7.21 per Horse per Month.

Waiting your further instructions I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

92.

The Postmaster
New York City

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point Feby 22, 1854

Sir. A letter dated January 24th addressed to Henry D. Morse, 228 Washington St., Boston, Mass. & containing Twenty dollars- was mailed postpaid at this place on the 24^h or 25th of last month- it has not reached its destination. I am informed that letters are sent by the Postmaster here to your office for distribution. If there is any way of tracing the one mentioned I shall feel obliged by your mentioning the matter.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten

U.S. Mil. Academy

Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

West Point February 22, 1854

General..

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, Invoice, Bill of Lading & Shipping receipt for 3 cases of Acoustic Apparatus, imported for the use of the U.S. Mil Acady & I respectfully request that you will obtain a free permit from the Secretary of the Treasury for their delivery, and that you will forward the permit & inclosed papers to Mr. George H. Smith, No. 40 Dey Street New York, who will receive the cases from the Custom House & send them to West Point.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 23 February 1854

General.. I have the honour to request that a Genl. Court Martial may be ordered to convene at this Post, for the trial of Private Chas Collins, Comp. "A" Engrs charged with Mutinous Conduct;

Private Richard Parker ditto charged with dis of orders &

Private H. Hess U.S.M.A. det: of dragoons, charg. With drunk^s. on duty.

I have also to report that on the 18th Inst. Cadet S.W. Ferguson of the 3rd Class in company with Cadets Barnes & Lord, attacked with a stick, Cadet J.A. Shoup of the 2nd Class, until arrested by Br. Capt. Coppee. The assault appears to have been unprovoked & deliberately planned; & whatever may have been the provocation, I can neither justify or extenuate the mode & manner of its execution; which I consider highly censurable & unbecoming the character of a soldier; & deserving the severest punishment prescribed in par. 129 Acad. Reg^{ns}. As I have not the power adequately to condemn it, I beg leave to recommend should it meet your approbation; that the Genl. Court Martial I have requested; be constituted for the trial of Cadet S.W. Ferguson & such other persons as may be brought before it. I refer to the accomp^s report of the Actg. Comdt. Of Cadets for further particulars.

Cadets Barnes & Lord were declared deficient in their course at the late Jan^y examination, & perhaps their participation may have been partly owing to the uncertainty of their position. Several of those similarly situated have

93.

also been guilty of grave & serious offenses, but endeavouring to make allowance for their situation, & unwilling if possible, to add to their anxiety & discomfort; while awaiting the decision of the Dept. in their case; I have omitted to notice what otherwise I should have been compelled to prosecute.

It may be proper for me however to state Generally that they have been negligent of their duties, & their example & conduct of no benefit to the rest of the Corps. Some of them have

entirely neglected both their studies & duties, & I doubt if these latter be allowed the opportunity, they could now retrieve their position.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srv't.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Prof. W.H.C. Bartlett
West Point

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Feby 24, 1854

Sir.

In accordance with the tenor of the letter from the Engineer Department under date of the 31st December 1853, you will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of meeting Mr. Thos. H. Barlow, and making examination of a Planetarium invented by him- On completion of which business you will return to this Post, and make a report thereon.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srv't.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point February 24, 1854

General.,

The testimony of Major Delafield being required in a suit brought by Dyer Brewster against the Tenant of a house at West Point- I have the honour respectfully to request that you will inform me what is Major Delafield's address at present, & whether there is a likelihood of his returning soon to this State, as in case of his prolonged absence a Commission to take his testimony will have to be issued.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srv't.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

94

Cadet W. Eugene Webster
Alexandria, Va.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 25 Feby 1854

Your early departure from the Point prevented my returning your letter of the 13th Inst. to the Honble. Secy of War; which I did not deem advisable to forward with my recommendation for your leave of absence. It is not customary to correspond directly with the Secy. except in the way of appeal, on matters regulated by the rules of service. The reasons you advanced in asking

any indulgence, I feared might be considered as more entitling you to a discharge, nor is it usual in making similar requests to couple with it as an alternative the letter of resignation. The letter in question is herewith enclosed.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Mrs. Fowler
Baton Rouge, La.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 27 Feby 1854

I have just received your letter of the 16th in reference to your son. I am happy to inform you that he is improving in health, but being still feeble, & unable to attend to his duties with advantage, it had been judged best to grant him a leave of absence till the 1st July next, & allow him if able to resume his position at the Academy to join the then 4th Class. This has been sanctioned by the Honble. Secy of War, & he leaves here this day for New York to join Mr. P.H. Morgan, who will take him with him to Louisiana. Mr. Morgan informed me that it would be perfectly convenient for him to furnish him the necessary funds to pay his expenses home. I have therefore only given him sufficient (\$5.00) to take him to New York, which will be covered by his pay, as it becomes due- I thought it would be more convenient for you to refund the exact amount of his expenses of Mr. M. than to permit it to me. Hoping that he will reach you in good health & be enabled to resume his duties at the Acady. at the proper time.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 28 Feby 1854

Agreeably to the tenor of your letter of the 31st Dec. last, Prof. Bartlett has made an examination of the Planetarium invented by Mr. Thos. H. Barlow, in his presence this report thereon is respectfully submitted.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

95.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady
4 March 1854

Genl.

I have the honour to submit the report of Surgeon Cuyler in relation to the subject of Capt. Kirkham's letter referred to me on the 1st Inst.

I think it proper that the Cadets who may not have been vaccinated previously to their admission into the Academy, should be as soon thereafter as practicable; & it will be more strictly attended to in future. You are aware that these young gentlemen are not considered exactly in the light of enlisted soldiers, & as much deference as possible is paid to their convenience & wishes in relation to personal matters. They go into Camp immediately after their satisfactory examination by the Medical Board, when their position & duties are not the most favorable for this operation. But as the number who enter the Academy without having been vaccinated, must necessarily be very small, (the two officers mentioned by Capt. Kirkham being the only graduates that I am aware of) arrangements can be made to receive them in the Hospital. When in Barracks the opportunity of being vaccinated & revaccinated is frequently afforded the Cadets (though it has not hitherto been made obligatory), as is the case at this very time.

The letter of Capt. Kirkham is herewith returned.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Academy

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy.
March 10, 1854

General..

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively.

Cadet DuBois-	Stationery
“ Jackson, W.H.-	Fifty dollars to reduce his indebtedness
“ Gilman	Ten dollars “ “
“ Lee F	Shirts
“ Venables	Shirts, Socks, Handkerchiefs & Drawers

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Academy

96.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy.
13 March 1854

Genl.

With materials on hand, the labour of the enlisted men & the purchase of some timber, locks & hinges, grates, lime, building shingles- I propose to erect a small house of the size & character represented in the accompanying sketch.

This will give another set of quarters for one [of] the 1st Asst. Profssr., of which you are aware there is much need. I propose to place the house beyond the North gate, East of Capt. Boynton's, in a portion of the lot occupied by him. The purchase of such articles as are not on hand will not cost over \$600.- which will be paid for out of the present appropriation for Repairs & Improvements now available for that purpose.

I submit this project for your approval & such amendment as you may deem fit.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
13 March 1854

Genl.

I have the honour to hand you herewith a plan of the ground occupied by the Eng. Compy. at this Post, with two positions marked thereon for their Barracks. I prefer that fronting East & West, provided you will authorize the removal of the present Powder Magazine- the proposed arrangement & grading of the Compy. grounds, is also represented in red lines, as well as two positions for quarters for the Company Officers on the hill above, East & West of Capt. Boynton's qtrs & on the north side of the road. They are the only positions I can get adjacent to the Compy. & for reasons that will be obvious to you on an inspection of the drawing, I give the preference to the one nearest the north gate.

The construction of the arched bridgeway to the Equipment shed, I propose to defray out of the unexpended balance of funds in the hands of Capt. Cullum & Lt. R.S. Smith. The labour of grading &c. to be performed by the Company.

All of which is submitted for your approval & orders.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Estimate for Barrack & Qtrs. For officers are enclosed.

Sigd. R.E.L.

97.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
13 March 1854

Genl. I have the honour to hand herewith the Report of Prof. Bartlett on the subject of your letter of the 10th Inst. The possession of one of Mr. Barlow's Planetariums would in the opinion of the Profr. be useful & advantageous in the instruction of astronomy, & an interesting, though not indispensable addition to the Philosophical apparatus of the Acady. I would therefore respectfully recommend its purchase, provided it can be obtained without the sacrifice of other articles embraced in the regular estimates of the Acady.- which are considered of more importance to the course of instruction.

The cost of the planetarium as stated by Mr. B. is \$2000.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
18 March 1854

Genl. Cadet Whistler requests permission to receive some articles of underclothing- and Cadet Sullivan Twenty dollars to reduce his indebtedness- both requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
7 April 1854

General.. I submit for your consideration a report of the Comm'dt. of Cadets on the ~~subject~~ conduct of Cadets Martin and Warner of the 4th Class which with the explanation of the former & the statement of Cadet Lieut. Mercer, present all the facts of the offence with which they are charged. I regret to state that I am forced to believe that Cadet Martin intended to deceive the Officer of the Day, & that in accounting for his absence from qrs. he did not state the truth. The expression "necessarily absent" has here but one significance in the sense he used it, & could not in the mind of Cadet Martin apply to the search for a pencil, or he would not have secreted himself from the Officer of the Day, in the room he visited for the purpose. I believe however Cadet Martin was led to the commission of so serious a fault by the momentary impulse to escape detection, & the want of reflection upon the consequences of his subsequent course. Although anxious to palliate their conduct, I cannot overlook the evil that may result, at any excuse or justification on my part of the slightest departure of any Cadet from the plain path of

uprightness & honour. It is painful for me to believe that any member of the Corps, could be guilty of the utterance or practice of a wilful falsehood, & if in your opinion the conduct of these young gentlemen in this instance does not admit of this severe imputation, I would ask they be not brought to trial on a charge so injurious to their own character, & so derogatory to that of the Corps of Cadets- but that the Dept. may place their conduct & its consequences in such a light that none may be at a loss to perceive how it is considered & the evil results of its being followed.

98.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
10 April 1854

Genl. I have recd. from Cadet Martin the accounts & communication in reference to his offence. I reported to you on the 7th Inst. his full confession of his act & the clear perception he evinces of the error of his conduct, inclines me to believe he would not again repeat it, & the sincerity of his conviction is I think shown by the offer of his resignation with the assent of his father.

Should you therefore think that his punishment is not necessary to arrest conduct so derogatory to the Corps of Cadets, & which he asserts has been practiced by other members of his class, but I hope not to the extent he says; & that the dishonour of such a course, can be otherwise clearly set forth to the Corps, I would respectfully recommend that as much leniency as possible be extended towards him, & that if his fault cannot be overlooked, that some milder punishment than that of dismissal be inflicted on him.

I remain Very resp'y. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
10 April 1854

General.

A clerical error in endorsement of Voucher no. 64 having occurred I have to request that you will cause the sum together with my General. account Current & abstract of disbursements for 1st Quarter 1854 to be returned to me for correction.

The expenditures during the month of March are entered on each statement as \$2255.77- and the balance on hand as \$2070.21- it should be \$2355.27 and the balance on hand \$1970.21. If not sent in please have it corrected or returned to me.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

99.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
11 April 1854

General..

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Dept. letter of the 8th Inst:

I send herewith a statement of funds expended during the month of March, made out in the form requested- and corrected as to the balance, as mentioned in my letter of yesterday's date- I respectfully request that this Statement may be substituted for the one forwarded on the 5th Inst.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Samuel Casey Esq.
Treas. Of the United States
Washington City
Sir.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
April 13, 1854

I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treasurer New York. No. 6032 on War Warrant No. 1573 for \$5000.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

F. Burt
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.
Sir.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
April 13, 1854

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury Draft for Five thousand dollars, on account of Current & Ordinary Expenses of the Military Academy.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Acady.
13 April 1854

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington D.C.

General.

I recd. today your letter of the 11th Inst. enclosing a copy of a Commn. From the Adj. Genl. of the Army directing that measures be taken for relieving from duty at the Acady. with as little delay as possible practicable, Br. Major Thomas, 1st Lt. DuBarry & 2nd Lt. Piper of the 3rd Arty. The withdrawal of these officer, just as the classes they instruct are preparing for the review of their course, previous to the Examination, is a serious injury to the Acady., the Cadets, & the Army. Major Thomas is in the midst of his instruction of the 1st Class in Theoretical & Practical Art^y. No one is acquainted with their proficiency or progress but himself, nor could manage their standing in that branch with equal justice. I hope therefore he may not be at least relieved until after the June examination. He is besides in command of the Art^y. & Dragoon detachments, is charged with the instruction in Fencing of the 1st & 4th classes & is responsible for much property.

100.

Until a successor is appointed, I have no one to place in charge of his Dept. The position as well as the good of the service requires in my opinion a Captain of Arty. to fill it, nor do I now have any that is more available or more capable.

Lt. DuBarry , having charge of one half of the 4th class in French, can be relieved as soon as an officer arrives to take his place. & I recommend for his successor, 1st Lt. Edw. R. Platt, 2nd Arty.

Lt. Piper has charge of three sections of the 4th class in English studies, but as I am able to provide temporary instruction for the sections in that branch, I have relieved him from duty, to enable him if possible to join his Comp^y. which I understand is to sail on the 15th Inst. for California; but I have to request that 1st Lt. Wm. Silvey, 1st Arty., be ordered to report in his place as soon as possible.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

17 April 1854

Genl. Since my letter of the 13th Inst. I have learned that Lt. Edward R. Platt is the only officer with his Comp^y. & if so I presume his services cannot be spared from his Regt. , nor would I under these circumstances have applied for him. I therefore present the names of 1st Lt. Innis N. Palmer, Mounted Rifles, & 2nd Lt. A.J.S. Molinard 2nd Arty. as suitable officers to relieve Lt. DuBarry provided he is ordered to his Regt. Lt. Palmer I have understood is willing to take the duty, is on leave of absence at St. Louis, & I have thought might therefore be available.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
April 17, 1854

General. The following named cadets request permission to receive money from their friends to be deposited to their credit to reduce their indebtedness to the Acady. viz:
Cadet Franz, Cadet Gentry, & Cadet Turner- which requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

101.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acad^y.
20 April 1854

General. That you may know the manner in which the case of Cadet Warner, referred to me in your letter of the 12th Inst. was disposed of: I enclose a copy of the order issued on the subject.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acad^y.
21 April 1854

General. I have recd. your letter of the 17th Inst. & request to learn the decision of the Sec^y. of War, to relieve Br. Major Thomas from the charge of the Dept. Of Art^y. before the completion of the present course of instruction of the classes under his care. I had hoped the necessities of service, could not have required the withdrawal at such a time, of the head of a Dept. which I fear will be as injurious to the Army as to the Academy.

The best arrangement I can propose under the circumstances for the continuation of the course of instruction, & the examination of the 1st Class of cadets, now near at hand, is to assign Br. Major Porter to the charge of that Dept. who previous to his appointment of Adj^t. last fall, had been the Asst. Instr. of Arty since 1849. & ranks the officers now in the Dept. Lt. Fry the present Arty Intr. is ranked by Lt. Sacket the Asst. Instr. of Cavalry; has had no part in the instruction of the 1st Class; & is not as familiar with the course, mode of Examination & c. as Major Porter.

Should it be necessary to assign an officer not at the Acad^y. to this Dept. & to confine the selection to the 1st Lts. of the 1st & 4th Arty. I would recommend Br. Capt. Mansfield Lovell for the situation. Should the present bills however before Congress in reference to the Army be passed, his promotion if not accomplished would be so advanced, that he would probably be withdrawn by the time he became familiar with his duties.

In reference to the officer to relieve Lt. DuBarry; provided Lt. Palmer of the M. Rifles, as requested in my letter of the 17th be not detailed; & the selection confined as stated to the 1st & 4th Art. The Prof. of the French language can designate to me but 1st Lt. P.T. Wyman, 1st Arty. for the purpose. The pronunciation as well as knowledge of the language has to be considered in selecting an instructor in French.

In selecting officers to fill other vacancies that may occur at the Acad^y. as I am given to understand several men at the Acad^y. will apply to be relieved at the termination of the Academic Course; am I to look to the 1st & 4th Regts. Arty to replace them, or endeavour to apportion them as heretofore among all?

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

102.

Lt. R.S. Smith
4th Arty. & A.A. AM
West Point, NY

U.S. Mil. Acady.
April 22, 1854

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury Drafts- necessary in making payments to Enlisted & hired men, &c &c- Upon completion of which business you will return to this Post.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Acady.
April 24, 1854

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

Cadet Pender requests permission to receive some shirts & socks & Cadets Haskell & Ryan ask that they may receive & deposit money from their friends to free them from debt and enable them to go on furlough. All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Acady.
28 April 1854

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

Genl. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th Inst. announcing the names of the gentlemen invited by the Honbl. Secy. of War to attend the annual Examination of the cadets in June next.

The funds available for their expenses in traveling & board while at the Acady are as follows:

Balance of Appns. on hand, 30 June 1853	\$275.88	
Appropriation for fiscal year, ending 30 June 1854	<u>\$3000</u>	= \$3275.88
Supposing that the mileage of the Hon. S.S. Phelps will not differ materially from that of Jacob Kent Esq. <u>declined</u> the total mileage of the Board- 28,274 miles @.08 will be	\$3061.92	<u>\$3061.92</u>
Leaving available for their board & lodging at West Point		\$213.96
The board & lodging last year of 14 members amounted to \$931.00		
At the same rate for 16 members, it will cost		<u>\$1064.00</u>
There will consequently be a deficiency of funds amounting to		\$850

Please give me the necessary directions.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

103.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
28 April 1854

General.

In compliance with instructions contained in your letter of the 26th Inst. I have assigned Br. Major Fitz John Porter for the Dept. of Art & Cavalry, & directed him to relieve Major Thomas & take charge of the Dept. Detachments and property.

I also nominate 1st Lt. S.F. Chalfin 1st Art^y. in place of Br. Capt. Palmer & Lt. Wyman refused; to relieve 1st Lt. DuBarry in the Dept. of French.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
May 1, 1854

General.

The following remark has been made on the examination of Lt. R.S. Smith's accts. for 1st Qtr 1854 in the office of the Q.M. Genl. & transmitted to him.

"Vou: 11.B. Prof: W.W.G. Bartlett, transport: Acct. \$10.60.

" Inadmissible as a charge against the Q.M. Dept."

The order to Prof. Bartlett (a copy herewith) was given to him in accordance with the tenor of the Dept's letter of Dec. 21, 1863 to proceed to the City of New York, for the purpose of examining Mr. Barlow's planetarium; & I considered the journey a proper charge against the Q.M. Dept; & according to precedents, as follows: Prof. Mahan visited Washington under orders in July 1847, and New York in October of the same year; and Prof. Bailey went under orders to Washington (a copy of the order is herewith attached) in August 1848, on business relating to his Dept. These journeys were charged to & paid by the Q.M. Dept. and the accounts passed as correct.

I have the honour to be Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
May 10, 1854

General. Cadet Kinsey requests permission to receive some gloves, socks & unif. Collars which have been sent him from his house- also Cadet C.C. Lee, money to be deposited to free him from debt at the Academy & c. Which are recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be Yr. obt Srvt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

104.

S. Sanders Esq.
Sacramento City, Cal.
Dear Sir.

U.S. Mil. Acady.

11 May 1854

I am happy to inform you, in answer to your letter of the 14th April, which I have just recd., that your son Cadet Wm. P. Sanders, is still at the Acad^y. & is very well. He has not applied himself I fear as he ought during the first year, & his standing in his class is not such as his capacity would entitle him to. He failed to pass a satisfactory examination in Mathematics in Jan^y last, but was allowed by the Sec^y of War to continue his course till the next June examination, in the hope that he would recover his position & be able to go on with his class.

It gives me pleasure to inform you that he has been more industrious since Jan^y & I hope he may be able to exhibit due proficiency at the coming examination; though I regret to say that at present, in the opinion of his Professor, it is by no means certain.

It may be proper for me also to add, that he has not been very attentive to his other duties, or to the observance of Reg^{ns}, & without committing any grave offence, his amount of demerit has about reached the limit, which if it exceeds, the Regs. require his discharge from the Acad^y.

I hope you will urge him to bestow more application to his studies & more attention to his duties. He has himself promised to write by this mail.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. M.A. Watson
Terra Haute, Ind.

U.S. Mil. Acady.

11 May 1854

It gives me pleasure to state that your son Charles B. Watson while at the Mil. Acady. was remarkable for correct deportment, gentlemanly behaviour, subordination & general attention to his duties. The certificate given him upon the acceptance of his resignation shows the branches of instruction in which he had proved himself proficient, & his separation from the Acady. was owing to his having failed to pass a satisfactory examination in Philosophy & Chemistry in Jany. 1854. & not to any misconduct on his part. It was a subject of much regret to the officers of the Institution, by all of whom he was much esteemed & considered.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

105.

Elijah Smead Esq.
Talbotton, Talbot Co., Ga.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
18th May 1854

My dear Sir,

It is with much regret I inform you that your son Cadet Smead at Cavalry exercise on the 16th, was I fear badly injured by his horse falling on him. No injury can be yet discovered but a few unimportant external bruises; but he has continued in a kind of stupor, which causes me to apprehend he may have been more seriously injured than is apparent; & has determined me, without wishing to make you unnecessarily anxious, to apprize you of the fact. He appears to suffer little or no pain, is occasionally aroused & is conscious of what is passing, but immediately relapses with drowsiness & sleep. He yesterday recognized your hand writing among some letters that were presented to him & read a few lines of your letter. You may be assured that he will receive every attention & treatment that his case will admit of & that the skill of the medical officers can bestow; & relying upon his youth & constitution hope I may be able in a few days to speak more encouragingly of his speedy recovery- should any obvious change take place in his condition I will immediately inform you.

I remain sir with much
Consideration & esteem
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. Charles E. Blunt
Boston, Mass.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
20 May 1854

Dear Sir: In answer to your letter of the 13th. I regret to state that your young friend Charles B. Watson was declared deficient at the last Jany examination in Phily & Chemy by the Academic Board; & in consequence directed to be discharged by the Secy of War. But in consequence of his good conduct was allowed the privilege of resigning. His separation from the Acady. was a source of regret to all the officers of the Institution, who in addition to their sympathy for the loss of his father & the condition of his mother, appreciated his excellent character & correct deportment while at the Academy.

He is I believe now with his mother at Terre Haute, Ind. & has some prospect of an appt. in the Marine Corps.

I am very truly yours,
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Elijah Smead Esq.
Talbotton, Georgia

U.S. Mil. Acady.
May 24, 1854

Dear Sir,

I have been anxious to relieve the anxiety which I know my former letter occasioned you about your son; but though his symptoms are more favorable, this case far more encouraging than when I wrote, they are not such as enables his attending Surgeon to pronounce with certainty as to his recovery- He has however been slowly improving for the last two or three days. Is entirely conscious of everything that occurs around him- converses a little with his attendants, has read his letters & c. I am led by these favourable symptoms to hope for his final recovery, & have thought that this pleasing change in his condition

106.

would be gratifying to you.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
25 May 1854

General..

In reply to your letter of the 23rd Inst. in reference to the Barracks for Engineer Soldiers. I beg leave to state that the 1st Design refers to the Plan submitted to you with six dormitories in the length of the building, affording the maximum accommodation. The third (3rd) design, refers to the plan with four dormitories, giving the minimum accommodation required. The 2nd design refers to a building intermediate between the two, with five dormitories in the length of the building, of same character & proportion, the drawing of which was not made, & the cost merely introduced for your information.

You will also observe that the cost of the main building, of each design is kept separate from the cost of the stairway towers appropriate for each. And that if wooden floors are introduced for the brick arches, that the total cost of building & towers will be reduced by the amount specified.

The estimate is not very clear as arranged, but I hoped would be sufficiently explicit, with the verbal explanation I gave at the time of submitting it.

I am very respfly. Your Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Wm. C. Warren Esq.
Edenton, N.C.
My dear Sir,

U.S. Mil. Acad^y.
26 May 1854

It gives me pleasure to inform you that although your son, has as you are aware, incurred a large amount of demerit; he has not been guilty of any grave offence calculated to affect his character or moral standing, but that it has resulted, from inattention to the Reg^{ns}. & neglect of his duties, which it is the object of the discipline of the Acad^y. to correct, & which is unbecoming the character of a good soldier. I have endeavoured to impress upon him the importance of a change of conduct in this respect, & the advantage of acquiring a habit of order, punctuality & precision, which his duties as a soldier would hereafter require & which it is the object of the system of education here pursued to enforce. I have discovered in him much manliness & uprightness of character, yet at his time of life it is difficult to understand the responsibility of his acts, or to realize their consequences. I am sorry to add that his amount of demerit since Jan^y. has exceeded 100, which by the regⁿ. will require his name at the approaching annual examination to be presented to the Sec^y. of War with a view to his discharge. Nor am I able to assure you that he will pass the required examination in his academical studies, though I much hope he will evince such

107.

knowledge of his course, as will enable the Academic board to pronounce him proficient. He is in the last section of his class (7th) in Mathematics, the last in French & next to the last in English studies. I fully understand your great anxiety about your son, & can appreciate all your feelings. I wish it was in my power to give you a more favourable report, but I consider it due to you, as well as for his interest, that you should know his true position & standing at the Academy.

I am Sir, with much consideration
& respect your obed. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. C.C. Martin
E. Smithfield
Bradford Co., Pennsa.

U.S. Mil. Acad^y.
May 29, 1854

Sir. In reply to your note enclose herewith a Circular of Mr. E.V. Kinsley the Principal of the only school in this vicinity, & which is not connected with the Military Academy. You will see by it the branches taught, and the terms of tuition.

There is an excellent School at Troy, in this State- called the Rensselaer Institute; I have not a prospectus of the branches taught there, but believe the System pursued to be very thorough- hoping the little information I have given may answer your purpose. I am very respectfully

Your obed. Servt
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Acady.
May 30, 1854

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

Cadet Shinn requests permission to deposit \$10- to free him from debt at the Academy & Cadet Kensel asks that he may receive some shirts & drawers which have been sent for him.- both requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honour to be
Very respectfully
Your obed. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

108.

U.S. Mil. Acad^y.
May 31, 1854

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

In reply to the application of the Hon^{ble} Burton Craig, for a leave of absence for Cadet J.B. Wheeler, referred to me on the 26th Inst., I have the honour to state that the annual encampment of the Cadets will commence about the 20th June, immediately at the close of the examinations. That the graduation of one class & the regular furlough of the another devolves the whole camp duty upon the (then) 1st & 3rd classes, until the newly admitted 4th class is sufficiently instructed to share the burden- that Cadet Wheeler had his furlough last year from the 17th June till the 28th Aug. That his class will commence on going into camp, their course of Practical Engineering & the study of Inf^y & Art^y Tactics- that it would be unjust to his class & corps to grant him an indulgence equally desirable to all, & retain them to do his share of camp duty. A regard therefore for his own instruction & the general interest of the Cadets, compels me to recommend that a leave of absence be not granted him.

Very resp. Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Elijah Smead Esq.
Talbotton, Georgia

U.S. Mil. Acad^y.
3 June 1854

My dear Sir,

It gives me pleasure to inform you that your son Cadet A. Smead was examined by the Academic Board this morning in his course of Engineering & acquitted himself very creditably- He was placed 15th in that branch- He is considered now as almost recovered from the effects of his fall, & only suffers from debility. I hope he will soon regain his strength, & acquit himself as well in the other branches of his course as he has in Engineering.

I am very respectfully

Your Obt. Serv

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acad^y.
June 3rd, 1854

General. I have the honour to transmit, herewith my Statement of Funds expended during the month of May. Also estimate of Funds for the present month. It will be perceived that the item for the Board of Visitors in the latter paper covers only the amount now in the treasury- the amount really required should all the gentlemen invited be present will exceed the estimate about \$850. as shown in my letter to you of the 28th April last.

I am very respectfully

Your Obt. Serv.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

109.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point June 7, 1854

General.

Cadets Carr & McMillan request permission to receive from their homes & deposit to their credit money to free themselves from debt at the Academy, which requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point June 7, 1854

General.

In submitting the account of Communications from certain officers on duty at the Mil^y Academy, it may be proper for me to say, that it seems to have been the intention of the law of 29 Apr. 1812, to place the Asst. Profs. there provided for, as far as their pay & emoluments were concerned, on the footing of Captains, as it did the Profs. on the footing of Field Officers. The words used being the same. There is no law giving to other officers employed as instructors, any additional compensation, which would seem to be fair & proper; & I think it would be to the interests of the Acad^y. that the duty should be more desirable, so as to secure the willing service of those most competent.

The Asst. Prof^{ts}., or as they are termed in the memorials the 1st Assts., ought to be able to take the place of the Prof^{ts}., in the event of their being removed by absence, sickness, or death, & to carry on the instruction of the several classes without detriment to the Cadets, Acad^y., or Army. To induce officers to study & prepare themselves for the position, some advantages of permanency ought to be secured to them, & quarters for a family is a great object. If the present mode of selecting quarters is considered to do violence to the rights of any, the difficulty might be obviated by assigning certain quarters to the position of Asst. Prof^{ts} as is now done to that of Prof^t.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point June 8, 1854

General.

All the members of the Board of Visitors having arrived with the exception of Judge Samuel Prentiss from Vermont- the cost of their visit will amt. to \$3054.40 leaving the sum of \$221.48 available to defray their expenses while here- should Judge Prentiss arrive this amount will be further reduced by \$47.30.

Am I to understand by the Dept's letter of the 1st ulto. that the deficiency is to be paid out of the appropriation for the next fiscal year, which will be

110.

available on July 1st? and that an amount will be asked for at next session of Congress to meet the deficiency?

If authorised, I can defer the payment of their Board bill until after July 1st when the exact amount of deficiency will be ascertained & the sum submitted to me.

If practicable, I would prefer your Instructions as to what is meant by the term "Board & Lodging" in the law, and what is considered a fair allowance for the daily expenses.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Messrs. Kinsey, Bayard, & Luckie
Committee on Admissions

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. June 8, 1854

Gentlemen- In reply to your note of yesterday's date I have the honour to refer you to the printed Regulations for the government of the Military Academy, of which copies have been furnished to the members of the Board of Visitors. These regulations set for the mode of the administration of the Academy, and constitute the standard to which it is the aim of the authorities to make it conform.

Should there be anything not contained in the Regulations, or any point on which you wish more particular information- I shall be happy to furnish it & do all in my power to aid you in your examination.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Samuel Casey Esq.
Treas. U. States
Washington City

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. June 10, 1854

Sir. I have received the following Treasury Draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York- No. 6364 on War Warrant No. 2100 for \$8775.88.

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

F. Burt Esq.
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington City

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. June 10, 1854

Sir. I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury draft for Eight thousand seven hundred and seventy- five 88/100 dollars on acct. of the following viz.,

Board of Visitors to Military Academy	3275.88
Increase of Expense of Library	500.00

Purchase of New Equatorial Telescope

5000 = \$8775.88

I remain Very resply. Yr. obt Srvt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acad^y

111.

U.S. Mil. Acady.

June 16, 1854

Lieut. R.S. Smith

4th Arty. Q.M. U.S.M.A.

West Point N.Y.

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury Drafts rendered necessary, being required in making payments for Extra duty men- Upon completion of which business you will return to this Post.

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acad^y

David Deshler Esq.

Tuscumbia, Ala.

Dear Sir.

U.S. Military Academy

West Point N.Y. June 21, 1854

Your note of the 12th Inst enclosing letter for Cadet Deshler reached me yesterday. I regret that I could not deliver it as requested. Cadet Deshler graduated and left for his home on Saturday Morning the 17th- I return the letter for him herewith.

I am very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

Sig: R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acad^y.

Genl. J. G. Totten

Chief Engineer

Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy

West Point June 21, 1854

General,

In compliance with a request from Gen. J. Watson Webb, I have the honour to forward herewith an application from him for a leave of absence for his son Cadet Webb, addressed to the Hon. Jefferson Davis, Secy. of War. It is proper I should remark that Cadet Webb had his furlough last year from June 17th to August 28th. That he is now a member of the 1st Class, is in Camp, and will soon commence his course of Practical Engineering & the duty of Infantry &

Artillery Tactics. To grant him a leave of absence equally desirable for all his class, would not be doing equal justice. This & a regard for his own interests compels me to withhold a favourable recommendation.

I am very respectfull
Your obed^t. Serv^t.y

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point June 21, 1854

General.

I have the honour to enclose herewith an account presented to me this morning for Board &c. of the Board of Visitors, amounting to \$1045. Under the instructions contained in the Dept's letter of the 14th Inst, I do not feel authorized to pay it before submitting it for your approval.

The regular board per day at the Ordinary is \$2.50. Last year the whole cost of board, including separate Table, room lights &c averaged at \$3.50 per day

112.

in consequence of the high price of every thing, and was the highest rate ever paid to my knowledge.

All the members of the Board have left West Point & I have no means of communicating with them. You will however observe that the account is certified by the Hon. Sherrard Clemens, Secretary of the Board.

I am very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Mr. Eugene Webster
Alexandria, Va.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. June 21, 1854

Your resignation of your appointment as Cadet in the U.S. Mil. Acad^y. has been this day forward to the Hon. Secy of War- with the recommendation that it be accepted. As soon as notified of its acceptance, your accounts will be closed & the balance due you remitted by the Treasurer.

Very respectfully Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl. J. Watson Webb

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 21 June 1854

Genl.

I have forw^d. Agreeably to your request, your application to the Hon: Secy of War for a leave of absence for your son Cadet Alex. S. Webb, which I regret I could not accompany with my recommendation for favorable consideration. However highly I could with truth speak in commendation of his acquirements & Conduct, I could not with justice ask for an indulgence to him, which the duties & interests of his class & Corps forbid my recommending be extended to all. I must endeavour to be impartial in the distribution of relaxation & duty, that each in turn may have their share of both. Your son had his share of the former in the last encampment, & it is now his turn for the latter. I hope he will this year set resolutely to work to recover his former high standing in his class, which I think he is fully able to accomplish if he has only the will & I know you will do all in your power to urge him to this course. I am sorry to inform you that he is 12th in his class in good standing.

I am with great respect

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

113.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point June 23rd, 1854

Genl.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the case referred to in the Dept. letter of the 14th Inst. & containing

15e Livraison de le carte de France, publiee par le Dept. de la Guerre

Position géographique de la 15e Livraison

--- idem 16e idem

All of which have been placed in the library of the Mil. Acady.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten

U.S. Mil. Academy

Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

West Point June 23rd, 1854

Genl. In forw^d the accomp^s letter from Capt. Cullum, I will only state that the Q^r.M^r. of the Post declines issuing Whitewash brushes to the Engineer Comp^y. on the ground that previous issues to the Art^y. & Dragoon Detachments, on the requisition of Capt. Keyes, had been disallowed. These detachments can in my opinion be more properly considered a part of the Mil^y. Acad^y. than the Comp^y. of Sappers & Miners, quartered here, as any other Comp^y. of the Army, at other Military Posts. I do not think it proper to charge the appns. for the Mil. Acady. with necessary expenses, such as brushes for policing, blank books for Guard reports, usually defrayed out of other appns. for such purposes, without your knowledge & sanction.

I am very respectfully Yr. Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 23 June 1854

Genl. I feel it my duty to state, that after frwd by yesterday's mail, the descriptive Roll of the candidates for admission into the Mil. Academy, conditionally appointed as Cadets; the official report of the sick, furnished by the Surgeon to the Supt. Fell under my notice & I perceived for the first time that four of these young gentlemen, viz. Echolls of Me., Napier of Ga., Sage of N.Y. & Jessup, At Large, were afflicted with Gonorrhea. On calling upon the Surgeon for explanation, how they were admitted under the 2d par. Acady. Regns., he informed me that the three first were taken into Hospital on the 6th, 12th, & 14th Inst., & so reported at the time; that their disease was nearly cured at the time of their examination for admission, & so slight as not in the opinion of the Medical Board to form cause for their rejection. That the latter presented himself at the Hospital for the first time that morning, subsequently to his admission, & that when examined no sign of the disease was discovered.

I should not have thought it necessary to bring this subject to your notice now; but that had I been aware of the facts here presented, before forming the roll of the conditionally appointed Cadets; I should have considered it my duty then to have called your attention to it; as the mornng. Sick Reports are exhibited to the inspection

114.

of the Corps, my silence may be construed into a precedent hereafter, & I find that a similar case was referred to you on the 22 June 1850, by the then Supt.-

The reason of my not being aware of these cases when first taken into hospital for treatment, is that during the Examination of the Cadets, my time is so much occupied, that I cannot regularly inspect the Surgeon's Daily Sick Report, & it only occasionally comes under my notice.

The cases I have mentioned are not in the opinion of the Surgeon of a serious nature, & he does not apprehend they will be of long duration, & my object is merely to report the facts to you.

I have the honour to be

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

[Note: The word "Withdrawn" written in the left margin of this letter]

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point June 26 1854

General.

Should the following named Cadets, found deficient at the recent annual examinations be discharged the service- I have the honour to request that the distance of their places of residence from West Point be furnished me- as the book from which I have been in the habit of getting the mileage is very incorrect & several accounts have been suspended by the 3rd Auditor for overpayment of disclosure-

Allen A Bursley -	Barnstable -	Barnstable Co. Mass.
Charles F. Larned -	Pittsfield -	Berkshire Co. Mass.
Arthur V. Leigh -	Easton -	Talbot Co. Md.
William R. Likens -	Princeton -	Washington Co. Miss.
John H. McHenry -	Hartford -	Ohio Co. Kentucky
James A. Whistler -	Pomfret -	Windham Co. Conn.
John S. Rudd -	Fredericksburg -	Spotsylvania Co. Va.
Nathaniel E. Venables -	Farmville -	Prince Edward Co. Va.
Charles S. Harris -	Bridgeton -	Cumberland Co. N.J.
James M. Powe -	Cheraw -	Chesterfield District S.C.
Llewellyn P. Warren -	Edenton -	Chowan Co. N.C.

I am very respectfully Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

115.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 27 June 1854

General.

In answer to the application of Col. J.J. Albert, Chief of Top. Eng^{rs}. For the relief of Lt. W.G. Peck from duty at the Mil. Acady. I have the honour to hand you the objections offered by the Prof. of Mathematics, in which I fully concur. I think it but fair, that the Staff Corps, fitted from the head of the graduating classes each year, should supply their proportion of offices as

instructors; & not through the whole burden on the Regiments. There are four officers of the Engineer Corps, on duty at the Academy, independent of the three attached to the Company of Sappers & Miners, who also assist in the practical instruction of the Cadets in Engineering; & but one from the Top. Corps, & none from the Ordnance- Lt. Peck is peculiarly qualified for his position, & this withdrawal would be a serious loss to the Academy. If however his services are indispensable to his Corps, & another officers is equally qualified & willing to undertake his duties, be detailed in his place, he could be spared. I would recommend that at least two Top. officers & two Ordnance Officers be detailed for duty at the Academy, & ordered to report by the 28th Augst. next. The letter of Col. Albert is returned.

I remain very respectfully Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point June 28 1854

General.

Cadet Fish requests permission to receive some shirts & drawers, gloves & c. which have been brought for him by his father.- Which is recommended for favourable consideration.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point June 30, 1854

General.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the dept. letter of the 28th Inst. containing the decision of the Dept. on the Board bill of the Board of Visitors.

Please cause the accounts frwd. With my letter of the 21st Inst. to be returned to me that I may endeavour to settle the same.-

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

116.

Isaac E. Morse Esq.
New Orleans, La.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 1 July 1854

Sir.

In reply to your application of the 21st Ult. To the Honble. Sec^y of War for a leave of absence for your young friend Cadet T.T. Nicholls, which has been referred to me; I have the honour to state that the Regns. of the Acady. allow but one leave of absence to the Cadets while at the Institution, & that Cadet Nicholls rec^d his during the last encampment, viz. from the 17th June till the 20th August. The present encampment is his time for duty, & devoted to the instruction of his class in Inft^y & Art^y Tactics, & Practical Engineering, which in his case would be seriously interrupted by the indulgence you request. I regret therefore I cannot recommend it to be granted. It requires but two hours to reach the Point from New York, between which several trains of cars & commodious steamers daily ply. It will therefore be very convenient to such of his friends as desire to visit him without interruption of his studies & duties.

I remain, Sir

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

US. Military Academy
West Point, N.Y. July 3rd 1854

General. I have the honour to return herewith the application of Isaac E. Morse Esq. for a leave of absence for Cadet T.T. Nicholls, submitted to me on the 29th ulto. With a copy of my letter to that gentleman.

I am very respectfully

Your obet. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Dr. Jno. B. Kennedy
Homer
Claiborne Parish, La.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. July 3rd, 1854

Sir. I have the honour to enclose herewith at the request of Mr. R.C. Kennedy, a check of the Treasurer of the Mil. Acady. on the Bank of Commerce in New York. Mr. K. having deposited the sum of two hundred dollars on his entering the Academy- while \$100 was amply sufficient.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

117.

Honb^{le} Gen: Read Riddle
House of Repr
Washington City, D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 7 July 1854

Sir,

Your application to the Honb^{le}. Sec^y of War for a leave of absence for Alfred T. Torbert, has been referred to me for a reply. Though well convinced of the gratification it would afford Cadet Torbert to visit his home under the circumstances stated, the Regns. of the Acady. do not contemplate but one leave of absence to a Cadet while at the Institution; nor would it be right to extend this privilege to one, even under the reasons assigned, without granting it to all; in which case you can see how seriously the object of the Institution would be interfered with and the duties of the Cadets interrupted. Cadet Torbert had his leave of absence last encampment from the 17th June to the 28th Aug. & it is his turn this encampment for duty. His class are now engaged in the Study of Infy & Arty Tactics, & are to receive instruction in Practical Eng.- so that although he has as he states, completed his studies for the past Academic year, he has just commenced those for the Current.- I trust he will have more time & a better opportunity next year after graduating to visit his home & friends; & regret I cannot recommend the indulgence he requests be granted.

I am very respectfully Sir
Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Honb^{le}. A.G. Brown
Washington City, D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 7 July 1854

Sir.

In answer to your application to the Honb^{le}. Secy. of War for a leave of absence for Cadet Wm. P. Saunders; I regret to state that he has been deprived of the State of furlough granted to his class this Encampment, in consequence of the amount of demerit he has rec^d. for inattention to his duties & neglect of the Reg^{ns}. As he had the same opportunity as other members of his class, of securing this indulgence; & as the Regn. Forbidding it in his case is well known to the Corps & universally applied; I regret that I cannot in justice to others who have suffered the penalty, recommend that it be departed from in his instance.

I am Sir very respectfully your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil^y. Academy
West Point. N.Y. July 7, 1854

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz.

Cadet Carroll -	Fifty dollars to be placed to his credit at the Academy
“ F. Lee	Six pr. Unif. pants
“ Farrand	Under shirts- drawers- Socks Gloves &c.
“	

All of which requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully Yr. Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

118.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point. N.Y. July 7, 1854

General,

I have the honour to transmit herewith my accounts as follows, viz:

1. Statement of Funds expended during the month of June 1854
2. General. Account current for 2nd Quarter 1854
3. Abstract 1- with 80 vouchers
4. “ 2- with 16 vouchers

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

F. Burt Esq.
Third Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.
Sir,

US. Military Academy
West Point. NY. July 8th 1854

I have the honour to make the following remarks & explanations on Statement of Differences transmitted to me with your letter of April 29th, 1854- as follows-

1. Outstanding difference on Settlement no. 1991, Nov. 29 1852

Abstract for Fort on Sotters Point Flats- 4th Qtr. 1850.

Vou. 21- Original voucher, herewith, from which it will be perceived that the no. of lbs. of iron was 78 and not 57 as erroneously entered on the duplicate- please return the latter to me.

Abstract for do do 3rd Qtr. 1851.

Vou. 3- Pay Roll for July 1851- Item Wm. Marshall- Amt. due the U.S. error in extension, arising probably from error in copying from June roll- but as this is not accessible to me the amt. is credited to the U.S. 1.00.

Vou. 15- Pay Roll for September 1851- Item- J.A. Hackett- Amount due the U.S. error in extension- same as no. 3.

Vou. 37- Murry & Hazlehurst- Item 4- 20 lbs. At. 06- by original voucher herewith, it will be seen that the price was 0.6 ¼ per lb. (please return bal. due Col. Lee, error in stating the amount of Sundry items at \$301 42/100- instead of \$301 44/100.

Amount due United States on acct. of Fort on Sotters Point Flats, which amt. I have deposited to the credit of the United States, with the Asst. Treas. U.S. receipt herewith: \$1.58.

119.

2. Account Current U.S. Military Academy 3rd Qtr. 1852.

Vou. 1- Joseph R. Curtis – Transportation from San Francisco, Cal. To West Point, N.Y. & back- 3054 miles each way- See Extract no. 1 herewith.

3. Abstract- Military Academy 1st Quarter 1853.

Vou. 5- Jesse C. Jacobs- Transportation from West Point, NY to Woodville N.C. 571 miles- by the “Table of Post Offices” publshd. Jany. 31st, 1842- and which is the latest with distances given- See Extract No. 205- herewith. The distance from West Point N.Y. to Washington City is 278 miles pp. 218 & from Washington City to Woodville N.C. 293 miles pp.225.

Vou. 6- Eli Dickinson- Transportation from West Point N.Y. to Ottumwa, Wapello Co. Iowa- The distance to Ottumwa is not given on the “Table of Post Offices” and was arrived at as follows- From West Point N.Y. to Keokuk 1291 miles- see Extract No. 3 & 5. From Keokuk by the Des Moines river to Ottumwa- Wapello Co. by measurement on Map & Cadet Statement 77 miles.

Vou.8 - John W. Willett. Transportation from West Point N.Y. to Port Elizabeth, Cumberland Co. N.J. 185 miles- as follows- West Point N.Y. to Trenton N.J. by Table of Post Offices- 117 miles (on the route from West Point N.Y. to Washington City) & from Trenton N.J. to Port Elizabeth by the same Table it is 73 miles- There is an Elizabethport in Essex Co. which is about 73 miles from West Point.

4. Abstract Board of Visitors- U.S. Military Academy 2nd Qtr 1853.

Vou. 3 Joshua Baker. Transp. From Franklin Ga. To West Point & back See extract no. 4.

6 Geo. Temple	do	Burlington Iowa	do	do
---------------	----	-----------------	----	----

8 Henry S. Baird	do	Greenbay Wis.	do	do
------------------	----	---------------	----	----

5. Abstract U.S. Military Academy- 2nd Qtr. 1853.

Vou. 35 Peter Fonda Jr. Transp. From West Point N.Y. to Troy N.Y. overcharge 6 miles= .36 which sum has been placed to the credit of the U.S. on my account current for 3rd Quarter 1854. By “Table of Post Offices” the distance from West Point to Albany (State Capital) is 92 miles &

from Troy to Albany by same Tables 6 miles= 98 miles- the error in charging 104 miles- arose from adding the 6 miles to the whole distance, instead of to 92 miles.

Vou. 49 Morris G. Hull. Transp. From West Point, N.Y. to Warren, Warren Co. Pensa., 457 miles, arrived at as follows

West Point N.Y. to Philadelphia by Table of Post Offices	140
Phila. To Harrisburgh by Rail Road	106
Harrisburgh to Warren by Table of Post Offices	<u>206</u> = 451

Vou. 51 Geo. W. Palmer Transp. From West Point, N.Y. to Vancouver, Oregon 6420 miles- See Extract No. 2.

The Act of Appropriation for the support of the Mil^y. Acad^y. contains all the items under one General. head, and with the exception of that portion which is disposed by the Pay Department, and that for the Board of Visitors, which is not regularly granted- the accounts have been made out as now- when disbursed by the same officer- They are all for the same object or work, though for different portions. As regards the signing of the certificates by the Q.M. of the Academy- the practice has been authorised & sanctioned by the proper authorities at Washington & he in reality is the proper disbursing officer- as he makes the purchases, superintends

120.

the work, and is accountable to the Superintendent of the Academy for the proper discharge of these duties & in addition the latter certifies to the Abstracts & c.- The many calls upon the time of the Superintendent, renders it impossible, that he should personally attend to every thing- nor is it desirable that he should have the control of the money, although he has to bear the responsibility.

The money for the wood cut in public land credited to General. & Ordinary expenses of the Academy, has been heretofore considered as a proper credit- the land requiring this improvement being intended for pasturage- and the Military Academy men & horses employed in cleaning it up. Should it however be decided that such is against Law- Hereafter all such sales will be credited to the United States.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 8 July 1854

Genl,

Your letter of the 5th Inst. in reference to the introduction of a fifth year with the course of studies of the Military Academy, was recd. yesterday. I assembled this morning all the members of the Acad. Board within reach, for the purpose of submitting the subject for their consideration, & the earliest preparation of the required programmes. The Prof. of Engr. & Mathematics, &

Chemistry are absent from the Point & after making provision for the study & investigation of the subject, the board adjourned to the 24th Inst. The earliest period it was supposed that it could be discussed with a full Board, or with a prospect of the presence of the absent members.

I remain Sir,

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 8 July 1854

General,

I have rec^d. today the application of Cadet Jas. A. Whistler for another examination in Chemistry, referred to me on the 6th Inst. It is true as stated by him, that his proficiency on first going over the course, entitled him to be transferred from the lowest to the next section, which was accordingly done on the commencement of the review of the course, viz. on 25 March. It is also true that although his recitation marks on review were not as good as before, still his average mark for the whole time was 2.2, & that for the whole time he received 130.6, a higher mark than any of those pronounced deficient; & higher than two of those who were pronounced proficient viz: Cadets Hill & Pease; whose marks respectively were 129.8 & 125.4. During the review of the course however Cadet Whistler's marks were 59.1, whereas Cadet Hill's were 66.1 & Cadet Pease 58.1, showing that the two latter were improving, while the former was retrograding- It is also true as stated by Cadet W., I am sorry to say, that he passed a prior examination, & that by the Academic Board it was considered a complete failure, & that although his marks were

121.

better than those with whom he was classed, they could not in justice separate him from them & the vote for his deficiency was unanimous. Cadets Hill & Pease on the contrary passed very satisfactory examinations. The subjects given him (Cadet W.) as to the others, though simple, were selected as involving the principles of Chemistry, separated in the course, with a view that he might show his proficiency, of which there was doubt in the mind of his instructor. I regret to say therefore that I know of no claim he has for a re-examination over any others that have come before the Board.

In reference to his amount of demerit, I know of no grounds for his belief in the practicability of its reduction, except the indulgence that has hitherto been extended to him. From the period of his return from sick leave on the 28th Aug. '53 to 31 Dec. the demerit recorded against him, amounted to 136, which under the present Regⁿ. on the subject would have required his discharge, except that not having committed any grave offenses, & on the recommendation of many of the reporting officers, & other considerations, I was enabled to remove 39, which reduced his amount below 100. Finding after Jany. that he was not more careful in his conduct, & fearing he might expect similar relief in June, I took occasion to caution him on the subject. On taking up the conduct Roll in June, I found he was again over the limit, & as I extended to some others in the same position, though not to the same extent, the privilege

of reconsidering their demerit, I again reconsidered his. After removing from the record book every report for which I could find any plea, & all that were favourably endorsed by the reporting officers, & reducing his demerit by 25, it was still 21 over the prescribed limit & now stands from the 1 January to 15th June 121. I can therefore do nothing more in his behalf, nor do I know of anything entitling him to further indulgence. I can only regret that one so capable of doing well should so have neglected himself & must now suffer the penalty.

The application of Cadet Whistler is herewith returned.

I have the honour to be your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point July 8, 1854

General.

I have the honour to transmit herewith an Estimate of Funds required for the U.S. Military Academy during the present month. Also an Estimate of funds required for the Embrasure Target, now in process of construction at West Point under direction of Lieut. Q.A. Gillmore- who is supervising the work. The amount of which I would suggest should be forwarded to him direct as has been done in similar cases before.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt. Serv

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

122.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point July 18, 1854

General,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Senator M. Mason's note of the 13th Inst. with the accompanying letter of Cadet F. Lee to him & to the Sec^y of War all referred to the Supt. Of the Mil. Acad^y. for such action "as he may deem best."

I regret that in view of the prohibition contained in the 83 Par. Mil. Acad^y. Reg^{ns} and the universal practice of the Supt. Of the Mil. Acad^y., I am constrained to withhold the indulgence asked by Cadet Lee. His amount of demerit for the first Academic year was 197, being much over the number (100) which deprives him of a leave of absence during the period of the encampment, and is nearly sufficient to have him dismissed from the Institution. In the case referred to by Cadet Lee, the leaves of absence were granted by the Sec^y of War himself, in view of some peculiar circumstances.

The letters referred to me are herewith returned.

I am very Respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Sign^d Geo. W. Cullum
Capt. U.S. Engineer
Supt. Mil: Acady

Major F.J. Porter
Actg. Adjt. U.S. Mil. Acady.

July 18, 1854

Sir,

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of attending to the Printing of the Register of Cadets- upon completion of which business you will return to duty at this post.

Very respectfully-

Your obedt. Servt.
Sign^d Geo. W. Cullum
Capt. U.S. Engineer
Supt. Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point July 24, 1854

General.

I have to report that on the night of the 19th Inst. between the hours of 12.30 & 2.30, Cadets Ferguson & Lee F. were found absent from camp. They were tried & punished for a similar offence by a Genl. Court Martial in Jany last & I regret that the leniency then extended to them by the Court has not had the effect of preventing a repetition of the offence. Under the 124 par. Academic Regns I cannot award adequate punishment & therefore submit the matter for your consideration & recommend their trial by a Genl. Court Martial, or such other course as you may deem fit, as I do not think it a case contemplated in par. 137.

I have also to report that on the 21st Inst. Cadet Carroll was found so drunk as to be unable to walk, & under the 118 par. Acady Reg^{ns}. have to ask for a General Court Martial for his trial.

The reports of the Comm^{dt}. Of Cadets in both these cases are

123.

enclosed.

I have the honour to be your Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Edwd. Warren Esq.
Edenton N.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 24 July 1854

My dear sir,

On my arrival at the Point this morning, I recd your letter of the 21st Inst. in reference to the return of your brother to the Mil. Acady. The recommendation of the Academic Board in his case, having with the others been submitted to the Secy of War, & their duty finished; they do not deem it proper to make another report on the subject, without its being called for by the proper authority. I regret to state however that their opinion was unfavourable to his return; & that I know of no reason to expect a change if reconsidered; he as far as I know having enjoyed all the opportunities as the rest of his class to acquire a proficiency in his course. Although very young he was above the age prescribed by the Regns. & the Academic Board could not therefore consider that as entitling him to any indulgence. It is true, so far as I am aware, that your brother's conduct while here, though marked for carelessness & inattention to the Regns. of the Acady, was free from anything affecting either his moral character or standing, & that in his intercourse with his comrades & officers, it was entirely correct, gentlemanly & prope- I am not therefore surprised at the desire evinced by his class for his return to the Acady, as I assure his separation from it was a source of regret to the officers of the Institution. I hope however that it will teach him the necessity of greater exertion & application in whatever he may hereafter undertake, & that his success may equal the best wishes of all his friends.

Your Obdt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

John Dewey Esq.
Maidstone, Vermt.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 24 July 1854

My dear Sir,

In answer to your note of the 21st Inst. just recd. I am happy to inform you that your son Cadet Dewey is perfectly well, & has recently written to you.

I am very respectfully your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

124.

Lieut. R.S. Smith
4th Art^y. A.A.of Q^rM^r
West Point

July 24, 1854

Sir:

You will proceed to the City of New York, for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury drafts. On completion of which business you will return to this post.

Very respectfully Sir,

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Hon. Fayette McMullan
House of Rept.
Washington City, D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 25 July 1854

Sir,

On my arrival yesterday, I instituted enquiries agreeably to your request concerning your young friend Mr. Robert E. Moore, appointed a cadet from your District; & cannot learn that he is in this vicinity. From a letter recd. from his father during my absence & dated the 14th Inst. I infer that he is at home; & is acquainted with the permission granted by the Secy. of War to present himself if he desires, for re-examination for admission, in the last week of August.

His father at the date of his letter had not decided whether he would take advantage of the permission or not, & had been requested to inform Genl. Jos: G. Totten of his decision.

I remain Sir

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Revd. John R. Kerfort
Rector &c. College St. James Md.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 26 July 1854

Sir

An application for a leave of absence from Cadet W.E. Merrill for the purpose of graduation & regg. His diplomat the College of St. James was forwd. On the 12th Inst. to the Honble Secy of War & recomd. for favorable consideration. It has not been recd, & has probably miscarried or been overlooked. On the reception today of your note of the 22nd, on the subject, finding the occasion to be at hand, I sent to Cadet M. to know, if by leaving at once, which would enable him to reach Baltimore by 4 A.M. tomorrow, he could reach the College in time, with a view of granting him the permission in anticipation of the assent of the Secy of War. He implied he could not arrive at the college in Season, & I therefore saw no benefit in giving him a leave of absence.

As his not being present has not resulted from any fault of his, I hope it will be no bar to his regg. his Diploma, at some future day if it cannot be awarded to him now.

I remain Sir

With great respect

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

125.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.
General.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 28 July 1854

In submitting the accomp. communication from Lt. Wm. G. Peck, Asst. Prof. of Math., I feel called on to state the objection that occurs to me, of the arrangement he proposes be generally adopted at the Acady. I consider the service of Army officers at the Academy as beneficial to them & the Corps to which they belong, as to the Cadets & the Institution. They have an opportunity & inducement to review & extend the studies taught at the Acady., & have facilities as well as obligations, to become practical astronomers, observers, chemists, artillerists & c, in the absence of all other schools of practice in these branches, & the Army is thus kept supplied with efficient officers ready for any emergency, & its tone & scientific character indirectly elevated. In consideration however of the difficulty of supplying Lt. Peck's place if removed, & in view of two entire classes at the Academy being always engaged in the study of Maths & the difficulty of obtaining proper & skillful instructors, I am induced to waive my objections in this instance, for what I consider the interests of the Acady & Service; & recommend if practicable the desired appointment.

I have the honour to be

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 28 July 1854

Genl.

I have been requested by certain members of the 2nd Class to forward the accomp. specific pledges, entered into for the purpose of relieving their comrades Ferguson, Carroll, & Lee F. from the charges reported to you on the 24th Inst: & to state that they are the only members of the class now present at the Acady, the rest being on furlough; but that they feel assured that all will join in the pledge, if allowed the opportunity.

You may recollect that a similar pledge of the same class was forwd by me on the 28th Dec. 1853, for the purpose of relieving Cadets Ferguson & Lee F. from the consequences of their first offense, but was not accepted by the Dept. because the class to which Cadets Amory & Deveraux belonged, would not enter into the measure for their relief.

Cadet Ferguson having been suspended by sentence of Genl. Court Martial Order 42, 1 April '54 for a subsequent offence, & put back into a lower class; is now a member of the 3rd Class, which is present at the Acady.

I have the honour to be
Your obedt. Servt.
/s/

126.

Maj. Genl. B.F. Edwards
1st Div. Mass. Vol. Militia
Boston, Mass.
Genl.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 28 July 1854

I have recd. your letter of the 24th Inst. inquiring as to the practice in the Army, in forming Field foot Art^y in line, in parade order; when cavalry is present. Field Art^y, however organized, is considered in the Army, in the same light; & in the case in question takes the extreme right.

The directions given to a Col. in par. 527 Army Regns, are not considered applicable to him when more than one Regt. Is under Review, but to the Commander of the troops in Review. Thus in 533 when two or more Battns. are to be reviewed the Brigadier is directed to place himself opposite the centre of his Brigade & c., and in 534 the Major Genl. is directed to be in front of the Col. of the leading Battn of his Division & c.- so also in 537 the General. of the Divisions only accompany the Reviewing officer- The Commander of the body of troops, whatever they may be, is the person indicated; & he alone is entitled to an acknowledgement of his salute by the Revg. Officer- (Par 546). With as much reason might it be said that the Captns. should take their places by the Revg. Officer when a single Battn. is on Review as that the Cols. should, when there is a Brigade or Division- all directions & c. are given through the Commr.

I wish it was in my power to accept your invitation when here, to be present at your encampment, but it is impracticable.

I remain your most Obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point July 31, 1854

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz.

Cadet Alexander-	Twenty five dollars to be deposited to reduce his
indebtedness at the Academy	

“ McManus	Uniform shoes
“ Small	Dressing Gown & Under Clothing

“

All of which requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully Yr. Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Lieut. R.S. Smith
4th Arty. Q.M. U.S.M.A.
West Point

July 26, 1854

Sir. Having rec^d. no offers in reply to your advertisement for supplying the Mil. Acady.&c with Coal; & the time having arrived that arrangements for such supply must be made. You will proceed to the City of New York, and make the best terms in your power, upon completion of which business you will return to this Post.

Very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

127.

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point July 31, 1854

General.

I have the honour to request that one of the following named officers may be detailed for duty at the Mily. Acady. as Assistant Instructor in Artillery, to supply the vacancy caused by the assignment of Lt. J.B. Fry to duty as Adjutant- preference being in the order named, viz:

Lieut. John Gibbon

Lieut. Grier Talmadge } 4th Arty

Both officers mentioned belong to the 4th Arty, the last details having been from the 1st Regt and selection being confined to the 1st & 4th Regts. By Dept. letter of the 17 April last.

The practical Instruction in Arty. is now in operation and an Officer is needed as soon as he can be detailed, to continue the course and prepare for the ensuing Academic term.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Honb^{le}. K. Rayner
Newton Hertford Co., N.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 1 Augst. 1854

Dear Sir

I have rec^d. your letter of the 28th Ult^o. in reference to the restoration to the Acad^y of your young friend S. Warren. I assure you his separation from it, was a source of great regret to me, as well as to the other officers of the Institution; for his uprightness candour & manliness were appreciated by all, though his omissions in the performance of his duty & his neglect of his studies, could not be justified or approved. In a letter to his brother a few days since, I briefly stated the views of the Academic Board in his case; & that they considered their duty in the matter as completed; & did not deem it proper to make another report, unless it was called for by the Dept. at Washn. I endeavoured also to prepare him not to expect a different report if called on, as I was unwilling to raise expectations which I know no reason for believing would be realized, nor am I aware of any circumstance in his case, that has not already been considered by them. His thoughtlessness & carelessness was no doubt owing to his youth, which also rendered it difficult for him to realize his position & obligations, & if restored he would doubtless see things in a different light & make greater exertions than he did before. But others were in the same situation, & the opinion of the Board, unfavourable to his return, was based on the fact that he had enjoyed the same opportunities for acquiring his course as the rest of his class; & that they knew of no circumstances that under the Regns of the Acady, would authorize them to make an exception in his case. His amt. of demerit for the six months previous to the Examn being over 100 (130) also rendered it necessary under the Regns. that he should be recd. for discharge, & precluded any recommendation in his behalf on the score of good conduct. I am happy to inform you however that his demerit was not acquired for any act derogatory to his conduct as a gentleman, or calculated in the least to affect his moral character or standing, but arose from omissions of

128.

duty, carelessness &c., which it is the object of the discipline of the Acady. to correct, & which are incompatible with the duties of a Soldier, and if tolerated would be ruinous to order, punctuality & precision. I regret therefore that I can do nothing to advance your wishes, or to aid Mr. Warren, whose failure caused me much pain, & whose success would have much gratified me.

I am with great respect

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Honble. Henry Bennett
Washington City

Sir.

Your application to the Honble. Secy of War, for a leave of absence for your nephew Cadet C.E. Bennett for ten days, to accompany you home, has been referred to me.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 1 Augst. 1854

Your nephew is daily engaged in regg. instruction with his class in Practical Engineering in the morning; & in recitations in the course of Arty Tactics in the afternoon. Any interruption to these lessons will be to his disadvantage. He recd last summer a furlough during the whole encampment, & this is his turn for duty.

I regret therefore a regard for his own interests, as well as the interest of the Corps, compels me to withhold my recommendation that a leave be granted him.

I am with much respect

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl. J. G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point August 1st, 1854

General.

I have the honour to return herewith the letter of the Honble. Henry Bennett addressed to the Secy of War & referred to me on the 31st Ult. And for the information of the Dept. enclose a copy of my letter to Mr. Bennett in reply thereto.

I am very respectfully

Your obed^t. Serv^t

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Elias S. Coryell Esq.
New Hope
Bucks Co. Pennsa.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 5 Aug. 1854

My Dear Sir,

The enclosed letter from the Surgeon of the Post, will apprize you of the condition of your son. You may not be aware, that owing to symptoms in his case, apparent to the Medical Board, upon his examination in June last; he was admitted on probation till 1st Sept. next, subject to the approval of the Medical Board, to assemble at that time.

From the opinion expressed by Dr. Cuyler, & his present condition, I fear there is little probability of his being able to continue at the Academy, & it may be to his

129.

advantage, as well as more agreeable to your feelings, if you can satisfy yourself on the subject, to withdraw him at once.

I remain with much consideration
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.
General.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Aug. 5, 1854

When in Washington last March, I handed to Lieut. Kurtz a small bill of charges against the Embrasure Target for Photographs of the effects of the shot &c. The amount of which was to have been remitted to me- as it has not come to hand I fear it may have been overlooked.

I have the honour to be
Very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Aug. 7, 1854

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz.

Cadet O'Connell-	Writing Desk & stationery
“ Wagner	4 prs Uniform pants
“ Small	Dressing Gown & Under Clothing
“	

Which have been sent for them by their friends- and are recommended for favorable consideration.

I am very respectfully Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acad^y

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Aug. 10, 1854

General.

The letter of the Hon. Sherrard Clemens to the Secretary of War respecting certain disallowances of Mr. Roe's hotel bill of the late Board of Visitors, has been received, and I have the honour, herewith, to submit copies of all papers touching the subject, on file in the Superintendent's Office, which contain all the information in my possession, viz:

Letter of the Chief Engineer to Supt. Mily. Acady. of June 14, 1854

Letter of Supt. Mily. Acady. to Chief Engineer of June 21, 1854

Letter of the Chief Engineer to Supt. Mily. Acady. of June 28, 1854

Copy of Stephen R. Roe's bill with Col. R.E. Lee, Supt. Mil. Acady. & endorsement thereon

130.

assigning his reasons for a reduction of the account- The letter of Mr. Clemens is herewith returned.

I am very respectfully

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Lewis S. Coryell Esq.
New Hope
Bucks Co., Pennsa.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. August 11, 1854

Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to state agreeably to your request, that the conduct of your son Cadet Coryell has been most exemplary during his short connection with this Institution.

Hoping that his present severe illness may be of short duration, that he may pass his medical examination & be able to commence his studies with his class on the 1st proximo.

I am very respectfully

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Aug. 22nd, 1854

General.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Hon. Secy. of War's letter of the 19th Inst. with accompanying papers, relating to the new programme for five years Course of Studies at the Military Academy, all of which, as requested, will be informally brought to the attention of the Academic Board as soon as its members (many of whom are now absent from West Point) return to this post.

I am very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Samuel Casey Esq.
Sir,

Aug. 25, 1854

I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. U.S. New York. No. 6735 on War Warrant No. 2642 for \$2000.00.

Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

131.

F. Burt Esq.
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington City, D.C.
Sir,

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Aug. 25, 1854

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury Draft for two thousand dollars for the purchase of Barlow's Planetarium for the use of the military academy at West Point.

I am very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 28 Aug. 1854

General. The Academic Board was convened this morning, the earliest day it could be assembled since the reception of your letter of the 19th, to consider the suggestion of the Honble. Secy. of War in reference to their programme for a five years course.

The Board fully concur with the Secy. in his views of the mutual dependence of certain branches of the English Course & in the advantage of keeping up this connection. But they are also aware of the practical difficulties in its successful prosecution from the unprepared state in the first elements of the language, of a large number of the young men who are yearly admitted into the Academy, under the necessary present low standard of qualifications. It was to supply this great deficiency that caused the Board to place the commencement of the English studies in the first year's course; in the belief that in the prosecution of the subsequent studies, having required some correct knowledge of the English language, the progress of the Cadets would be much advanced; & as the course is extended through the entire five years, the philosophy of the language could be more readily & beneficially taught in the last two years, either by oral lectures by the Professor as at other Colleges; or by some proper text book, that may be procured. The Cadets will by this time have finished the study of the other languages taught at the Academy (French & Spanish), have acquired some knowledge of correct writing & speaking, the Geography & History of their own country, & its relation to others; & be better prepared to understand & acquire the higher branches of the course.

The Board are confirmed in their view from their past experiences & they think a very decided advantage has already been gained both in the faculty of acquiring & in correctly expressing their ideas to the Cadets, since commencing with the English course as at present studied. For these reasons they are unanimously inclined to place the English branches as arranged in the proposed programme & to submit for the future approval of the Secy. such text books & such modifications & exclusion of the Course, as a trial of the plan may suggest.

All the papers accompanying your letter of the 19th are returned.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

132.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 28 Augst., 1854

General.

Cadet F.J. Lee, of the 3rd Class, regularly posted as a Sentinel around Camp, was found lying down & asleep off his post, on the 27th Inst.. Cadet Craig of the same class, was found asleep under similar circumstances, on the 12th Inst.; no report of these cases were made at the time, as it was the intention to submit them to the Genl. Court Martial that was expected to assemble on the cases reported in my letter of the 24th Inst.

The offense with which these young gentlemen are charged, is of so grave a character in a Military point of view, & the 46 Article of War seems to require its punishment should be awarded by a Genl. Court Martial, that I must request one for the purpose; having in my opinion no means sufficiently to reprehend or condemn it.

A Genl. Court Martial is also wanted for the trial of one of the enlisted men.

I have the honour to be

Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 29 Aug. 1854

General.

I have just been informed by the Professor of Chemistry, that the edition of Kane's Chemistry, the present text book in that course, was destroyed in the fire of Harpers buildings & that he fears it is impossible to procure a sufficient number of copies for the use of the present 2nd class. Should that be the case, to save time I have to request authority to substitute for the present, Silliman's Chemistry, or such other work as may be recommended by the Academic Board, which will be assembled for the purpose of making a selection.

I have the honour to be
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Sept. 1, 1854

General.

I have the honour to transmit herewith two specific pledges of the 2nd Class, binding themselves not to commit the offenses; or violate the Regns. of the Acady. for which their classmates, S.J. Carroll & F. Lee were reported to you on the 24th July; provided they be relieved from the penalties of their offences. The Pledges are signed by all the members of the Class except Cadet Brayton C. Ives, who has not yet returned from furlough, being detained at home by sickness.

I also forwd. a pledge of the 3rd Class, binding themselves not to commit the offense, or violate the Regns of the academy for which their classmate S. W. Ferguson was reported to you on 24 July, provided he be relieved from the penalty

133.

of his offense. This pledge is signed by all the 3rd Class except Cadets Palfrey & J.S. Smith two young gentlemen, whose hitherto correct deportment, is a sufficient guarantee for their future good conduct.

Under all the circumstances of the case I therefore recommend that the pledges be accepted, the charges be withdrawn, & that Cadets Carroll, Ferguson & Lee F. be released from arrest.

I am very respfy your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

P.S. If the pledge be accepted, I request they may be returned to me. I return all the papers forwd. to me on the subject- Sigd./ R.E.L.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.
General.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Sept. 1, 1854

I have recd. today your letter of the 30th ulto. forwd the decision of the Hon^{ble}. Secy of War in reference to the selection of quarters at the Mil. Acady.

I understand his decision applies to all the officers of the Army on duty at the Mil. Acady. & deprives the officers at the head of Departments of the qrs. hitherto assigned them under former instructions of the War Dept. & that the Supt.; Inst. of Practical Engineering; Commdt. of Cadets & Inst. Of Arty & Cavalry, must select qtrs according to their rank. It may also be his intention to allow the Surgeons new quarters at the Hospital, & the Asst. Inst. Tactics quartered with their companies in the Cadets bk. to select qtrs according to their rank, but there is such a manifest propriety for these officers being confined to these quarters, that unless otherwise ordered, I shall under the authority of the 966 pas. of Genl. Regns. of 1841, relating to qtrs. appropriate them to them. I also understand by the decision of the Secy. that he intends to grant to the 1st Asst. Prof. a Captain's allowance of qtrs to be selected their proper turn, under the rule he has laid down, & this will render necessary a new arrangement of qtrs into sets, as many of the 1st Lts will have priority of choice over them, & will consume the sets before their turn for selection. It may be the fairest mode of distribution to confine all the Army officers from the Supt: down to the regular allowance.

As my understanding of the Secy's decision may not be the true one, & will deprive certain members of the Academic Board of the qtrs hitherto assigned them; & in this respect place them on an inferior footing to some of the civil members whom they rank, I am unwilling to act on it, until I am assured by you it is correct, or to cause any inconvenience that can be avoided.

I have therefore postponed the selection of qtrs which occurs on this day, until I can hear from you which I hope will be at your earliest convenience.

I have the honour to be

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 4 Sept., 1854

Genl.

I have the honour to inform you, that it will be unnecessary to use the authority conveyed in your letter of the 3rd ulto, as requested in mind of the 29th, to substitute Silliman's Chemistry, in place of the present text book (Kane's) on that subject; a sufficient number of the latter having been procured for the present 2nd Class in time for the commencement of the course on the 1st Inst.

I am very respectfully Your Obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 4 Sept. 1854

General.

In reply to your letter of the 28th Ultio. I have the honour to state, that the forage for the horses attached to the Engineer Compy is supplied by the Qr Mrs Dept: in the same way as for the oxen at the post employed by that Dept.

Should any funds be required for the next fiscal year by the Dept. of Practical Engrs it will be embraced in the annual estimate.

I am very respectfully Yr. Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Sept. 5, 1854

General.

Cadet Albert M. Powell appointed Cadet from the 1st Congr. District State of Md., to report between the 28th & 31 Aug, has just presented himself with a certificate from his Medical attendant, that he was prevented leaving home by indisposition- I can cause him to be examined by the Acad. Board & assigned conditionally to a section for the prosecution of his studies, but the Med. Board has adjourned, & the authority of the Dept. is requested to constitute the two Medical Officers at the Post a Board to examine into his Physical qualifications, unless it is desired to associate another with them. I find that a similar course was taken in the case of Alfred T.A. Torbert, appd from Delaware, on the 12 Sept. 1851.

I am Very Respfy. Your Obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

135.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Sept. 5, 1854

General.

I have the honour to transmit herewith account Current in duplicate with accompanying voucher, on account of Barlow Planetarium.

I am very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Sept. 7, 1854

General.

Cadets Hartz & Ames request permission to receive the former, Text books & Stationery- the latter, Writing desk, Stationery, Unif. Gloves &c; which has been sent for them by their friends- both requests are recommended for favorable considn.

I have the honour to be
Very respy. Your Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 8 Sept. 1854

General.

Upon the reception today, of your letter of the 6th Inst., directing the organization of the course of studies at the Acady into five years, I assembled the Academic Board for the purpose of dividing the Cadets admitted since the 30 June last, into a 4th & 5th Class as set forth in your letter of the 5th July.

Upon a careful consideration of the plans proposed in their report of the 28th July, the Board concluded it best to adopt that based upon the age of the Cadets, & have arranged in the 5th Class all below the age of 18; & in the 4th Class, all who are 18 & above that age. Rolls of each class as proposed, with the names & ages of each Cadet, & the state whence appointed, are herewith submitted. The reasons for adopting this basis of division, in the absence of

instructions on the subject from the Dept. are briefly these. The older Cadets are generally more advanced in their studies & education than the younger. Their minds & bodies are more developed & matured, & more capable of undergoing the labour of the 4 Years Course, than the younger. The two classes will also have more nearly attained the same age on graduating. It will avoid the errors & complaints that will naturally follow, from the attempt to class them according to merit, on an examination at this time, & give a more equal division of talent & capacity to each class. You will see that on this principle, the 4th class will be composed of 48 Members, & the 5th of 55. A division it is supposed near enough to equality, & giving to the last & youngest class, which will be more liable to reduction, the greater number.

I have directed that the necessary text books for the 5th Class be at once procured, & as soon as recd, the organization of the class as proposed, if approved, will be made. As no time will therefore be lost in its instruction, & as

136.

the Dept. may prefer some other mode of its organization, I have thought it proper to submit for approval the action of the Board.

I have the honour to be
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 11 Sept. 1854

General.

I recd this morning your letter of the 8th Inst. conveying the decision of the Honble. Secy of War, in reference to the case of Mr. A. M. Powell appointed from the 1st Cong. District of Md., & have informed him that it was unfavourable to his admission.

I had supposed previously to the decision of the Secy. that the Cadet letter of appt. initiated to provide for cases similar to that of Mr. Powell, & that the certificate of an attending Physician, that a candidate had been confined by an attack of sickness & rendered unable to travel, might be considered in the words of the appt. "a satisfactory reason for delay" in reporting at the prescribed time. Such has been the construction; but I shall hereafter consider the decision of the Secy as settling the matter.

I have the honour to be
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten

U.S. Mil. Academy

Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

West Point 12 Sept. 1854

General.

In putting into operation the five year course of instruction, directed by the Dept. in your letter of the 6th Inst three classes (5th, 4th, & 3rd) will for the present have to be instructed in Math., & three (5th, 4th, & 1st) in English & Ethics. I can make arrangements to carry on their Math^{cal} instruction with the present instructors in that dept. but an additional assistance in the Dept. of English & Ethics will be required. I therefore have to request that either

2nd Lt. Joshua W. Gill, of the Ordnance Dept.

2nd Lt. H.W. Slocum of the 1st Arty.,

2nd Lt. Wm. A. Nimmo 4th Arty.

be detailed for the duty, & ordered to report as soon as practicable.

There is no officer of the Ordnance Dept. on duty at the Acady & I have confined my selection in the Arty. to the 1st & 4th as last ordered.

I have the honour to be

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

137.

Samuel Casey Esq.
Treas. Of the U. States
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Sept. 14, 1854

Sir.

I have received the following Treasury draft payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York.

No. 6882 on War Warrant No. 2880 for 18,500.

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Third Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. Sept. 14 1854

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury Draft, for Eighteen Thousand five hundred dollars on account of as follows, viz:

Current & Ordinary expenses of Mily. Acady. \$12,000

Enlarging &c Hospital of Cadets 6,500 = \$18,500

I am very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Mr. W. Rudd

14 Sept. 1854

I had the honour to receive today your letter of the 11th in reference to the manner in which the name of your Grandson, is borne on the Cadet Register of June 1854. The Register is an abstract of the Merit Rolls formed by the Academic Board at each Annual Examination; & showing the standing of each Cadet in each branch of instruction in which he has been examined; forwd. to the War Department & which the Regns. of the Acady. require shall be printed, & a copy sent to the parent of each Cadet.

I am ignorant of the practice pursued at the Naval Acady, to which you refer; But the Cadet Registers have been made out in the manner stated, as far as I am acquainted, from the commencement of the Institution & are in accordance with the regns. of the War Dept.

It is considered no disgrace for a Cadet to fail in any branch at the Acady, & should he have made an honest effort to succeed; & have well performed his part; he is considered entitled to as much credit, as if he had graduated.

In such cases, as a mark of just appreciation of his character & conduct, he is allowed to resign; & is furnished with a certificate of resignation, setting forth his proficiency & progress in his studies & Mil. Exercises. It gives me pleasure to state that your grandson, in consequence of his good conduct & attention to duty; recd this mark of approbation of the Dept. & carried with him the esteem of the Officers of the Acady, & their regret at his separation from it.

I remain Very resp^{ty}, Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

138.

Lieut. R.S. Smith
Sir.

Sept. 15, 1854

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury Draft (being necessary for making payments to Enlisted Men on Extra duty & mechanics &c at this post, and not to be had here in exchange for drafts), on completion of which business you will return to this post.

I remain very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Sept. 23rd 1854

Washington City D.C.

General.

I have received from Cadet H.W. Fowler, the accompg. Surgeon's Certificate which I forward for your consideration originally to par. 87 Acady Regulations, with his application for another extension of his leave. Cadet Fowler recd. a leave of absence, as authorized by your letter of 24th Feby. last, for the benefit of his health, till the 1st July; with permission to join the 4th Class; if in the opinion of the Medical Officers he should be qualified to resume his duties, his leave was subsequently extended under the authority of your letter of 27 June, to the 28th August. Since which time he has been absent without leave, & is reported by Asst. Surgeon L.M. Haden, unable to perform his duty.

I can find no precedent for the permission he requests to join his class in January & think under the circumstances the practice would be injurious to the Academy. His age, (17 years on the 1st Sept. last) had he returned to the Academy at the expiration of his leave of absence, would in the division of the 4th Class, have placed him in the 5th. The course of English is different from that he studied in the 4th Class, & I fear if he joins the class in January, he would be unprepared to go on with them.

I have the honour to be

\ Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Major Geo. H. Crosman
Philadelphia
Penn.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. Sept. 23, 1854

Major

I have recd. your letter in reference to the division of the recent 4th Class. The impression of your son as to the basis of division is correct & the principal was stated in the orders on the subject, that all might understand it, all under 18 years old were arranged in the 5th class & all over 18 in the 4th - came from Washington. The Acad. Board were directed to propose a programme of study for a five years course which was submitted for approval & I was directed to carry it into effect. I know of no way of making any change now unless it should be directed by the Secy of War. The promotion from one class to another, except at the regular advancement of the entire class, as you propose, is contrary to Regulations. I am sorry that your son dislikes his assignment

139.

to the 5th Class. It will keep him one year longer at the Academy, but will give him a better opportunity to learn & improve himself & I hope will thus eventually benefit him. He must therefore make up his mind to take the good with the bad, & make the best of it. I hope he will

not be discouraged but set to work manfully & cheerfully to do his duty & take a high standing in his class.

I remain very resp^{fy} Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 29 Sept. 1854

General.

In answer to your letter of the 26th Inst. requesting me to state for the consideration of the Secy of War, the course most advisable in my judgement, in reference to the application of Cadet Fowler for an extension of his leave of absence; I have to reply that the Regns of the Acady (Arts 43 & 60) contemplate the transfer of the Cadets from one class to another, and the period of the annual Examinations. This has heretofore been the practice & I recommend it to be adhered to. But if Cadet Fowler's health prevents his return to the Academy as provided for in Par: 87, & he complys with Regns on the subject; he be permitted to join the 5th Class, if in the opinion of the Medical Officers at the Post at his return, he is qualified to resume his position. He has been informed that he has failed to comply with the Regns of the Acady & that if he wishes to resume his position, he must do so & return to the Acady. as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

D. Chapman Esq.
Lyons, NY
Sir.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 3 Oct. 1854

In reply to your letter of the 30th ulto: this day recd. I send you a Cadet Register, showing the standing of Cadet Riggs, of the 3rd Class, at the last Annual Examns.

Having but little acquaintance with him, other than official, I can only say that I know nothing against his moral character; that he is attentive to his duties, & gives promise of becoming a good Soldier.

I am very resp. Yr. obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Oct. 3 1854

Washington City D.C.

General. The following named cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively viz:

Cadet Page-	Table Cover, Thread & c
“ Saunders	Dressing Gown & Slippers- which requests are rec ^d for fav ^{bl} cons ^d .
	I have the honour to be & c. Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
	Supt: Mil: Acady

140.

Annual Estimate

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 7 Oct. 1854

General.

I have the honour to present an estimate of funds for the fiscal year ending June 30 1853 for the Military Academy.

The usual amount appropriated for Repair & Improvements, has been increased by \$2,900- for the payment of the Enlisted Men on Extra duty, the additional compensation granted by the Law of the 4th Aug. 1854. It has also been necessary to add \$600 to the estimate for Fuel; & \$325 to that for Forage; in consequence of the enhanced price of those articles- The last Register of the graduates of the Academy, was published in 1850. It is proposed to publish one every five years, instead of annually as heretofore; & to provide for the publication of the Register of 1855, \$1225.00 has been added to the last years estimate for printing.

The Clerk of the Adjutant of the Academy, is charged with the record of all the Rolls, Reports & c. of the Recitations, Conduct, & Standing of the Cadets- his duties, besides being laborious, require much care & accuracy- His pay for many years has been \$500.00 per annum. The increased expense of living & the inadequate compensation of his service has induced me to ask for an addition of \$100 to his pay.

In the Dept. of Arty. the estimate has been increased \$190.00 to provide means for the increased instruction in fencing. The 4th & 5th Classes are now taught fencing & the latter receives about double the quantity of instruction heretofore given the former. An additional number of Foils & Masks are consequently required.

The other items under the head of General. & Ordinary Expenses, are about the same as usually required; & differ but little from the amounts heretofore appropriated.

It has become necessary to increase the estimate to defray the expenses of the Board of Visitors, appropriated under the Act of 8 Augt. 1846, or to diminish the number of members. The additional numbers of States & extension of territory since the passage of the Act, renders the usual appropriation insufficient. Taking the expenses of the Board the present year as a criterion for that for 1856, it has been necessary to add \$1160.00 to the Estimate.

The furniture of the Cadet Hospital, being completely worn out & reported unfit for use by the Surgeon, & the building having been enlarged & provided with eight new wards. I have introduced \$500.00 in the estimate to furnish it with plain & necessary articles of furniture.

The introduction of Gas Light into the Cadet Barrack, Offices, & Academies, would greatly promote economy, cleanliness & comfort. The Barrack was built with this view & I have introduced into the present estimate \$15,000 for the purpose of building a Gas House, & providing the necessary pipes & burners- The consumption of the Gas will be paid for by the Cadets; will be a saving to them, & no additional expense to the Government.

I feel it my duty again to call your attention to the want of proper quarters for the accommodation of the Prof^{rs}, Officers & Soldiers at the Academy- The Professors houses do not afford sufficient room for their families. The portion of the Cadet Barracks necessarily occupied by the Officers, for want of other quarters, is required for the accommodation of the Cadets, for whom it was built. No quarters have been provided for the Company of Sappers & Miners- The officers are quartered $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from their men, & the men occupy quarters

141.

built for the Art^y detach^{mt}.- who are crowded on the Dragoons. The control & supervision necessary for instruction & discipline, cannot under these circumstances be maintained, & the health & comfort of the men are also impaired.

I have added to the estimate \$5000 for the additions to the Prof. quarters; & \$20,000 for the commencement of Officers quarters; according to the plans already submitted to the Dept. For the construction of quarters for Officers & men of the Sappers & Miners; grading & enclosing Company grounds & c. according to the plans also submitted & approved, \$24,500 will be required, in addition to the amount on hand.

I also transmit an estimate of funds to meet the deficiency of appropriation of the past & present fiscal years, which is therein explained.

I am very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Oct. 9 1854

General.

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, my statement of Funds expended during the month of September 1854.

I am very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Oct. 9 1854

General.

The following named cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively viz:

Cadet S.D. Beekman-	Unif. Forage Cap & Clothing
“ Fisk	Winter Drawers
“ Kensel	Underclothing, handkerchiefs, Unif. Collar & c.

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honour to be
Very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

142.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 10 Oct. 1854

General.

I have recd. the letter of Lt. Col. Casey, in reference to commutation of fuel & qrs. to the Board of Officers in session at the Post; refer to me on the 7th Inst. for the report required by the Honble. Secy of War.

The hotel at the Point was built about 25 years since, from means derived from the Mily. Acady. Post Fund, to provide accommodation to the friends & relatives of Cadets, Board of Visitors, Officers on duty, & others visiting the Acady. The terms of its lease require this accommodation to be furnished at all times, & that the Hotel shall be kept open in winter as well as summer. Other conditions are imposed which the interest of the Acady require, & which diminish profits Generally enjoyed at other Hotels. The revenue from the rent, is applied to the support of the Band, chapel, making roads, walks, planting trees, & other things for the beauty of the Point & Acady. The repair of the Hotel for the last two years has cost \$2835.00. The interest on the cost of its construction, though being gradually reduced, is still \$200.00 per year. About \$800 is annually paid for Support of the Band, \$30.00 to the Organist at the chapel. Last year \$178.00 were contributed for the purchase of an organ, \$92.00 for Hymn Books & church music, \$48.00 for trees, planted around the plain & c.- all of which has been paid out of this fund.

Government has done nothing to furnish accommodations to the relations of Cadets or to Offc^{rs}. on temporary duty, as supposed by the Br. M. Genl, or to place them on a different footing, than when called to the seat of Government or elsewhere. Some of the former frequently pass the entire Summer at the Point, as may suit their pleasure or convenience; & though

accommodation is secured them, the landlord is not obliged to make a difference in his rates of charge between them & other citizens of the country, who feel an interest in the Academy, or wish to visit it. As the Hotel is required to be kept in the manner of a first class Hotel in New York, there is no reason why the rates should not be about the same- Nearly every thing has to be procured from New York, & the cost & loss of transportation added to the market price. Visitors, in Summer, have the choice between the Hotel on the Point, & others very acceptable in the immediate vicinity, & I believe it is better & more in accordance with the policy & principles of our institutions to let individual interests & preferences regulate these matters, than to attempt to control them- This is therefore left to the parties concerned.

For the reasons given & my experience of the cost of living at West Point, I know of no fairer criterion for fixing the rate of commutation than that paid in the City of New York. The letter of Col. Casey is herewith returned.

I have the honour to be

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

143.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Oct. 11 1854

General.

I have the honour to transmit herewith my accounts for the 3rd Qtr. Of 1854, as follows,
viz:

General. Account Current	in duplicate
Abstract of disbursements	do
Vouchers No. 1 to 67 incl.	

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Oct. 17, 1854

General.

The following named cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively viz:

Cadet Barnes	-	Underclothing & c.
--------------	---	--------------------

“ Kellogg Underclothing & c.
“ Nicodemus Underclothing, Table Cover, Sheets & c.
All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.
I have the honour to be
Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Francis E. Berrier Esq.
Newark, N.J.
Dear Sir.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 17 Oct. 1854

The reports to the parents of the Cadets, are sent from the Engineer Dept. at Washington. Your nephew having given the name of M. Wallace as his guardian, the reports have been consequently made to him. Should Mr. Wallace, or yourself, write to Genl: Totten, Chief Engr., they will no doubt hereafter be made as you desire.

I am sorry to inform you that your nephew has not yet awhile succeeded as well in his studies as I had anticipated or wished. Whether it is owing to want of application, or merely the difficulties incident to all beginners, I do not know. His Prof^{sr}. does not think him very studious. I hope if this is the case, you will urge him to correct it, & to be more attentive to all his duties. Although not guilty of any grave offenses, his conduct so far has not been marked by that precision & attention to duty, necessary to form the character of a good soldier, & his demerit to the end of Sept. amounts to 53.

Very respfy. Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

144.

C.C. Baldwin Esq.
Balcony Falls
Virginia

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 18 Oct. 1854

My dear Sir,

I have recd. with much pleasure your brother's book "Party Leaders"- From the hasty perusal I have as yet been able to give it, I am much pleased with the manner in which the subject is treated & the discrimination & investigation of character shown in its pages. I hope it will meet with the favor it richly deserves & add to the reputation of its author.

I have placed it in the Library of the Academy, that others may enjoy its perusal, & would have sooner acknowledged it, but have deferred in the hope of having more time to examine it.

I am with much respect your friend

Signed R.E. Lee

Captain Geo. Dutton
Engineer Agency
New York
Captain-

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 19 Oct. 1854

I find it necessary to procure another lithographer, & in an advertisement for that purpose have taken the liberty to appoint 10 o'clock Tuesday 24th for persons to call at the Engineer Agency for information. To save you as much trouble as possible, I will send down one present Lithographer to answer their calls, & have now to ask your permission to allow him to be at your office at the time specified to give the necessary information & c. to such individuals as may offer.

Hoping that this will meet with your approval.

I remain Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Hon. Solon Borland
Little Rock
Arkansas

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 19 Oct. 1854

My dear Sir,

I have recd your letter of the 4th Inst. enclosing \$25.00 for the use of your son & a letter for him. The latter I will hand him, & will apply to the Secy. of War for permission to place the former to his credit, which will reduce his indebtedness, & enable him to get many little articles, he would otherwise be deprived of. I think it probable from your letter that it may have been your wish that your son should have himself recd. the money, but I have no authority to give it to him, nor could I with propriety apply to the Secy. of War without some urgent reason. The object of the Regns. is not only to inculcate habits of economy & to take away temptations to self indulgence & extravagance, but to place all the Cadets on an equal footing at the Academy, & give the sons of the poor, the same advantages as the sons of the rich. As you left therefore to me the "further disposition" of the money, I had no other course, than that I have mentioned, which as I really think it best for your son, I hope it will meet with your approbation. It is the one I pursued in the case of my own son & the one I recommend to all parents. I concur entirely in your views as to extravagance & its consequences & without positing to the advantages of an opposite course, of which the country is full of illustrious examples, it is very evident, that to enable officers of the Army

to live on their pay, they must learn to do so while Cadets.

I hope therefore you will not only urge upon him the necessity of economy, but strict attention to all his duties, & the propriety of taking a high position in his class. Without having committed any grave offences, he has incurred up to this time 60 demerit, arising from want of punctuality & precision. He is in the 4th Section in Mathics & in the 3rd in French, & that you may be enabled to form some idea of his proficiency in his studies, I will state that his recitation marks in the last week were 5.9 in the former, the maximum being 12; & 6 in the latter, the maximum being 9.

It will at all times afford me much pleasure to do anything in my power for you or for him, & you need make no apologies in commanding my services.

I remain very truly yours,

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Academy

West Point N.Y. 20 Oct. 1854

Mr. John Livingston

157 Broadway

New York

My dear Sir,

I have recd your letter calling my attention to the American Portrait Gallery & am very much obliged to you for your kind offer to place my name in its pages. I fear the little incidents of my life would add nothing to the interest of your work, nor would your readers be compensated for the trouble of their perusal. I must therefore gratefully decline your proposition; but being fully sensible of the value of the work, accept your offer of the 4 Vols. now published, which I propose to place in the library of the Acady, in the hopes that the memoirs of men, who have acquired distinction & usefulness; may have their effect upon the characters of the Cadets, & excite them to exertion & industry.

Please send the books to the "Sloop Intrepid" foot of Vestry Street, noon, Saturday: directed to the Quarter Master, Mily. Acady., whose check of this date for \$10.00 to your order, on the Asst. Treasurer of the U.S. in New York, I enclose herewith, & receipt the accounts & return them by mail.

Very respfy. Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

P.S. I return the single part sent for my examination.

Signed/ R. E. Lee

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Oct. 20 1854

General.

The following named cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively viz:

Cadet Landis -	Writing Desk, Staty. & unif. collars
“ Stoughton	Stationery
“ Zabriski	Slippers
“ Borland	\$25.00 to be placed to his credit at the Academy

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honour to be
Very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

146.

Thos. Fisher Esq.
Phila. Penna.
Dear Sir,

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 30 Oct. 1854

I have recd. your letter of the 27th Inst. & shall be happy to see you at any time that may suit your convenience. My duties are so continuous that I am unable to appoint any day that I shall be more disengaged than another, but whenever you come, I shall with pleasure devote to you as much time as I can.

I remain with much respect
Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 30 Oct. 1854

General.,

The father of Cadet J.C. Riddle has forwarded \$15.00 with a request that the sum be placed to the credit of his son, for the purchase of some articles of clothing. Cadet J.W. Dewey requests permission to receive a box containing Lamp & Thermometer, Looking Glass, writing desk & materials.

Both requests are recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be
Very respectfully Your obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br.
Supt: Mil: Acady

Col. E.W. Morgan
Supt. Kenty. Mil. Institute
Blue Lick Springs, Ky.
Sir,

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 30 Oct. 1854

I have received today your note of the 20th Inst.; & have the honour to state in reply that the 1st Vol. of Kent's Commy. is still used as the text book in International & Constl. Law; & that it is procured from Messrs. A.S. Barnes & Co., 51 John Street New York.

Agreeably to your request I send you a copy of the Regns. of the Acady, & the last Register of the Officers & Cadets. It will at all times give me pleasure to send you anything we have, or do anything in my power to extend the usefulness of your Institute.

I remain with much respect

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

147.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Nov. 3rd 1854

General.

The father of Cadet Cooper requests permission to deposit \$30 to the credit of his son- and Cadet Sowers asks that he may receive from his friends a writing desk, and underclothing, all of which is recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Nov. 3rd 1854

General.

I have the honour to transmit herewith my cash statement for the month of October- also Estimate of amount required for the month of November 1854.

Very respectfully, Sir

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Lieut. R.S. Smith
4th Arty. A.A. Q^r.M^r.
West Point N.Y.
Sir

Nov. 9, 1854

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury drafts. On completion of which business you will return to this Post.

Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Col. S. Cooper
Adj. Genl. U.S. Army
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 11 Nov. 1854

Colonel. I have the honour to enclose herewith, a copy of a Summons for Lt. Jas. Thompson, 2nd Arty., to appear before a Court Martial to assemble at Fort Moultrie S.C. on the 15th Inst. with the letter of the Judge Advocate enclosing it to me, & my authority to Lt. Thompson, to obey the Summons. As I do not feel authorized to order any officer from the Acady. on duty not connected with it, I request to be informed whether my letter to Lt. Thompson covers the case; or whether an order from the War Dept. would not be more proper in similar cases.

I am very respfy. Your
obed^t. Serv^t.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

148.

Samuel Casey Esq.
Treasurer of the United States
Washington City, D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. Nov. 13, 1854

Sir,

I have received the following Treasury Draft, payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York. No. 7286 on War Warrant No. 3415 for \$5000.00.

Your obed
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Third Auditor U.S.
Washington City

U.S. Mil. Academy
Nov. 13, 1854

Sir,

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury Draft for Five Thousand Dollars on account of the follows, viz.:

Current & Ordinary Expenses	Mil. Acady.	\$1000.00	
Increase in Expense of Library		1000.00	
Forage for Arty. & Cavalry Horses		<u>3000.00</u>	= \$5000

Very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

C.F.M. Noland Esq.
Batesville Arkansas

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 13 Nov. 1854

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to inform you that your young friend J. VanBuren Tate, appointed a Cadet from Arkansas is not making that progress in his studies as will insure his passing the coming Jany. Examinations. Indeed in the opinion of his Prof. there is no prospect & scarcely a possibility of his doing so. He has also been very inattentive to his military duties & to the Regns. of the Acady, & without committing any offenses calculated to affect his moral conduct or standing, has incurred an amount of demerit already exceeding 160, while the Regns require the Acad. Board at the Jany. & June Examinations, to declare any Cadet deficient in conduct, whose amount of demerit for the past six months, shall exceed 100, & recommend him for discharge. I have endeavoured on several occasions to call his attention to the importance of strict attention to his studies & duties, the opportunities for an education & c. he was throwing away, & what was due to his father & friends who exerted themselves to procure his appointment. Though sensible of his position & obligations at that time, & secure in his resolutions of amendment, he would soon forget them & relapse into his former course. The difficulty I think is in his being too young to master his course or to realize his responsibilities & I think his continuance at the Acady. will not be of any benefit to him, but will result in his being discharged in Jany.

To save him & his friends this disappointment & mortification, I would recommend that he be allowed to resign, & his father's consent is necessary for him to do so. I am very sorry to be obliged to give such unpleasant information, but thought it was better for him & his friends that you should know the state of the case, that they might exercise their own judgement as to what might be the best to be done.

I remain with much respect
 Your friend & Servt.
 Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
 Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Academy
 West Point N.Y. 15 Nov. 1854

Hon. Chas. W. Whipple
 Niles, Michigan
 Dear Sir,

Knowing the interest you felt in Cadet Frank Graves, has determined me to write to you. I am sorry to inform you that he has again exceeded the amount of demerit (100) which under the Regns of the Acady. requires the Acad. Board at the coming Jany. Examinations, to declare him deficient in conduct & recommend him to the War Dept. for discharge. Since the 15th June last to the 3rd Oct. the amt of demerit recorded against him is 156- one hundred being the amount which a Cadet cannot exceed in six months. You must not think that he has committed any grave offense, calculated to affect his moral character or standing, but his demerit has resulted from the same inattention to his duties & violation of Regns. of which you became aware during your visit last summer. Have been relieved from the consequences at that time, I had hoped he would have been more careful, but it does not seem to have had that effect. He has not been very attentive to his studies either, though latterly I think has improved in that respect. I am sorry to give you information which I know will distress you, but I thought it best that you should know the state of the case, that you might be prepared to give such advice to his father as your judgement should dictate.

I remain truly your obedt. Servt.
 Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
 Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Academy
 West Point N.Y. 20 Nov. 1854

Col. J.E. Pollock
 Royal Engrs. Insp. R.M.A.
 Woolwich, England

Colonel,

I have recd. the books & papers forwd. by you in behalf of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, for the U.S. Mil. Acady. at West Point, N.Y., viz:

1. Records of the Royal Military Acady. 1741 to 1840.
2. General. Rules & c.- Royal Military Academy 1848.
3. Papers of the Ordnance School at Carshalton, & of the Royal Military Acady. at Woolwich 1853.

4. Course of Mathematics at R.M.A. 3 vols. 1853.
5. Treatise on Arty. for R.M.A. Sect. 1 Part 1, 1853.
6. Diagrams to Treatise on Arty. Sect. 2 Part 1, 1853.
7. do do Sect. 2 Part 2 1853.
8. Arms in use & General. principles of Fortification.
9. Regns. for admission of Genl. Cadets R.M.A. Woolwich
10. Regns for admission into the Ordnance School, Carshalton.
11. System for the education of officers of the R.M.A. & R. Engrs.

I beg you will present my acknowledgements to the authorities of the R.M.A. for these books; which I will have placed in the Library of the Academy, in testimony of their kind wishes & interest; & which will be of much value to

150.

the Institution.

I will remain with much respect

Your Obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 20 Nov. 1854

Genl.

I have recd the books & papers enumerated in your letter of the 7th & forwd. by Express for the Mil. Acady. in behalf of the authorities of the R.M.A. Woolwich, & have acknowledged their receipt to Col. Pollock, Royal Engrs.

There are no duplicates of any of them in the Library here, & I presume are the books promised by Col. Robt. Burn R.A. who visited the Institution this summer & was kindly impressed in its favour.

I remain very respfy.

Yr. obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 20 Nov. 1854

Genl.

I have recd by today's mail your letter of the 17th Inst. & return herewith the drawings last furnished for construction of Embrazure Target at this place.

As they may be called for to be applied elsewhere, I will state that Lt. Gilmore reports that the latch of Emb^{re} Shutter, though made exactly according to the drawing does not operate satisfactorily, & will not resist concussion. With a view to correct it, he cut it underneath about ¼ of an inch (hood shaped) as far as it would allow, as represented in the accompanying sketch. It will now resist a steady force, but not a blow.

Although the center of motion of the latch is as low down as it can be placed, its distance from the Catch is so short, that it flies up on receiving a blow.

I am very respfy. Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

M.D. Wade Esq.
Shepherdsville
Bullis Co. Ky.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 20 Nov. 1854

Dear Sir,

I have just recd. your letter of the 9th Inst. in reference to your Son Cadet Benj. O. Wade. He is in the 5th Class & engaged in the study of Mathematics & English language, & is practically instructed in the duties of a Soldier. The reason why his position in his class was not mentioned in the circular from Washington is that until after the Semi-annual examination in Jany. the Cadets that entered the preceding June have no fixed standing in the class. Their standing is assigned them at the Examination, according to their proficiency in their studies, & after that is reported monthly in the same manner as the other Cadets.

151.

I am sorry to inform you that your son has made very little progress in his studies since he commenced them on the 1st Sept. he has either found them unpalatable to him or difficult to comprehend, & now apparently makes no effort to master them. In the opinion of his Professor, there is now no possibility of his acquiring a sufficient knowledge of them to pass the January examination, & I therefore think it best that he be allowed to resign. He has moreover I regret to say acquired over 300 demerit, whereas any Cadet whose demerit in six months exceeds 100, is required by the Regns. to be discharged at the Examination. His demerit results from violations of the Regns. of the Academy & inattention to his duties, & does not proceed from faults affecting his moral character or standing, but probably were in the first place from entering the academy too young, & before his mind & judgement were sufficiently matured to realize his position & responsibilities. Now he has become careless & reckless & entirely inattentive to his duties. I have endeavoured to explain to him the impropriety of his course, & the disappointment it would occasion both himself & friends. As I see however no possibility of his continuing at the Academy, I would recommend that he be allowed to resign rather than be discharged.

I remain Sir, with much consideration

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

P.S. Your son is a little in debt & will require money to take him home. Sigd/ R.E.L.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 21 Nov. 1854

General.

The following named cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively viz:

Cadet Foster -	Underclothing- Slippers, Table Cover &c.
“ Sander	Uniform Collars
“ Zabriskie	Shirts & Uniform Collars

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honour to be

Very respy. Your Obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point 22 Nov. 1854

General.. I have recd. your letter of the 15th Nov. in reference to the importance of Capt. Smith's being relieved from duty at the Mily. Acady. with as little delay as possible. The indisposition of Prof. Mahan has prevented my replying to it earlier, & I regret that the state of his health is such, as not to justify in his opinion, his undertaking the instruction of the class in Engineering with but one assistant, & he with little experience in instruction. Should it be practicable to make arrangements for the proper instruction of the class, Capt. Smith will be immediately relieved from duty.

I am very respfy. Yr. Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

152.

Graham Casper Esq.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. Nov. 23rd, 1854

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir,

I have recd your letter of the 19th Inst.- In reply I would state, that should your son be appointed in February or March- he should report as soon after the 1st of June as practicable- the preliminary examinations would take place immediately after that of the old Cadets- about the 20th of the month. The best age to enter the Academy in my opinion is from 17 to 18- according to the Physical & mental development of the candidates. Particular attention to Mathematics, English language & an acquaintance with French & other studies pursued at the Academy, would much benefit him on entering, and a firm determination to conform to the Regulations & apply himself to his studies afterward- the best guarantee for his success.

I remain very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady
U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 24 Nov. 1854

John Van Brunt
Hackensack, N.J.

Sir,

I have recd your letter of the 21st Inst. in relation to your son, Cadet F.W. Van Brunt. Had not your recent visit to the Academy, led me to believe that you would correctly inform yourself on the subject of your letter. I would have written to you. The whole difficulty I think consists in his having been appointed too young. His mind & body are not sufficiently developed to master his studies, or undergo the labours of his position, & it would be unjust to subject him to the mortification of failure, or to tax him beyond his strength- His conduct under the circumstances, has been exemplary, & I would recommend that he be allowed to resign at once. Being discouraged at his want of success, he probably does not make a great effort & I find gets zero at nearly every recitation in Math. He is gaining nothing by continuing at the Acady. & I would advise that he be recalled home at once, as I consider it impossible for him to pass his examinations in Jany.

If you coincide with me in opinion & will write me your permission for him to resign, I will forwd his resignation to the Secy. of War & recommend its acceptance. Upon the acceptance, his accounts will be closed & he can return home by such route as you may designate.

I remain very respfy. your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

153.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Novem. 27 1854

General.

The following named cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively viz:

Cadet Baker	-	Underclothing, gloves & c.
“ Carlton		do, gloves & stationery
“ Corse		Stationery & text books
“ Grossman		Comforter & gloves
“ Warner		Box of Instruments

All of which is recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honour to be
Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Wm. G. Anderson Esq.
Panola Co. Texas

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 27 Nov. 1854

Dear Sir,

I have recd. today your letter of the 3rd Inst. in reference to your son Cadet Wm. Anderson. I am sorry to inform you, that without having committed any grave offenses calculated to affect his moral character or standing, he has by repeated inattention to his duties & violations of the regns. of the Acady. incurred up to the present time nearly 350 demerit. The Regn. Requires that any Cadet whose demerit at the Examination in Jany. or June should exceed 100, shall be reported to the War Dept. for discharge. I therefore see no prospects of his being able to continue at the Acady. longer than Jany. I have endeavoured to point out to him the error of his course & its consequences, & regret it has not been attended with better success. At first his duties seemed easy to him, & for the first month, July, he recd. no demerit. Latterly, perhaps from being dissatisfied, he has become careless & inattentive; & he has made so little progress in his studies; that in the opinion of his Prof. there is no prospect of his being qualified to pass his examination in Mathematics. I would therefore recommend that he be allowed to resign, as soon as you can make arrangements for his return home, as I fear his longer stay here will be of not benefit to him. If you will therefore send a written permission for him to do so, I will forward his resignation to the Secy. of War & recommend its acceptance.

I can very well understand that accustomed to all the comforts of home, he should not find the Cadets fare as palatable, as might be desired. But you will see the necessity of Soldiers' fare being plain & simple; & that young gentlemen whose pay is on \$24 per month for all their expenses, clothes, books, lights & c & c cannot indulge in any luxuries.

I remain with much respect
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Lieut. Q.A. Gillmore
Chief of Engineers
West Point N.Y.
Sir,

Nov. 30 1854

In pursuance of instructions given you in the letter of the Eng. Dept. of the 7th Inst., you will proceed to the City of New York, and after completing the business return to this Post & resume your duties.

I am very respfy.
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Nathan Capers Esq.
Boston, Mass.
Sir,

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 2, 1854

I recd today your letter of the 28th Ult. requesting to know the occasion of the resignation of Mr. T.C. Goodrich of Mass. His resignation was voluntary & with the assent of his father, & I recollect no reason assigned other than an unwillingness to continue five years at the Acady. His letter of resignation was forwd. to Washtn. & accepted by the Secy. of War.

Very respfy. your obedt. Servt.
/s/

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.
General.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 5th 1854

I have the honour to transmit herewith my statement of Funds expended during the month of November- also Estimate of funds required for the present month.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C
General.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point Dec. 6 1854

Cadets Vinton & Cushing each request permission to receive some articles of underclothing &c from their friends. Which requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honour to be
Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

155.

Albert P. Wheeler Esq.
Wheeling, Virg.
Dear Sir,

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 6 Dec. 1854

Your son, Cadet J.T. Wheeler has this morning informed me of your desire that he should resign & return home. The regns. require that he should have your written assent to this step, which if you will send, I will forward to the Secy. of War with this resignation, & recommend its acceptance.

I regret the circumstances that render this course advisable; & that in the opinion of his Prof., he will not be able to pass the Jany. examination. His number of demerit also much exceeds 100, which would require the Academic Board to declare him deficient in conduct & recommend his discharge. You must not, however think that he has been guilty of any conduct calculated to affect his character or standing. His demerit has arisen from carelessness & inattention to his duties & studies; the importance of which he was perhaps too young to appreciate; or to realize the consequences of this neglect. I hope however it may have the effect to excite him to earnest exertion in whatever he may undertake; & that his present failure may inspire his future success.

I am happy to inform you that he has recovered from the effects of his sprain & is otherwise well.

I remain very respfy.
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Mrs. Mary Gannett
Salem, Mass.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 7 Dec. 1854

It would give me much pleasure to comply with your request of the 4th Inst. for your son Cadet Thos. R. Gannett to spend Christmas with his sister at Harlem; but the Regns. of the Acady. allow only one leave of absence to the Cadets, & that is during their third encampment. Nor has it been customary for Cadets to be absent on Christmas, as you have heard, except such

as may live so near, as to enable them to spend Christmas Day with their parents without interruption of their duties or studies. The semiannual examination follows Christmas so closely, that it is very important that nothing should interfere with their studies at the time, & if the privilege to visit relatives or friends was granted to one, it should be extended to all, which you will see would eventually interfere with their duties. I am happy to inform you that your son is making favourable progress in his studies & is habitually attentive to his duties, & I hope will take a creditable standing in his class at the approaching Examination.

I am Madam with much respect

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

156.

Genl. Geo. W. Jones
U.S. Senate
Washington City, D.C.
My dear Genl.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 8 Dec. 1854

I took great pleasure in the reception of your note of June last, handed me by your young friend Cadet Edwd. T. Jennings of Oregon. Cadet J. has been attentive to his duties, but I am sorry to inform you has made so little progress in his studies, both Mathematics & English, that in the opinion of his Prof. he will not be able to pass the semiannual examination in Jany. I have endeavoured to stimulate him to greater exertion, but either the undeveloped state of his mind, or his impatience in applying its powers, render him I think incapable at present of mastering his course. Under these circumstances I thought it would be more agreeable to him as well as his friends, to resign his appointment, than to be declared deficient. He is aware of his position & wishes to resign. But his father being in Oregon, whose assent is required by the Regns., there is not time to consult him before the Examination. I advised him to write to the Honble. Bernhart Hess, who also takes much interest in him, to see if he could not under the circumstances of his case, take so far upon himself the responsibility of Guardian, as to give him permission, which he informed me he has done. I have thought however it was due to your friendship, as well as to that of your colleague, the Hon. A.C. Dodge, to be apprised of the circumstances, that he might have the benefit of your judgement, as to what was best to be done.

I very much regret that it is not in my power to give you a report of your young friend more in accordance with your feelings & my wishes, but I have thought it best that you should know the facts. The difficulty with him I think is that he has been apptd. too young. I should have written to you before, but was unwilling to give you information which I know would not be agreeable to you, until it became necessary.

I am with much respect my dear Genl.

Yours truly & as ever

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

Honble. Bernhart Hess
Ho. of Rep.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 8 Dec. 1854

Sir,

I am sorry to inform you that your young friend Cadet Edwd. T. Jennings of Oregon has made so little progress in his studies; Mathematics & English, that in the opinion of his Proffers., he cannot pass the approaching Semi-Annual Examination in Jany. I have therefore thought it would be more agreeable to you & his friends, that he should now resign his appointment; than to be subjected to the mortification of failure. He is himself of the opinion that he cannot pass a satisfactory examn. & would prefer to resign; but the Regns. of the Acady. require the assent of his father, which cannot now be obtained in time.

Having endeavoured to stimulate him to greater exertion, & finding that he was himself discouraged at his prospects of success, I advised him to write to you on the subject, that he might have the benefit of your judgement & aid,

157.

& ascertain whether you might feel authorized under the circumstances to take upon yourself the office of Guardian, so far as to give the required permission.

I should myself have written to you before, but was unwilling to impart information which I know would be unpleasant; until I felt assured it was necessary & that there was no chance of his redeeming his position.

In reference to his clothing & c., concerning which you wrote me last June; arrangements were made to supply him with what was necessary; the cost of which was not met by the small deposit he made on entering. He is therefore now in debt to the Clothing Dept. about \$70. He will also require a small amount of funds to take him to his friends in Iowa, if you wish he should return there.

It will give me pleasure to do all in my power to carry out your wishes in reference to his future plans.

I remain Sir, very respfy, your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City, D.C.

Dec. 8, 1854

General.

Cadets Hazen & Wright, Jos. request permission to receive from their friends sundry articles of underclothing & c. which requests are recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be
Very respfy. your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City, D.C.

Dec. 10, 1854

General.

I have the honour to enclose a communication from Prof. A.E. Church, recommending a change in the Law of 29 Apl. 1812, so far as relates to the appointment of the Asst. Prof. of Mathematics. I have already stated the objections that occurred to me, should the proposed arrangement be Generally adopted at the Acady. The service of the Officers at the Acady. are in my opinion as beneficial to themselves & Corps; as to the Cadets & Institution. They have opportunities & inducements for reviewing & extending their studies; & in the absence of all other schools of Practice, have facilities as well as obligations, of becoming practical Mathematicians, Astronomers, Observers, Chemists, Artillerists & c. The army is thus kept supplied with officers ready & prepared for any service, & its scientific tone & character preserved & elevated.

There is however much weight in the statement of Prof. Church, of the importance of securing permanently in the Math. Dept. the services of an able & experienced assistant. Two entire classes of cadets are always engaged in the study of Mathematics. It is the subject they first commence on entering the Institution, when they most require skill & consideration in their Instructors.

I am very respectfully, your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:
Supt: Mil: Acady

158.

Dr. J.S. Colby
Harlem N.Y.

U.S. Mil. Academy
West Point N.Y. 11 Dec. 1854

Sir. It would give me much pleasure to grant Cadet Thos. R. Tannatt the leave of absence requested in your letter of the 8th Inst. did the Regns. of the Acady. permit, nor has it been customary to relax the Regns. on this subject, which allow but one leave of absence to a Cadet during the period of Encampment, where he shall have been two years at the Acady; except when they may reside sufficiently near to spend Christmas day with their parents, without interruption to their studies or duties.

Their Examination commences on the 2nd of Jany. & it is very important to them that nothing should interfere with their preparation. To grant them leaves of absence to visit relatives or friends at that period, would materially interfere with their studies. For if given to one it must be extended to all.

I am very respfy. your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col:

Supt: Mil: Acady

U.S. Mil. Acady.
11 Dec. 1854

Chas. H. Ruggles
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Sir,

I have this day recd your application of the 5th Inst. to the Hon. Secy. of War, for a short leave of absence for your nephew, Cadet Geo. D. Ruggles, to attend the marriage of his sister on the 13th Inst. which has been referred to me.

I very much regret that I am compelled to withhold my assent to the fulfillment of your wishes, though fully aware of the gratification the desired absence would afford your nephew & his friends. This is not considered an occasion on which the regns. of the Acady. could with propriety be relaxed, & if granted to one Cadet, it should be extended to all, which would materially interfere with their studies & duties; & the object of the Institution [words erased] At this particular time, too, your nephew is engaged in reviewing his course, preparatory to his examination in Jany.; any interruption to which would be to his injury.

I hope therefore his sister will be able before her departure to California, to visit him; & that he may hereafter be indemnified for his present disappointment.

I remain with great respect
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Chas. C. Parrie Esq.
Boston, Mass.
Sir,

West Point 11 Dec. 1854

It would afford me much pleasure to be able to comply with your request of the 4th Inst. that your son Cadet W.C. Parrie might be permitted to spend Christmas with his family in Boston; as I know it would be gratifying to him as to you. But the Regns. of the Acady. authorize but one leave of absence to a Cadet while at the Institution, & that is during the period of the Encampment, after

159.

he shall have been two years at the Acady., nor has it been customary to grant leaves of absence on Christmas, except to such as reside in the vicinity & who could spend the day with their parents without interruption to their duties. The exercises of the Acady. being suspended on Christmas Day alone. I regret that this would not be possible in the case of your son.

The Semi annual examination commences so soon after Christmas, that it is important to the Corps that they should enjoy every opportunity for the review of their course, & if the

indulgence in question was granted to one member, it ought to be extended to all; which would naturally interfere with the prospects & studies of many.

I hope you will be able to carry out your intention of visiting your son, & that you may find him as well as he is at present. I am happy to inform you that his progress in his studies is equally good, & that he is one of the prominent candidates for the head of his class.

I remain very respfy. your obedt. Servt.

Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

A.P. Wheeler Esq.
Wheeling Virg.

U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point 14 Dec. 1854

Sir. Your letter of the 9th enclosing your assent to the resignation of your son, Cadet J.T. Wheeler, has been recd. I have thought it best for him to return home at once, & have made arrangements to furnish him with sufficient money to take him home. He will leave here at noon today, with directions to take the evg. train to Baltimore, where he will arrive at 4 A.M., in time tomorrow to take the 7 o'clock train for Wheeling; & I hope will be with you the following morning.-

His accounts have been cleared & he has recd. \$18.33 for his traveling expenses. His passage from here to Wheeling is \$14.00, which will leave him \$4.33 for incidental expenses. As he tells me he has relatives in Baltimore, with whom he can remain if detained on the road, I have not thought it necessary for him to wait here till you could remit him more money, as I consider he has enough for his purposes.

I remain very respfy. your obedt. Servt.

Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Samuel Casey, Esq.
Treasurer of the U.S.
Washington City, D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 14, 1854

Sir.

I have received the following Treasury Draft, payable to my order by the Asst. Treas. New York- No. 7488 on War Warrant No. 3689 for \$8000.

Your obedient Servant

Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

160.

R.J. Atkinson Esq.
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington City DC.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 14 1854

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury Draft for Eight thousand dollars, on account of as follows viz:

Current & Ordinary Expenses of Mil. Acady.	\$5000.—	
Forage for Arty. & Cavalry Horses	1000.—	
Cavalry Exercise Stall	<u>2000.—</u>	= \$8000

I am very respectfully
Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Lieut. R.S. Smith
Q.M. U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point N.Y.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 10, 1854

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a Treasury Draft (specie being necessary for making payments to Enlisted Men on extra duty, Mechanics & c at this post, and not to be had at par in Exchange for drafts,) on completion of which business you will return to this post.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 15, 1854

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their friends the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz.

Cadet Ashe --	Gloves & Pocket handkerchiefs
“ Lee F.	Underclothing & c.

Both requests are recommended for favorable consideration.

I have the honour to be

Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

161.

Eleazer Harmon Esq.
Detroit
Michigan

United States Mil. Acady.
West Point 18 Dec. 1854

Sir.

Your letter to Capt. Brewerton on the subject of the demerit recd. by your son Cadet Luke G. Harmon, has been forwd. to me from Baltimore. The regns. of the Acady. requires any Cadet who shall at the Examination in Jany. & June, have an amount of demerit exceeding 100 for the previous six months; be declared deficient in conduct, & recommended to the War Dept. for discharge. The Academic Board have no discretion in the matter, nor can they consider the degrees of the offenses, for which the demerit has been recd. provided the sum of the whole shall exceed 100. That you may understand the manner in which the conduct roll is completed, I send herewith a Register of the Academy, & refer you to page 16 for explanation. All offenses & violations of Regns. are published daily to the Corps & excuses for the same considered by the Commdt. & Supt. Those not removed are recorded on the conduct Roll.

I am very sorry to inform you that the demerit of your son now amounts to 118, & though it results mostly from carelessness & omissions in the discharge of his duties, is not calculated to affect his moral standing or character; yet it proceeds from habits & conduct unbecoming the character of a soldier; & which it is the object of the institution & discipline of the Acady. to correct.

I therefore very much regret being unable to point out to you any way of relieving him from the consequences of his acts, & should the penalty of the Regns. be suspended in his case, it must be done in all others, no only now, but hereafter, as it would be considered as establishing the precedent; nor would there be any way of enforcing discipline or a compliance with the Regns. of the Acady.

I remain Sir, with much respect
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 18 Dec. 1854

Genl: Jos: G. Totten

Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

General.

Upon inspection of the sketch of the Embrazure [word "Target" stricken] Shutter latch, it was apprehended that the handle would be carried away by a shot fired at the extreme horizontal range & depression & Lt. Gilmore was directed to make a drawing of the gun in position to ascertain the fact. He has reported that it would interfere with the passage of a shot under these limits, & has proposed modifications to avoid the injury that the latch & shutter might thereby sustain, which are herewith enclosed. Nos: 2 & 3 appear the most compact & suitable. The former is less liable to be injured by shot against the embrazure. The latter furnishes the best handle to raise the latch.

Very respfy. your obedt. Servt.

Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

162.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point 19 Dec. 1854

General.

I recd. today your letter of the 16th Inst. announcing the desire of the Honble. Secy. of War to organize the instruction of the Cadets in Arty. & Cavalry into two separate departments; & directing a draft to be prepared, exhibiting the changes in the regulations necessary to carry this instruction into effect. There seems to be nothing in the regns. of the Acady. conflicting with such an arrangement, or necessarily requiring change.

Instruction in both branches is properly provided for, & is now given, to the extend the time & occupations of the Cadets will permit. To place Cavalry on the same footing with the other departments & still retain Arty. at its present standard, there should be introduced in par: 8- after Arty. "and Cavalry"- Par: 77 should also be so amended as to separate the instructors of Arty & Cavalry, & to place both on the board of Medical & Mily. Officers for the examination of the Candidates for admission- amended copies of the pars: in question are enclosed.

The Act of 20 July 1840 (chap 183, p. 270 Hezels edn. of Mily. Laws), in the absence of other legislation on the subject, would seem to unite the instruction "of Cavalry & Arty tactics" in one person; & to establish the pay of the instructor of the united branches. If separated, it would seem to require a corresponding change in the law to secure the pay to each instructor.

The same men & horses are now used for practical instruction in both departments & must so continue in the event of their separation, ["& must so continue" lined out- ed.] unless detachment of men, horses, & separate stables are provided for each. As Arty instruction in the field can only be given in the summer months; & as much can be taught in Cavalry, especially when the new stall shall be completed, in the winter, much expense would be saved by

employing the same men & horses in both, & without detriment to instruction in either; provided horses of suitable kind & number were provided.-

For the Cadets can only be employed at one exercise at a time; & the guns being light, ground level & exercises short; heavy Arty. horses required in the genl. service are not necessary; & compact active horses suitable for cavalry practice, would be equally good for Arty.- The instructors of each department would therefore be equally interested & concerned in the men, horses & stables; & these would seem to be no more propriety in giving to the officers of Cavalry their exclusive control than to the Arty; while it is clear that one should alone be responsible for their care & management.

It is however very desirable in my opinion to give to the course of Cavalry tactics, which has been recently enlarged & extended; every importance & consideration; & to cause the officer charged with its instruction to feel his responsibility & obligations. Should it be found impracticable to place each on a separate & proper footing, independent of each other; much might be attained, by attaching to the dept. of Arty. an officer of Cavalry, charged with its theoretical & practical instruction, & placed on the same footing as to pay & emoluments with the 1st Ass. in other departments. There is no real objection to an officer of one branch of the service, serving under another, & by proper arrangements, instruction in Arty., Cavalry & fencing may be given under a common head.

Very respfy. Yr obedt Serv.

Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

163.

Proposed change in Regulations, referred to in letter of Dec. 19, 1854

Par: 5. An officer of the Compy. of Engineers, shall be assigned to duty at the Military Academy, as Instructor of Practical Military Engineering; an officer of Infantry, as Instructor of Infantry Tactics; an officer of Artillery, as Instructor of Artillery & an officer of Cavalry as Instructor of Cavalry; and such number of Lieutenants of the Army to perform the duties of Assistant Professors, &c. as may from time to time be deemed necessary.-

Par: 8. The following members of the Academic Staff shall constitute a Board for the transaction of business, viz: the Superintendent, the Professors of Engineering, Natural Philosophy, Mathematics, Chemistry, Ethics, Drawing & French; the Instructors of Practical Military Engineering, Infantry Tactics, Artillery, & Cavalry; of which Board the Superintendent shall be President.

Par. 77. The Medical Officers convened annually at West Point in the month of June, to examine into the physical qualifications of the candidates for admission into the Military Academy (see Paragraph 21) shall be associated with the Superintendent of the Academy, the Instructors of Practical Military Engineering, Infantry Tactics, Artillery, and Cavalry; and these Medical and Military Officers shall constitute a Board for the purpose of examining into the physical qualifications of the members of the graduating class, and no member of that class shall be commissioned in the Army, or attached as a Supernumerary thereunto, who, in the opinion of the Board, does not possess the requisite physical ability to serve his country in the arduous and laborious station of a military officer, not only at the time of such examination, but during his life until age shall disable him.-

Endorsed.

Respectfully forwd.

Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point 22d Decemb. 1854

Wm. Snyder Esq.
Albany, N.Y.

Sir.

I take pleasure in informing you that I am enabled to grant to your son Cadet G.W. Snyder, the permission to visit you at Albany, desired in your letter of the 18th Inst; & that the rule limited indulgences of the kind at the period; (only to those Cadets who could spend xmas day at home without interruption to their duties); has been extended to him on account of his good conduct.-

He will leave tomorrow after the termination of his Academic duties, & will be required to return in the evg. train from Albany that reaches here at 8 P.M. Monday 25th Inst.—

I remain respy. Yours
Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

164.

J.M. Dunn Esq.
Logansport
Ind.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 25 Dec. 1854

Sir.

It would have given me much pleasure to have been able to have granted your request of the 12th Inst. to allow your ward Cadet John Tipton a short leave of absence about this time, for the purpose of visiting Mr. Patterson in New York; but the Regns. of the Acady. allow but one leave of absence to a Cadet, & which you may be aware was enjoyed by Cadet Tipton last summer.

I have only felt authorized to relax the Regns. in favour of those Cadets who residing in the vicinity, were enabled to spend xmas day at their homes without interruption of their duties or studies; which I should have gladly extended to your ward; but I must apply the same rule to all; & cannot grant to one what I am obliged to withhold from others.- I am happy to inform you, that your ward since his return from furlough has been very attentive to his duties & exemplary in his conduct.—

I remain Sir
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Honble. Russell Sage
House of Reps.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 25 Dec. 1854

Sir.

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 25th Inst. in reference to the demerit of your nephew Cadet R.H. Sage, which I regret to say, from the 15th July (when they began to count against him) to the 15 Dec; amount to 167. You may be aware that these marks of demerit represent the offenses of which a Cadet may be guilty, against the discipline & regns. of the Acady. That they are considered at the time of their commission, with such explanation & excuse as may be offered by the Cadet, by the Commdt. of Cadets, who erases such as he may think undeserved.- After having been acted on by him, they are forwarded to me, accompanied by the written excuses for final examination; & in my capacity as Supt. I remove all that I can find just cause for so doing. Although the marks of demerit of your nephew have gone through this examination, it is possible some may be found on the final statement prepared for the Academic Board at the examination now close at hand; that can with propriety be removed, but I see no possibility of the amount being reduced below 100, which would be necessary to relieve him from the penalty of the Regns., to which you refer. If the amount of his demerit should exceed 100, the Academic Board have no discretion, but are obliged to declare him deficient in conduct.

I also regret to inform you that he has made so little progress in his studies, that in the opinion of his Prof: there is no probability of his being able to pass his examination in Math, & that he is therefore in equal danger of being declared deficient in that branch.- I would advise therefore that if upon correspondence with your nephew you should be satisfied as to the probabilities of his failure that he be allowed to resign before the examination, as it would no doubt save him mortification & be more agreeable to his friends.

165.

I will give me pleasure to do anything in my power for the benefit of your nephew, & I very much regret being obliged to give you so unfortunate a report of his prospects.

Every consideration admissible with the discipline of the Acady. & justice to others, has been extended to him; & will be continued as long as he remains.

I am very resp. your obedt Servt
Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Col. John G. Abert
U.S. Topcal. Engineers

U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point 25 Dec. 1854

Washington City D.C.

Col:

I am very sorry to inform you that your nephew Cadet Jn. A. Abert has made so little progress in his studies, that in the opinion of his Profr. there is little probability of his passing his examination in Math, at the appg. Examination. His position has been considered doubtful from the beginning, but I had hoped that on the final review of the subject, he would show sufficient improvement as to warrant the belief of his proficiency. But the report of his Prof. at the end of last week (23d) gives me little hope of his success.- I have therefore determined to inform you of his prospects, that you may endeavour to stimulate him to greater exertion; or should you find it necessary or advisable; authorize his resignation. Although he has not been very attentive to his duties, still he has committed no serious breach of discipline, & even should be declared deficient by the Academic Board, his conduct will not prevent his being allowed the privilege of resigning, should he prefer that to being discharged. I have thought however it might be more agreeable to him & to you to resign beforehand, rather than run the risk of failure; & have therefore taken the liberty to advise you of his situation. I have endeavoured through his instructors to urge him to exertion & had hope he would have passed a satisfactory examination.

I remain Colonel very truly yours

Signed R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Capt. Thomas Shirly
Comp. A. Nat'l Guard Wash. Rgt. No. 1
Chicago Ill.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point 25 Dec. 1854

Captain

In reply to your inquiry of the 16th Inst; I have the honour to inform you that the new Light Inftry. Tactics has not yet been published.- It is undergoing revision by a board of Officers at Washington City, & will probably be published during the winter. You will be able to learn what arrangements may be made for General. distribution; when established as part of the exercise of the Army; by application to the Adj. Genl. of the Army at Washington City.

I am very respfy. your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

166.

G. Clinton Williams Esq.
Brig. de Major & Insp. 1st Bn. C.M.
West Woodstock, Con:

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 26 Dec. 1854

Dear Sir.

I have recd. your letter of the 21st Inst. in reference to text books, for instruction in Sword Exercise for Arty. & Cavalry.- There is no Sword exercise especially prescribed for the Arty., & the propriety of arming Arty. with Swords is much questioned among Arty. officers. The form of salutes &c. may be found in Army Regns. of 1847, pars: 411, 518, & 526; & in Scott's Infy. Tactics (Edition '46) vol. 1 p. 188. The sabre exercise for cavalry (same as for arty) is laid down in the Cavalry Tactics for the U.S. Service of 1846 vol:1 p. 11 & from page 132 to 143. The General. use of the Sword may be learned from Wayne's Sword Exercise, published by authority of War Dept. 1850.

I hope from some or all of these sources, the citizen soldiery of your state may learn to handle their swords equal to their Revolutionary forefathers, & if called upon by their country be equally ready & prepared for her defence & protection.

I remain Sir with much respect

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point Dec. 27 1854

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

Sir. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter bearing date of December 20th and enclosing a copy of a communication from Mr. Valtemare, Agent for International exchanges at Paris, to the Secretary of War.

After due examination of the contents, I am able to report as follows.-

The books mentioned in this communication which are numbered from 1 to 7 inclusive, are not in the Library, they are.

1st. Comte rendu sur le Recruitment de l'armee from 1810.

2nd. Comte sur le credit affecte aux pensions militaires from 1852

3rd. Budgets de defenses de la guerre from 1855

4th. Compte Generale de la guerre pour 1851. mai 1853

5th. Compte Generale de l'administration de la justice militaire, pour 1849-50-51..

6th. Notice Necrologique sur M. Froment Coste, Mme. A Dequinze Ghazabund, Paris 1850

7th. Experimens de Babaume, ave 26 flauches, Paris, 1852

The first four of the above works, M. Valtemare says are in continuation of the valuable series presented by him in 1850. They were not presented to our Library, but doubtless were retained in Washington.

No. 8- Apercus sur quelques details de la guerre par le Marichal Bugeaud, Paris, 1846

9th. Nouvelle relation de la bataille de Friedland 16 June 1807- compose d'apres les pieces du defrot de la guerre, les communications des generaux Francais &c., par de Rode, 1849, avec carte.

10th. Histoire de la campagne de 1800, par le duc de Valmy, fils de General. Kellerman, Paris, 1824.

- 11th. Journal militaire from 1853.
12th. Histoire de l'Infanterie Francaise no. 7 & 8 with atlas.

167.

Instead of No. 11, Journal Militaire, we have the well known Serial "Journal Services Militaires".- This is complete up to the present date, and subscribed for in advance.—

The "Annales des ponts et chausees" we have from the commencement, to August, 1849, and need the continuation.

We have not in the Library the "Cours Lithographique d l'Ecole des ponts et chausees"- nor the Annales du depot de la guerre."

All the works mentioned which are not now in the library would be valuable additions to it.

We also desire the continuations of the following works.-

- 1st. Comtes Rendres des Seances de l'academe des Science (this we have from the commencement to No. 2 of Vol. 29- 1849)
2nd. Table Generale des comtes Rendres, &c- (This is a General. index to the above work)
3rd. Annales des Mines, 4th Series (This we have from the beginning up to 2nd Livraison, tome 19, 1851)
4th. Tableaux de la situation des Etablissemens Francais dans Calgerie (This we have up to 1844-1845)
5th. Resume des Travaux statistiques de l'administration des mines. (This we have up to the year 1845)

Of the great maps of France, we have received as follows;

Of the maps; Nos. 1 to 38 (incl.) 40 to 54 (incl.) 59 to 72 (incl.) 76 to 89 (incl.) 167 to 172 (incl.) 178-180, 191, 202, 203, 214

Of the Livraisons, or accompanying letter press No. 1 to 16, inc.

Of the titular tables of maps & livraisons- No. 1 to 6 (incl.)

There are, I regret to say, no disposable works with which to return the acknowledgements of the Military Academy to M. Valtemare, our only available duplicates being old and discontinued text books.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your obedient Servant

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl. T.S. Jesup
Washington D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point N.Y. Dec 27, 1854

General.

Your letter of the 23rd Inst. enclosing draft for Twenty dollars, came safely to hand and you will perceive by the receipt of the Treas. of the Acady. herewith that the same has been placed on his books to the credit of your son, Cadet Jesup.

The box of necessities mentioned in your letter, arrived yesterday, and has been delivered to him.

I remain, General.

Yours very respectfully & truly
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

168.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 29, 1854

General.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Dept. letter of the 19th Inst. covering lists of books wanted for the files of the Dept.- I will forward by Express on the 30th as follows: viz- of those on list A.

Davies Segendres Geometry & Trigonometry
Sargeants Elocution
Davies Spherical Projections and Warped Surfaces
Davies Surveying
Church's Calculus
Davis' Electricity and Magnetism
Bartlett's Acoustics & Optics
Rowans' Morceaux choisies des Auteurs Modernes
Mahans Stone Cutting

[Note- above items set next to a bracket, labeled "Sent"]

Hales History of the United States- not yet received for the Academy

Webers Outline of Universal History do do do do

Mahan's Intellectual Philosophy do do do do

Mahan's Civil Engineering.- A copy of this work was furnished for the

Department on requisition dated June 4, 1849

[Note- above items set next to a bracket, labeled "Not Sent"]

Of those on List B, being later editions than on the Dept. file and much changed.

Davies Bourdon
Church's Analytical Geometry
Bartletts Philosophy- Mechanics
Gummere's Astronomy
Bullions Grammar
Blairs Rhetoric
Whatelys Logic
Thurings Artillery

[Note- above items set next to a bracket, labeled "Sent"]

The remainder of the books on List B are either reprints of the Edns. Or nearly the same as those mentioned as being on file.

I also forward in the same Box-

Records of the Royal Military Academy 1741 to 1840 1 Vol. folio
& Course of Mathematics, Royal Mil. Acady. Vol 1st- duplicates of which we have in the Library.

Enclosed are copies of the catalogues of the Library of the Acady. one for Col. DeRussy- the other for A. Valtemare Esq.- which I send you in hopes that they may be forwarded free.-

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

169.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Dec. 30, 1854

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names respectively, from their friends, viz:

Cadet Anderson A.S.	Underclothing, Gloves, Stationery & Unif. Collars
---------------------	---

“ Arnold	Stationery
----------	------------

“ Sage	Underclothing
--------	---------------

All of which is recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be

Very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Jany. 2, 1855

General.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Dept. letter of the 30th ulto:- covering draft of the Hon. Chas. Ruiz for Thirty dollars, and have caused the same to be placed to the credit of Cadet White of Tennessee, as requested.-

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Jany. 5, 1855

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

General.

I have the honour to transmit herewith my statement of Funds expended during the month of December 1854.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 8 Jany. 1855

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

Genl.

In answer to your enquiry of the 5th relative to one of the Cadets for whom class pledges were signed some months; & who is said likely to have over 100 demerits if the report he received at the time is not removed; I have the honour to state that the pledges in question were submitted to the Dept: the case having gone out of my hands, & have not been returned.- I am therefore unable to refer to their phraseology; but my acceptance of them at the time was that all further action in the matter should be arrested, & the prosecution or trial of the Cadets for the violation of the Regns. should cease. There was no ground for expectation at the time that the

170.

Cadets by their subsequent misconduct would subject themselves to the penalty attached to incurring over 100 demerit, nor was there any necessity for their doing so. I therefore did not understand that the pledges had a retrospective as well as prospective immunity. I am not aware that reports recd. by Cadets under similar circumstances have been removed, where the act upon which they were based was positive & certain.- Where a Cadet has been tried for an offense & declared not guilty, I have invariably removed the report.

None of the three Cadets for whose immunity their classes pledged themselves have over 100 demerit for the six months ending 15 Dec. 1854 & are therefore in no danger of being discharged on that account. One did however incur this risk, by his acts subsequent to having

been relieved by his class & this immunity was claimed by some members of his class on the grounds referred to.- For the reasons given I was unable to adopt this view of the case, but there was another report against him for which I considered him more excusable & which being removed, relieved him.

The paper referred to me is returned.

I am very respectfully Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 9 Jany. 1855

General.

I have the honour to transmit the report of the Progress, aptitude &c. of the Cadets of the Fourth & Fifth classes, who at the present semi-annual examinations have been declared deficient in their studies by the Academic Board, & recommended to the Secy. of War for discharge.- The regn. of the Dept. of 2 July 1852, requires these Cadets to be retained at the Acady., until the report of the Board shall have been approved by the Secy. of War. I have therefore thought it advisable to forward the report in their case, in anticipation of the General. report of the Examination; that I may receive the action of the Secy. as soon as possible.- The 4th & 5th Classes having completed their Examinations, resume their studies tomorrow. These young gentlemen have been assigned to sections, & Instructors provided, but I fear they will not apply themselves to their duties, or be of any benefit to the rest of the Corps. I will be as much a relief to them as to the Acady. to have their cases decided at once.

I remain with great respect
Your Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

171.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Jany. 9, 1855

General.

Should the following named Cadets found deficient at the present semi-annual examination be discharged the service; I have the honour to request that the distance of their places of residence from West Point be furnished me- as the book form which the distances were formerly taken is very incorrect & several accounts have been suspended by the 3rd Auditor for overpayment of distance.

Cadet	John A. Abert	Columbus_	Lowndes Co.	Mississippi
"	Rollen S. Curtis	Smithville	Dekalb Co.	Tennessee
"	George M. Cushing	Providence	Providence Co.	R.I.
"	Newton S. Turney	Fond du lac	Fond du lac Co.	Wisconsin
"	Wells Kellogg	Ashland	Ashland Co.	Ohio
"	Wm. P. Macmanus	Bellefonte	Centre (sic) co.	Pennsa.
"	Charles H. Moss	Lockport	Niagara co.	New York
"	Wm. S. Anderson	Bethany	Panola co.	Texas
"	Gustavus Campbell	Luray	Page co.	Va.
"	James C. Harvey	New Hope	Lincoln Co.	Wisconsin
"	Edw. T. Jennings	Oregon City		Oregon
"	Henry P. Jones	Wilmington	Clinton Co.	Ohio
"	John G. McConnell	Manchester	Allegheny Co.	Pensa.
"	Hezekiah C. Rice	Unionville P.O.	Union Dist.	S.C.
"	Edward Ross	Fort Hamilton	Kings Co.	N.Y.
"	Joshua D.B. Tate	Yellville	Marion Co.	Arkansas
"	J.A.M. Washington	Charleston	Charleston Co.	S.C.
"	James Wilson	New Orleans	Orleans Co.	Ga.
"	Joseph Wright	Wilkes Barre	Luzerne Co.	Pensa.
"	James A. Zabriskie	Flatbush	Kings Co.	N.Y.

I have the honour to be

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Col. J.J. Abert
Chief Topal. Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 10 Jany. 1855

Col: I read with much pleasure the letter of your nephew enclosed to me on the 3rd & admire the spirit & resolution it evinced. The day that I wrote to you, I had a conversation with him on the same subject- He then showed such a desire & determination to succeed, that as he had a full week to prepare himself, I really thought he would; & began to regret having unnecessarily alarmed you- I am now very sorry to inform you, that my hopes & expectations were displaced & that he did not pass a satisfactory Examination & has been declared deficient in his course by the Acad. Board & recommended to the Secy. of War for discharge- Whatever may be the decision of the Secy. I hope you will not allow him to be discouraged, in prosecuting any other calling in life: but that his failure in this instance may impress him with the necessity of more earnest

172.

application in whatever he may undertake- with sincere regrets for the result of his examination

I remain very respfy.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 11 Jany. 1855

Abijah H. Moss
Lockport N.Y.

Dear Sir.

I am very sorry to inform you, that your son Cadet Chas. H. Moss has failed to pass a satisfactory examination & been declared deficient in his course by the Academic Board, & recommended to the Secretary of War for discharge. I sincerely sympathize with you in the event, but hope you will not allow your son to be discouraged at this failure, or attribute to him unmerited censure.- His General. deportment has been good & he has been attentive to his duties, & I have no doubt in consequence will be allowed by the Secretary of War to resign his appointment.

I must apologize for not writing to you previously to his examn. as you deserved; as from the reports of his professor, I considered his prospects sufficiently doubtful not to authorize me to recommend his resignation, & to lead me to hope that his examination might prove satisfactory & establish his proficiency. I am very sorry that my hopes were not realized & that the result has proved unfavourable to him. I still believe he will be allowed to resign & in that respect he will not be worse off than before.

I remain with much respect
Your Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Jany. 9, 1855

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

General.

I regret to report that on the 1st Inst. a disturbance occurred in the Cadet Mess Hall at dinner, with was disreputable to the Corps & Academy.- It commenced by Cadet Gay of the 1st Class, offering violence to Cadet Captain Bryan while in the execution of his office, as Commandant of the Mess Hall; & for a time could not be suppressed by the efforts of the Cadet Officers.- Cadet Captain Bryan in the hope of allaying the excitement, & from a mistaken view of his duty, was induced to leave the Hall, & relinquished the command of the Battalion, to the second in command. For this he has been deprived of his appointment. Cadet Gay was subsequently placed in arrest by the Officer of the Day & after a time order was restored. This is the second time that Cadet Gay has been charged with a violation of the 9 Art. Of the Rules & Articles of War. On the first occasion, 9 Dec. 1852, he was suspended by sentence of a

Genl. Court Martial (See S. Order No. 26, 11 Feby. 1853) & restored to the 2nd Class 1st July 1853. He does not seem to have profited by the leniency then shown him, but his repeated the offense; yet as far as I am able to judge, not in the same or a more aggravated form, & I therefore do not feel justified in exercising the authority granted in the 137 par: Academic Regns, but think it best, if it meets with your approbation

173

to ask for a Gel. Court Martial for his trial; where at the same time, others who have offended less gravely may receive that punishment due to their offenses.

I enclose a report from the Commdt. of Cadets of this date, who has been engaged since the occurrence in investigating the facts of the case; but in consequence of his attendance upon the Examination now in progress, has not been able earlier to present them. I think it unnecessary to forward the statements referred to from the Cadet Officers.

I have the honour to be with great respect

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. January 10, 1855

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names respectively, from their friends, viz:

Cadet Carlin	Comforter, under clothing &c.
“ DuBois	Stationery
“ Koerner	Gloves- Pockt. Handkerchief & comforter
“ Stoughton	Under clothing- Gloves, Staty. &c.

All of which is recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be

Very respfy. Yr Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Honble. H.B. Wright
Wilkes Barre
Luzerne Co. Pensa.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 11 Jany. 1855

My dear Sir. I am sorry to inform you that your son Cadet J. Wright did not pass a satisfactory examination & has been pronounced by the Academic Board to be deficient in his Course & recommended in compliance with the Regns. to the Secy. of War for discharge. I had hoped till the last moment for a different result, or should have written to you sooner, that you might if you thought proper have withdrawn him from the Acady.- He will however now be allowed to resign, & in that respect will be no worse off than before. I sincerely sympathize with you, and wish it had been different.- I hope however you will not let your son be discouraged at his failure.- If he has made an honest effort to succeed, as I have no doubt he has, he is entitled to as much credit as though he had. He is young & his mind undeveloped, & if his present failure will teach him the necessity of severer application to his future pursuits, neither he nor his friends will hereafter have cause to regret it, with sincere wishes for his success.

I remain Sir with much consideration

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

174.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Jany. 12, 1855

General.

I have the honour to transmit, herewith my accounts for the 4th Qtr. 1854, as follows, viz:
General. Account Current in duplicate
Abstract of disbursements do
Vouchers No. 1 to 81 inc.- (Vouchers 5 & 49 are accompanied by certified Copies of Assignment.)

I am very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

N.F.D. Browne Esq.
[Princ^l] Charlotte Hall
Md.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 15 Jany. 1855

Sir

In answer to your note of the 10th Inst. I have the honour to state that Mr. J.W. Collins did enter the Mil. Acady. in 1823, but as he states did not graduate.

I am sir with much respect

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Gen. Anthony Lamb
New York City

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 15 Jany. 1855

Genl:

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of the Copy of the memoir of your father Genl. John Lamb of the Revolution, presented by you to the Mily. Academy, which shall be placed in the Library at the Post. He commanded at the most eventful period of the History of the Country.

I am Sir with much respect
Your Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Thomas McConnell Esq.
Pillsbury Pensa.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 15 Jany. 1855

My dear Sir

I recd today your letter of the 11th Inst. in reference to a communication from your son Cadet J.G. McConnell. I am happy to inform you that he is in no danger of being obliged to leave the Acady on account of his demerit. The amount recorded against him for the six months ending 15 Dec. being 62 & therefore not subjecting him to the penalty prescribed by the Regns., which would require him to have over 100.

Your statement of his amount to the end of Nov (58) is correct- From that time to the 15th Dec. he acqd. 4. I presume the error you allude to in the report from

175.

Washington, was made in transcribing in that office.

I wish I could give you a satisfactory report of his standing in his academic studies- I am sorry to inform you that he was mistaken as to his examination & that it was not satisfactory to the Academic Board either in Mathematics or English Studies, & they pronounced him not proficient in his course- Whatever may be the decision of the War Dept. in his case, I hope it will impress him with the necessity of more earnest efforts in the accomplishment of his purposes & that he may be rewarded by success. If it should, neither he nor his friends will hereafter have cause to regret his present failure.

I am Sir with much respect your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 16 January 1855

General.

In my letter of the 9th Inst. forwarding the names of certain Cadets found deficient & recommended to the Secy. of War for discharge- the place of residence of Cadet Zabriskie, was put down as "Flatbush, Kings Co. N.Y."- This was taken from the descriptive list in Cadet Z's own writing- he was however appointed from California & gave his father's place of residence as "Sacramento City, Cal."

Par: 169 Acad. Regulations, contains the following words "The place from which a Cadet is appointed, is to be considered as his place of residence, and shall not be altered unless directions to that effect be given by the War Department."

The object of this letter is that should Cadet Zabriskie, be discharged- his place of residence , and the distance from West Point be furnished me.

I have the honour to be

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 17 Jan'y 1855

Genl.

In executing the directions contained in your letter of the 15th Inst. in reference to the Cadets of the 4th & 5th Classes, not proficient in their course at the present semi-annual Examination; I did not offer to Cadets M.S. Anderson & J.D.V. Tate the privilege of resigning, which it may have been your intention to have extended them. The former you will perceive by the report submitted by the Academic Board, had recorded against him to the 15 Dec. 302 demerit; & the latter 207. The custom has been, not to extend this privilege to those who have recd. over the amount of demerit, that under the Regns. would require their discharge; formerly this limit was 200 in 12 months; it is now 100 in six. If some inducement to good behaviour is not held out to those, whose success at the examination may be doubtful, or failure certain; I fear it may have the effect of making them entirely reckless & indifferent to order & discipline. If however it is the intention

176.

to extend this privilege in future to all, it is not too late to do so. I will therefore wait your instructions on the subject. The resignation of the others are herewith forwd. for acceptance.

I remain very resp. your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Mrs. Cornelia Beekman
112 West 20th Street
New York

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 17 Jany. 1855

I have recd your letter of yesterday's date requesting that your son Cadet S.D. Beekman may be furnished with an overcoat. It will give me great pleasure to comply with your request & he would have previously been provided with one, had he had means to pay for it. If you will therefore remit to Lt. R.S. Smith, Treasurer Mil. Acady., or enclose to me \$13.00, the cost of the overcoat, there will no longer be any difficulty in the way; & I will apply to the Honble Secy. of War for permission to place it to his credit.

The pay of the Cadets is small & it requires strict economy on their part, that their wants may be supplied. It is necessary too that they should learn to practice economy here, or they will not be able to live on their pay thereafter.

The indebtedness of your son has prevented his rec'g an overcoat before.

I am with much respect Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Honble. Hendrick B. Wright
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 17 Jany. 1855

My dear Sir.

I recd. today your letter of the 14th Inst. & sympathize very sincerely in your regrets & disappointments concerning your son. As stated in my previous letter I had hoped for a different result to the last moment. I know he was in a difficult position like many others in his class, but as he stood in most danger in his English course, from which I hoped from day to day, that hard study would relieve him, & did not feel justified in recommending him to resign, or advising that course to you. Especially as he would have that opportunity should he feel to pass his Examination.

He has now resigned, of which he has rec'd a certificate, & will leave here tomorrow for his home, which he says he can reach easily & safely. His accounts have been closed & the

balances due him \$52.38 have been paid him- He has also rec'd your letter enclosing him
money, so that he has more than enough to defray his expenses home- Wishing him a safe
journey & every happiness in life

I remain Sir with much esteem

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

177.

Jas. MacManus Esq.
[next line illegible]
Bellefonte, Pa.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 18 Jany. 1855

Dr. Sir.

I have recd your letter of the 15th Inst. & regret to state that the information you recd.
respecting the failure of your son to pass his examination before the Academic Board is correct.
I sincerely sympathize with you at this result & had hoped to the last moment that he would have
succeeded. I am glad to say that your confidence in his moral character has been sustained by
his deportment while at the Acady.; & that in consequence of his conduct he has been allowed to
resign, a certificate of which will be furnished him, stating the progress he made in his studies.

He left the Point this morning before it could be processed, & it will therefore be forwd.
by mail to your address.- His accounts have been closed & the balance due him with the
usual traveling allowance, amounting to \$34.54 has been given him.

Hoping that he will reach you safely, & that his recent disappointment may serve to
stimulate him to greater exertion in whatever he may undertake & that his efforts may be
crowned with success.

I remain with much esteem & consideration

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. 18 Jany. 1855

General.

I have the honour to present the merit rolls of the Cadets of the Mil: Acady. determined at
the semi annual examination, which terminated yesterday.

I also submit for your consideration, the report of the Academic Board, of the Progress,
aptitude &c., of those Cadets of the 2nd & 3rd classes, pronounced not proficient in their courses

& recommended for discharge, required by par: 63 Acad. Regns., & the report on those separated from the Acady. since the preceding Examination, required by par. 64.

The Cadets not proficient in their course & not recommended for discharge, it is believed by the Board will be able to proceed with their studies, & may by June if the opportunity is allowed them, retrieve their position.- I would respectfully recommend that those who may be discharged & who have not recd. over 100 demerit, be allowed the privilege of resigning.

The Cadets declared deficient in conduct & recommended for discharge agreeably to the 72 par: of the Regns., have recorded against them, for the six months ending 15th Dec. 1854, the amount of demerit placed opposite their names respectively. Both the number of names & amount of demerit, on first making up the delinquent Roll were greater; but on a careful review, some who had not much exceeded 100 demerit, were relieved entirely; while that of the others was reduced to the amount now standing against them. Many of these young gentlemen possess qualities which if well directed would make them good soldiers & accomplished officers; & I am happy to say that many of their delinquencies are of a class not affecting their character; but are still violations of good order & military discipline, which it is the object of the Acady.

178.

to correct. I know of no way of accomplishing the purpose of the Institution, or of having the prescribed duties properly performed, but by subjecting them to the penalty provided in the Regns. I fear there has been much idleness in the Corps the past term, & as many violations of regns. have not previously come to my knowledge.

I am very respfy. Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Rev. Francis Winton D.D.
Brooklyn N.Y.

U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point 19 Jany. 1855

My dear Sir

It gives me great pain to inform you, that your nephew Cadet Francis S. Winston has been declared deficient in conduct by the Acad. Board, at the Examination just closed, having recd for the six months ending 15th Dec. '54 over 100 demerit (129); & in compliance with the Regns. of the Acady, recommended to the Secy. of War for discharge.

I assure you I regret extremely his position, & in the hope of relieving him, made a careful review of his record of delinquencies, but the little reduction I could find ground to make in the amount of his demerit, without doing injustice to others, was of no avail. Possessing fine capacity & much talent; he has other qualities, due perhaps to his birth & name; essential to the character of a good soldier; & I feel therefore more than personal regret at his having subjected himself to the severe penalty now hanging over him; & the more as I reflect how easy it would have been for him to have avoided it.

Whatever may be the decision of the Secy. of War in his case; I trust that he will not be discouraged at his present disappointment; but on the contrary be impressed with the necessity of

strict attention to his duties through life.- Should that be the case, neither he or his friends will hereafter have cause to regret it.

Hoping you will pardon the liberty I have taken, of imparting to you intelligence which I know will occasion you sadness, & in which I sincerely sympathize.

I remain with great respect & esteem

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Jany. 19, 1855

General. The following named Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names respectively, from their friends, viz:

Cadet Beekman	\$15. to reduce his indebtedness at the Academy
“ Colborn	Underclothing & overshoes
“ Kurmiel	do & gloves
“ Lazell	dressing gown
“ Marmaduke	Underclothing & gloves

All of which is recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honor to be & c

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

179.

U.S. Military Acady.
West Point 20 Jany. 1855

Honble. Wm. Wilkins
Homewood, near
Pittsburgh, Penna.

My dear Sir.

I have had the honour to receive both of your letters of the 17th Inst. The second was not necessary to inform me of the writer of the first. The evidence of character assured me of the author; though I had not the pleasure of seeing Mr. Magee when he left it at my quarters. I beg you will feel no hesitation in addressing me on any subject in which I can serve you. Your wishes will have all the force with me as had formerly your orders; & I shall be too happy if I can comply with the former; as promptly as it was my duty to have performed the latter.

In the present case I regret to say I can do nothing. The question is settled; & were it not, it is one in which my agency could have no effect. Your young friend J.G. McConnell, as I informed his father on the 15th inst: was in no danger on account of his demerit, but had failed in

his studies, Math__ & English. He made little progress in them from the beginning, whether he was too young, & his mind not sufficiently developed to master them; or that he was unaccustomed to applying his facilities; or found them unpalatable, I cannot say. His conduct was not objectionable at any time, & I very much regret that he did not better succeeding his academical course. This was a branch in which on one could aid him but himself. The Regns. require a certain proficiency, which in the opinion of the Academic Board he did not attain, & which as required by the Regns. was reported to the War Dept:- In consequence of his proper deportment at the Acady., he was allowed to resign. Now left the Point, & I hope is safe at home. I can appreciate the disappointment of his father & friends, & sincerely sympathize in it. He must not however attach any discredit to his son, he has incurred none; & if he has made an honest effort to succeed he is entitled to as much credit as though he had. I endeavoured to explain the matter to M. Magee, as well as his time would allow; for finding his young friend had left the Point, he determined not to remain.

I remain Sir, with much respect & esteem

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Gel. Jas. M. Webb
New York City

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point N.Y. Jany 27, 1855

Dear Sir.

Agreeably to your request contained in note of the 8th Inst:- Your son, Cadet A.S. Webb has had his teeth attended to by the Dentist, & herewith you will find the bill for the same.-

If you remit the amount to Lt. R.S. Smith, Treas. of the Academy or enclose it to me_ I will cause it to be paid.—

I remain very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

180.

180

Jno. M. Sherburne Esq.
Portsmouth N.H.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 23 Jany. 1855

My dear Sir

I recd by the last mail your letter of the 16th Inst. stating that you had been informed that your son Jno. P. Sherburne who resigned his Cadet appt. in Jany. 1853; could assume his

position in the army a if he had graduated, provided he could receive a statement from me that he was qualified.

At the time of his resignation he recd. from me a certificate , setting forth the studies in which he had been proficient, his military instruction &c., in a more complete form than I could give it in any other way; & embracing everything I can say in any official capacity.- I hope this may serve his purpose; though I do not understand how he can now enter the army, except by appointment in any new Regt. that may be authorized by Congress: I am very glad to hear of his welfare & success & feel confident he will make himself useful & esteemed wherever he is.

I remain Sir, with great respect
Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief of Engineers
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Military Academy
West Point N.Y. Jany. 24, 1855

Genl: Should the following named Cadets be discharged the service- the distances to their respective places of residence will be required in order to pay their transportation, viz:

Cadet	Francis S. Newton	Brooklyn	Kings Co.	N.Y.
"	Marcus A. Reno	Carrolton	Greene Co.	Illinois
"	Jacob Sharp	Kingston	Ulster Co.	New York
"	Hamilton S. Hawkins	Baltimore	Baltimore Co.	Md.
"	Edward M. Crumpton	Independence	Warren Co.	Ind.
"	Wm. A. McGrath	New York	New York Co.	N.Y.
"	Frank Graves	Niles	Berrian Co.	Mich.
"	Jno. M. McCaffery	Lancaster	Fairfield Co.	Ohio
"	Wernier Bedford	Philadelphia	Philadelphia Co.	Pensa.
"	Rodman P. Lewis	San Francisco		Cal.
"	George N. Barcom	Owingsville	Bath Co.	Ky.
"	Selden S. Hetzel	Washington City		D.C.
"	Solomon Williams	Hilliardstown	Nash Co.	N.C.
"	Luke G. Harmon	Ellicottville	Cattaraugus Co.	N.Y.
"	John M. Kerr	Yanceyville	Caswell Co.	N.C.
"	John C. Sander	St. Joseph	Buchanan Co.	Mo.

In forwarding the above list, I beg leave to call the attention of the Dept. to the case of Cadet R.P. Lewis, appointed from California whose residence was set down as Weehawken, Hudson Co., N.J., that of his Guardian- Hon. Rodman W. Price, as Hoboken N.J. while his father's residence is San Francisco Cal. Under my understanding of the Regulation- he is entitled to transportation to San Francisco if discharged.

I have the honour to be very resp. yr Obt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

181.

West Point 31 Jany. 1855

Mrs. Margaret Hetzel
Washington City

My dear Mrs. Hetzel

I am disturbed to find that in addition to the pain & anxiety you must naturally feel at the situation of your son; you entertain the fear that his conduct has been disreputable. I beg you will dismiss such apprehensions from your mind. He has been careless, inattentive & inconsiderate; regardless of the regns. of the Acady.; but his offenses have been against good order & military discipline & not affecting his moral character. I trust his present lesson may teach him to correct his thoughtlessness, & that neither you nor he may ever suffer from it again. As regards the list of his delinquencies which you desire; I have sent a copy to Genl. Totten with that of others in his position; which you can no doubt inspect if you wish it. You will find them of the character I describe, & I think it unnecessary to multiply copies, of what had better be forgotten than remembered.

I hope you will not allow yourself to be too much disturbed on his account. He is young, of fine capacity, & can succeed in whatever he applies himself to. There are many other professions that will bring him a richer reward, & advance him higher, than the military. You must therefore take comfort, & encourage him to apply himself diligently to whatever he may undertake; provided the decision in his present case may be unfavourable to him.

Wishing him every success & happiness & believing you will have in him much comfort.

I remain very truly & sincerely yours

Signed R.E. Lee

U.S. Mil. Acady.

West Point 31 Jany. 1855

His Excely.

Rodman M. Price

Gov. of New Jersey

Trenton

Sir.

It is with much regret I inform you that your nephew Rodman P. Lewis, was declare by the Acad. Board at the late Semi-annual Examination, not proficient in his course. In approving the recommendation of the Board in compliance with the regns. of the Acady., the Secy. of War has allowed him the privilege of resigning. He has accordingly resigned his appt. of Cadet, & been furnished with the usual allowance of transportation to his father's residence, San Francisco, California, where he informed me he purposes going & intends leaving here today. The balance due on settlement of his accounts, amounting to \$604.75, has been paid him. I recommended to him to see you before joining his father, that you might advise him as to his

future course. But I thought I perceived a reluctance in him to do so, which has made me more anxious that you should know his situation.

I hope you will therefore pardon me for conveying to you unpleasant tidings, & attribute it to my desire for the welfare of your nephew.

I remain Sir with much respect

Your Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

182.

Hon. Chas. W. Whipple
Niles, Michigan

US. Mil. Acady.

West Point 31 Jan'y 1855

My dear Judge.

The day after the reception of your letter of the 5th Inst: I sent for Cadet Graves to ascertain if he had recd your letter to him, and what was his determination as to resigning. He informed me that he had rec'd your letter, but had not made up his mind to resign, but would consider the matter. I heard nothing more from him, & in the regular order of the Examination he came before the Academic Board. I am sorry to inform you that he was pronounced by the Board not proficient in his course of Mathematics, of which I entertained fears when I previously wrote to you; and deficient in Conduct. According to the Regns. on the subject; the Secy of War in approving the action of the Board, has directed his discharge. His accounts have been closed, & he has been allowed the usual allowance of transportation to his home & the whole sum paid him amounts to \$127.99- he leaves here to day.

I am very sorry that he was not disposed, as it has resulted; to resign previous to the examination, as I am sure it would have been more agreeable to his friends, thereafter to himself. I hope however he will set manfully to work to complete his education, & that his present disappointment may by stimulating him to exertion, insure his future success.

Please present my kindest sympathy to his estimable father, & while I sincerely joint in the regrets he naturally feels on this occasion: I beg he will not distress himself unnecessarily, or allow his son to be discouraged.

I am with much esteem my dear Judge

Truly your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.

West Point 1 Feby. 1855

General.

In answer to your letter of the 30th Ulto. I have to state that Cadet R.P. Lewis, informed me that his father was a resident of California before & at the time of his appointment to the Mil. Acady. & that he is now residing in San Francisco with his family. His uncle; His Excely. R.M. Price of N. Jersey; was appointed his guardian when he came to the Acady., for the sake of convenience, & in consequence of the great distance of his father. Under these circumstances, & having been appointed from California; which according to par: 169 Acad. Regns is to be considered his place of residence; & nothing having been said in your letter of 26th Ulto: giving me the distances of the homes of certain Cadets applied for in my letter of the 24th I presumed you considered the question settled by the decision in Mr. Zabriskie's case after detaining him till yesterday; to enable him to commence his journey to his father, which he informed me he was ready & anxious to do: I paid him his traveling allowance to San Francisco, & he had left the Point before the reception of your letter. I considered him under the Regns. entitled to this allowance & did not feel justified in withholding it.

I have the honour to be
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

183.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point Feby. 3 1855

General.

I have the honour to transmit herewith my statement of Funds expended during the month of January.-

Cadets Carlton, Cressy & Lazear request permission to receive some articles of underclothing & c. from their friends- which requests are recommended for favourable consideration.

I am very respectfully- Yr. Obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 3rd Feby 1855

Prof. Joseph Schwess
Mechanics Institute
No. 1 Bowery
New York

Sir.

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 2nd Inst. on the study of languages.

The difficulties of acquiring a correct knowledge of a foreign language, so familiar to you; must accord with the experience of all who have attempted it; & the advantages of such a lexicon as you have in view, must be apparent to those who have studied the subject.

As regards your proposition to deliver a lecture to the Officers & Cadets of the Mil. Acady. on the natural relation of the Latin, French & English languages- I have to state that there is no fund at my disposal out of which you could be remunerated for your time & trouble. The funds appropriated by Congress for the support of the Acady. cannot be diverted from the objects contemplated by the Law, which only provides for the instruction by the Professors appointed for the purpose. The time of the Cadets too during the academic term is entirely absorbed in their regular instruction & Saturday evening, devoted to rest & recreation, is the only time in the week unoccupied. Any arrangement you may make to lecture to the Professors & Officers of the Acady., which is entirely optional with them, will be agreeable to me.

I am very respfy., Yr. Obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

184.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point Feby. 3 1855

General.

The obstruction to the mails by a heavy snow storm, has delayed my reception of your letter of the 6th Inst. enclosing communications from Mr. J. Sharp & Mr. A.S. McGrath to the Hon. Secy. of War: & calling for a report on the points raised by them, in favor of their restoration to the Acady., to introduce other cases of a similar [word "character" lined through] nature, growing out of the recent semi-annual Exams. All these young gentlemen, whether recommended for discharge or not, were deemed by the Acad. Board clearly deficient in their respective courses at their examination in each distinct branch: & were separately so declared by a unanimous vote. Their progress & proficiency exhibited by the record of their daily recitations & the result of their examination, left no doubt in the minds of the Board on this point. After the examination of all the classes was completed, came the question: must all be recommended for discharge, or can any be retained with a prospect of benefit to themselves & without injury to others? In making a determination, conduct, character, attention to duty &c., together with the necessary discharge of their course enable those to proceed with their class; has been always taken into consideration by the board; with a view of encouraging such as are oft times depressed at the difficulties in their progress, to persevere in their efforts & to continue the performance of their duties, and they believe the hope of the consideration their efforts & conduct will receive, ha caused many at the foot of the class to succeed, who otherwise would have yielded under their discouragement & relaxed their exertion.

In accordance with this principle the facts developed at the Exam., without going into the histories of previous years, in which Mr. Sharp may be correct, though in the Register of last June, he stands lowest of those pronounced deficient in Jany.; it was determined unanimously after much discussion & deliberation that

Cadets Hildt & Fort of the 2nd Class, might be able to continue their studies with a reasonable prospect of ultimate success. Mr. Hildt had always been attentive, correct in his deportment, was secure in Chemy. & Drawing, & thought not proficient in Phily., his examinations showed some knowledge of his course, & he was not quite 19 years of age. Mr. Fort was proficient in Phily., did well at the examn., stood fair in drawing, & though he failed in Chemy., it was the branch the readiest recovered, & his Prof. thought he could relieve himself by June. He is besides a good soldier, & though his demerit did exceed Mr. Hildt's & Sharp's, the excess was not large, & he had served through the encampment a period fruitful in delinquencies, while they were in furlough. His deficiency in French in Jany. 1854, referred to by Mr. Sharp was not overlooked, but it was argued that his mind was slow though progressive; & at the beginning of every subject he had met with difficulty, but had finally mastered it. It was hoped he would do the same in Chemy. He had not quite attained his 20th year. Mr. Sharp signally failed in his Exam. in Philosophy; was low in Chemy. & Drawg., & though of fair capacity had neglected both his studies & his duties. Had no claims to soldiership, was 20 years & 6 months old, & in the opinion of his Prof. gave no promise of future success. He was recommended for discharge by a vote of 8 to 1. Cadet Hawkins deficient in Phily. & Chemy.; in the opinion of his Profs. & from his examination in both subjects, gave no hope of eventually succeeding; & was recommended for discharge by a unanimous vote.

In the 3rd Class, each was similarly examined, & it was believed by the Board that there was ground for hope, that Cadets Bell, Costin & Fulton, might recover their lost

185.

ground or at least by their conduct & attention would form no bar to the progress of others. Their amt. of demerit was not large, & had been incurred mostly during the encampment. Since the 1st Sept. it indicated attention to their duties; & their soldiership was good. The case of Cadet Burnet was particularly discussed. He was deficient in Math., 4th in French & 23rd in Drawg.- He has exhibited from the beginning of his course a peculiarity of mind; is believed to have sufficient capacity & a taste for literature.- His attention to regns as exhibited by his demerit (91) was not good; but upon examination it was found that this inattention was confined to the period of the encampment; & that since the 1st of Sept. he had incurred but 10. This disposition to improve, the board thought indicated a prospect of ultimate success. The vote however for his discharge was 3 to 6. & decided in the negative. To the other cases, including Mr. McGrath, the Board believed from the little aptitude possessed by each; their inattention to regns. & to their respective studies; their amount of demerit reaching nearly to the maximum limit (99); that if able to proceed with their class, there was scarcely a hope of their success.- Cadets Crumpton & Lewis had entered with the preceding class & had thus been over a portion of the course of the preceding year, twice; & commenced the 3rd Class course with a standing higher perhaps than they would otherwise have carried: & had rapidly fallen to the foot of the class. The greater part of their demerit had been incurred in the latter part of the term. The vote for the discharge of Cadet Lewis was unanimous, & for that of Cadet Crumpton there was one dissenting voice.

It is true as stated by Mr. McGrath that his recitation marks were better than those named; but I am sorry to say his examination was worse; & was considered a total failure, while all were bad. It is also true, that he was above Mr. Curtin W. Bell & Fulton in French- But all were low & none deficient.- Neither am I aware of any grave charges of misconduct having been

presented against him; still he was not conspicuous for attention to regns. or the correct performance of his duties.

I reported in my letter of the 18th Jany, the diminution that had been made in some instances, on the final making up of the demerit Roll & the causes. Mr. McGrath not having exceeded the limit prescribed by the regns. was not called on for any explanations, but I am not aware of any good reason for reducing his amount.

I have now reviewed the main points raised by these young gentlemen in their claim for restoration to the Acady; & have endeavoured to give the genl. considerations that influenced the Acad. Board in their efforts to retrieve a portion of their comrades from the penalty which all had incurred. It is difficult to give within the limits of a letter, the weight they possessed with each member, acquainted with all the circumstances & the character of the individuals. I hope it has been sufficient to show, that while wishing to relieve some, no injustice has been done to others.

I have the honour to be
Very respectfully &c
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

186.

Lieut. R.S. Smith
4th Arty. A.A. QM
West Point N.Y.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point N.Y. Feby 12 1855

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for Treasury Drafts- on completion of which business you will return to this Post.

Very respectfully,
Yr. Obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point Feby. 16 1855

General.

The following named Cadets request permission to receive from their homes the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz:

Cadet	Holt	\$50.- to reduce his indebtedness
“	Luckett	\$30.- to reduce his indebtedness
“	Hairston	Underclothing & c.

All of which is recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be

Very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

A.G. Brackett
Logansport, Ia.

U.S. Mil. Acady
West Point 19 Feby 1855

Sir.

I have recd. with deep regret the intelligence communicated in your letter of the 7th Inst. of the death of Capt: John E. Brackett; a graduate of this Institution; from disease contracted in the service of his country.

The officers at the Acady. & of the Army, cordially sympathize with his friends & relations in their bereavement, & beg to offer their sincere condolences.

I am Sir very respfy.

Yr. Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 3rd Feby 1855

Prof. Joseph Schwess
Mechanics Institute
No. 1 Bowery
New York

Sir. I have recd your letter of the 16th Inst. & am sorry that you were unsuccessful in your proposed lectures. I endeavoured to prepare you for the result in the interview I had the honour to have with you; as I was aware of the difficulty of obtaining an audience on such occasion at the time; & am sorry for the loss of time & trouble to which you were subjected.

I hope you will give yourself no uneasiness about the payment of your bill at the Hotel. On sending there this morning to liquidate the account;

187.

the landlord, Mr. Roe, informed me that under the circumstances he had made no charge & that therefore Capt. Coppee is relieved from the obligation he kindly undertook in your behalf.

Wishing you Sir, better success in your future endeavours.

I remain respy.

Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee

His Execy.
Gov. of N. Jersey
Trenton, N.J.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 22 Feby. 1855

Sir.

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 17th Inst. & am glad to hear that your nephew R.P. Lewis is with you- I regret that he thinks injustice has been done him by his Instructor- As far as my knowledge extends, no one has had more consideration extended to them than he. I know such opinions are sometimes entertained by the Cadets, but I have never found any real grounds for their belief. It is difficult to conceive why an Offr. Of the Army, charged with the instruction of ten young gentlm- all having to him the same relation & same interest, & upon whom he looks as future comrades, should single out any of oppression. It is his interest that all should do well; & which it is natural, he should take more pleasure in instructing those who are studious & attentive, than the reverse; there is neither ground or opportunity that I am aware of for injuring any- The Prof. of Maths. In his visits to the section informed me he warned them more than once, that unless they showed a marked improvement at the examination, from what they exhibited in their daily recitations, they would certainly fail. Mr. Lewis came up to the Exam. with the lowest recitation marks in his section but one, (Mr. Thruston, who declined his Exam. & resigned), & in the opinion of the Academic Board failed to show himself proficient in his course. His Instructor, had no vote in this decision: is not a member of the Board, & was not present when it was made. As regards his progress & proficiency while at the Acady., they are set forth in his certificate of resignation in the most ample & formal manner that I can give.

I hope it will answer his purpose, & that he will not allow himself to be discouraged in his future efforts by his present disappointment.

I remain Sir, with much esteem
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Zeba. Gay Esq.
Nashville, Hillsb. Co.
New Hampshire

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 22 Feby. 1855

Sir. I am very sorry to inform you that your son, Cadet E. Gay, while recg. instruction in Cavalry Exercise on the 20th, came in contact with the horse of another Cadet, whose shoulder struck his leg about mid-way between the knee & ankle, & caused the fracture of the shin &

lesser bone. I am happy to state, however that he is comfortable & cheerful; & in the opinion of his attending surgeon is doing well; & that nothing now exists to cause the least anxiety as to his perfect recovery. He is in the

188.

Z. Gay Esq.

Hospital & will receive every attention his case admits of.

I am very respfy. Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Mil. Acady.

West Point 27 Feby. 1855

John P. Sherburne Esq.
Los Angeles- Cal.

Sir.

I have recd. your letter of the 22nd Ulto. expressing your intention of applying for an appointment in the Army, in the event of its increase, & desiring a letter of recommendation.

The certificate furnished you at the time of your resignation, sets forth in the amplest & most emphatic manner, the studies in which you were proficient while at the Acady., & the progress made in your military instruction- This with the character you have since established in the prosecution of your profession of Civil Engineering, will I hope answer your purpose, as it embraces everything I can say.

With sincere wishes for your health & welfare

I remain Very respfy. Your Obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Mr. J. Sharp
Kingston, N.Y.

U.S. Mil: Acady.

West Point 27th Feby. 1855

Sir.

I have recd. your letter of the 19th Inst. offering the resignation of your appointment of Cadet in the U.S. Mil. Acady. & requesting a certificate of proficiency & progress in your studies &c. Being no longer a member of the Mil. Acady., I regret it is not in my power to accept your resignation; & having executed the orders of the Secy. of War in your case, I consider my authority as having terminated.

The Regns. confine the issue of certificates of Proficiency &c. to Cadets who resign, & I am therefore unable to grant one to you. I have however referred your application to Washington; & if so authorized will with much pleasure comply with your request.

I am very respfy. your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

West Point 27 Feby 1855

Gen.

In the execution of the orders of the Secy. of War, communicated in your letter of the 26th Ulto: Cadet J. Sharp as you were advised on the 20th declined the privilege offered him of tendering his resignation. I endeavoured to explain to him that under the circumstances, his resigning would neither injure his case or claims; & that having no option as to my course, I should be obliged if he did not to discharge him. A copy of the order issued on the occasion is enclosed. In a letter recently rec'd, he informed me he is now willing

189.

to resign his Cadet appointment. But having no longer an appointment to resign, & my former action having terminated my authority, I do not consider I have any further power in the matter. I should be willing to give him the benefit of his tardy acceptance of the option to resign; as the object of his separation from the Acady. will be attained, & be made more agreeable to him; but having executed the orders of the Secy. I consider I have no more right to alter the proceedings in his case than the others. The application of Mr. Sharp is therefore submitted to you.

I am very respfy. Yr. Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.

Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point N.Y. March 3rd 1855

General.

I have recd. the letter of Cadet John A. Meyers, offering his resignation; referred to me for a report on the 28th Ulto: Cadet Meyers had previously requested me to forwd. his resignation which I explained to him, I could not do; unless, as required by the 174 Acad. Regns., it was accompanied by the written consent of his guardian.

As Mr. Meyers did not give me any good reason for wishing to resign; & has not obtained the assent of his guardian, I cannot recommend its acceptance. I have explained to him the error he committed, & again advised him to consider well the step he wishes to take, to consult his Guardian & take his advance.-

His letter is herewith returned.- I am

Very respfy. Yr. obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point N.Y. March 5. 1855

General. The following named Cadets request permission to receive the articles set opposite their names respectively, viz.

Cadet Ashe-	Underclothing &c.				
“ Farrand	\$50.-	to reduce his indebtedness at the Acady.			
“ Hyams	\$20.-	do do do do			
“ Morgan	\$30.-	do do do do			
“ Lodor	Underclothing &c.				

190.

All of which is recommended for favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be
Very respfy. Yr. Obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Capt: J.H. Whittlesey
1st Dragoons
Fort Union
New Mexico

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 8 March 1855

Captain.

In answer to your letter of the 25th Jany. announcing your application through Genl. Totten for the Professorship of Ethics & Law at the Mil. Acady. I have to state that the proposed separation of the duties now performed by the chaplain, has not as far as I am aware been sanctioned by Cong.

I have not yet been furnished with the Copy of the Mil. Acady. Bill passed at the late session; but believe it contains no provision for the Professorship in question.

Although sensible of your qualifications, & of your high standing at the Acady., I am therefore unable to advance your views in the matter.

I remain Captain your very Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

R.H. Brogden Esq.
Baltimore, Md.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point N.Y. 10 March 1855

Dr. Sir.

Your telegraphic dispatch to New York of the 9th has just reached me. You must apply to Washington for information as to the success of your application, which in order to be successful must be supported by evidence of your fitness & all the influence of your friends.

With sincere wishes for your success

I am very respfly. Yr. Obt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Samuel Casey Esq.
Treasurer, United States
Washington City, D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point N.Y. March 12, 1855

Sir.

I have received the following Treasury Draft payable to my order by the Asst: Treas. U.S. New York- No. 8089 on War Warrant No. 4471 for \$5000.

Your obedient servant
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

191.

Robt. Atkinson Esq.
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point N.Y. March 12 1855

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States a Treasury Draft for Five thousand dollars on account of Current & Ordinary Expenses of the Mily. Academy.

I am very respectfully

Your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Jos. Cummings Esq.
Pres: Genesee College
Sima N.Y.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point 14 March 1855

Sir.

I take great pleasure in transmitting you a copy of the Regns. of the Mil. Acady. together with the last Register of the Officers & Cadets , which will give you all the information relative to the Merit Rolls of the Acady.

I am very respfy.
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point N.Y. 15 March 1855

Genl.

By reference to my cash statement for February, you will perceive that the U.S. was indebted to me on the particular:

For Current & Ordinary Expenses	\$13795.91
Board of Visitors 1854	688.52
Stables for Dragoon & Arty. Horses	<u>680.10</u>
	\$15164.53

To enable me to turn over these funds to my successor, I have the honor to forward an estimate for the amount.

I am very respfy. Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Col: S. Cooper
Adj. Genl. U.S. Army
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point 15 March 1855

Colonel.

I have the honour to accept the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel of the Second Regiment of Cavalry, conferred on me by the President of the United States, & return the oath of allegiance duly executed

I am very resp.
Your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

192.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point N.Y. 15 March 1855

General.:

I transmit through you my acceptance of the appointment of Lt: Col. of the 2nd Regt. of Cavalry, in order that you may make such arrangements as may be best, before its final consummation by the War Department, for my relief from the Superintendancy of the Mil. Acady.

In thus severing my connection with the Corps of Engineers, I cannot express the pain I feel at parting from its Officers, or my grateful sense of your constant kindness & consideration. My best exertions have been devoted to its service, & my warmest feelings will be cherished for its memory.

I remain your obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point N.Y. March 23rd 1855

General. I have the honour to transmit, herewith, in accordance with par. 9 Engr. Regulations, a sketch of a proposed alteration in the Quarters receipted to Prof. Weir, viz: a door of communication between large & small chambers- the cost of which will not exceed \$7.50, which is respectfully submitted for approval.

I am very respectfully
Yr. obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Samuel Casey, Esq.
Treas: of the United States
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point N.Y. March 23rd 1855

Sir.

I have received the following Treasury Draft, payable to my order by the Asst. Treas.
U.S. New York No. 8188 on War Warrant No. 4591 for \$15,164.53.

Your obedient Servant
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

R.J. Atkinson Esq.
3rd Auditor U.S.
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point N.Y. March 23rd, 1855

Sir.

I have received from the Treasurer of the United States, a Treasury Draft for 15,164.53
on account of as follows viz.

For Current & Ordinary Expenses	\$13795.91
Board of Visitors 1854	688.52
Stables for Dragoon & Arty. Horses	<u>680.10</u>
	<u>\$15164.53</u>

I am very respectfully
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

193.

Lieut. R.S. Smith
4th Arty. Q.M. U.S.M.A.
West Point N.Y.

U.S. Mil. Acady.
West Point N.Y. March 23rd, 1855

Sir.

You will proceed to the City of New York for the purpose of procuring specie for a
Treasury Draft. (Specie being necessary for making payments to Enlisted men on Extra duty,
Mechanics &c. at this Post, and not to be had at par. in Exchange for drafts.) on completion of
which business you will return to this Post.

I am very respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.
Signed/ R.E. Lee Br. Col.
Supt. Mil. Acady.

Genl: Jos: G. Totten
Chief Engineer
Washington City D.C.

U.S. Mil: Acady.
West Point N.Y. 24 March 1855

Genl.

I have recd your letter of the 21st Inst. & am sensibly impressed with the kindness of your remarks & undeserved commendation. Upon completing the consideration of some questions in which certain Cadets are involved, & the proceedings of a Garrison Court-Martial of which Major Barnard is President, I shall relinquish to him the Superintendency of the Academy & proceed to close my connexion with it.- Should I not receive definite instructions by that time, I will turn over to him all funds in my hands belonging to the Institution.

I remain Genl. your obedt. Servt.

Signed/ R. E. Lee Br. Col: U.S.A.