

New York Oct. 24 - 1873 -

My dear Jack

You may well imagine why I have not written to you before. My letter now will not be as it might have been in other times, when I could talk cheerfully & strive to brighten your home sickness.

I have seen some of your letters to Mother, and I am glad to know that you are doing so well.

They miss you a great deal at Morristown, but Mother feels that it was better for you to go, and she always thinks first of her children's welfare.

It is more than ten years since

I was in college, still I have a  
distinct recollection of the trials  
and temptations there. Let me  
warn you of some of them.

The greatest of all, is an inordinate  
and foolish love of popularity  
among the students - the dread of  
not being liked. This is founded  
upon a worthy and proper motive.

You should try to be popular  
and do all you can, consistently  
with your sense of duty to  
yourself and the Academy, to  
that end, but it is of infinitely  
more importance to be right, even  
in the smallest thing, than to be  
praised by anyone. Always

bear this in mind, and at the  
same time, be unselfish! and  
you will at the end of your  
lifetime find yourself the more  
respected and the best loved  
of all. The so-called popular  
men are a source of amusement  
to the others, with their jokes and  
songs and speeches, but they are  
not the men of influence.

Mother would be a certain heart  
which you have to your friendship.  
There is no hurry about this. Be  
very careful before you admit  
anyone into your close confidance.  
I do not mean that you should

be reserved and proud. I refer  
to the intimate relations which  
exist between near friends. These  
have much effect upon character  
and the motto should be in  
them "fermina ante!" as to your  
studies, of all things, be  
thorough, no matter how slowly,  
if only certainly. You know how  
long the mason works at a  
stone foundation, and then  
in one day perhaps the frame  
of the house will go up. So should  
it be with education. Let the  
foundation be ever so long in building,  
so that it is strong and sure,  
and then you will see how  
easily and quickly the superstructure

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will be erected. Now that is preach  
enough for one day.

I suppose you find plenty of friends  
at the Academy among your  
old acquaintances from Morristown  
making it much pleasanter for you  
than if you were an entire stranger.

I am very sorry about Capt. DeCaumps  
son. I trust he may succeed

on a second trial. It is a  
shame that a Boy should fail  
in so important a matter merely  
from want of knowledge of

spelling. Now I must close, my  
dear fellow. Take care of yourself  
and do your duty to the service and  
to yourself, as you always have to  
your Father & Mother, and for

will surely be blessed with success  
and honour.

Your affectionate Brother

Ludley T. Muller