Washington Nov. 25 1816.

Dear Sir,

I received the enclosed letter lately from your father, who, I presume, informed you of whatever relates to your family. I had supposed that the service would have allowed you to come the last term over to the academy, which I expected would have been of great advantage to you. Your education, in more early life, having been neglected, subject you to disadvantages, which you must sensible feel. There is no way of getting the better of these, than by close study for a year or two, or for one at least, and that may be better pursued at the academy, than at a garrison, or other place. Here you will learn many things, besides your profession. You may perhaps be able to get there, next spring, which I advise you to do, if in your power. Making the military life your profession you ought to induce, all in your power, to excel in it, and to gain respectability by your abilities, good conduct, & merit. What you may be hereafter will depend on your exertions now. Your present defects will be attributed to your youth, and allowances be made for them. But soon your character will be fixed, and unless you improve yourself, much, you will not be so much thought of as you might be. Intending to sell my land in Fondway, as soon as
in my power, and knowing the situation in which your parents would be, I have purchased a small farm in Albemarle, 7 miles from me, of 325 acres, with a good house and other improvements on it, which I shall settle on them for their living, and have placed some stock there for this use, so as to make them comfortable. They will expect more, in a fortnight, or three weeks at most, for life. They have some slaves and furniture, which I shall give them with credit from bond and place them there, in a great measure, free from debt, in a better situation than they were ever before. To do this costs me, a considerable sum, which is very distressing to me, but I bear it to get them a home, intending it as the last charge, I am to incur on this account. As it is probable your father will inform you of these things, yet I have thought it would be agreeable to you, to have this fulfilled explained to you from me.

Having had much experience, I have explained to you heretofore, your own situation, prospects, and given you friendly advice, how to conduct yourself, so as to avoid misfortunes, misery, on the one side, and advance yourself in the world, and especially in your profession. I never had any right to exercise any authority over you, and never wished to do it; and had you remained with your parents, or been bound to a trade for a livelihood, as having no property, you must have been, I should never have had cause to say too much to you as I have done. A labourer on a farm, or a tradesman or mechanic, is honest and industrious and intelligent, is very respectable. But less so your parents, and entering a profession, and moving in a line, with which they are unacquainted, I thought it proper to give you advice as to every
Let you look, to prevent your falling into error, I make it my business, which an inexperienced person would be apt to do, to his great misfortune, if not to his ruin. And too many are ruined, by inexperience and improper conduct, in their first beginning, owing to the want of such advice. I will now state, what you neglected to take my advice, but I hope not much, if any, to your injury. I do it not to reproach you with it, but merely, to put you on your guard as to the future. If you have been mistaken as to the best in any instance, there is no reason why you should be in future, and if my advice is, of any service to you, I shall be glad to hear it.

When you went to New York, on your way to the Mediterraean, I introduced you, to my own connections there, who are of the highest respectability, who were attentive to you, and wished you to be always with them, when your duty would permit. Your first duty was, to be with your first friends, after you had a command when necessary. At other times, it was your interest, and for your credit, to be in the best company, or in it, you would avoid offence, and impose your own understanding on men. The company I had introduced you to was the best, and as they were my friends, they might be relied on, for yours. You ought therefore, to have listened to it. Had you done so they would have been pleased, your captain diminished credit as well as your own. I find that you hardly ever went near them, and I think this was a capital inexcuse, which you did not comply with. I kept them from dinner waiting for you, that you might have time to sit at the coffee house, or tavern, in very low company, such as it was at times, in proper to be seen in. That you called for wine, when called on, and exalted them, and, by your own example, you invited many improper, even if your own, and you gave them more to do, if borrowed. A gentleman whom I have seen, intimated that you might company with worthy women.
at least, so I understand him. He mentioned love and bad company, which I understand in that sense, that he might mean, from only. I have heard the same thing of you at New Orleans, of living excessively, drinking wine and keeping company.

When in barracks, or else with your troops, you avoid appearance. It is always advisable to an officer to be with his men: he is then in his post, improving himself if he tries to do it. When not with his troops, he ought to be, in the best, and most respectable company, he can be introduced to. In these two things, he should take pride, to be with his troops, or in the best company. As to from his troops, in taverns, is to waste money and character, in that to destroy oneself.

You know that I have done more for your instruction, and family, than any right to expect. But his son had still his claim on me. That necessity I educated your brother, I placed you where you now are. It was to give your brother and you, an opportunity by a fair beginning in all respects, to advance, by your merit, in the world, not to fix or yourself, a charge, which was to hang on me through life, not to encourage, or pamper vice, or idleness, and disrepute.

I have stated these things, to guard you against error, or to the future. I hope the account is more in favor of than you deserve. Too much the better. If you have erred at all, correct it. Try to avoid error, and do in all things, what is right. This is all I wish of you. It is for your advantage to do so, and I am your friend in advising it. You are your own enemy, if you do not follow the advice.

Consider how heavy my duties are, of a public nature, as well as my private concerns. That all your relations give me much trouble, and little satisfaction that I have not a moment of leisure, to wit
even on the most interesting points in war, and you will see, that it is proper to repeat, often, to be heard from me. This indeed is it necessary, for having seen you in the army, with a plainly worded before you, and gave you the best advice I could, I can add nothing to it. It is useless to repeat continually the same thing. I tell you to keep this letter, and to read it often, you will see that I give you good advice in it, and even, in that I give it you, for good advice, and do not show it to anyone, nor talk about it yourself.

At last, I cannot often write you, yet, I shall be glad to hear from you frequently, and on all sorts of matters relating to you. If you want my advice, ask in what, and I will give it. Tell me where you are, in what house, who the officer is, who the commander, where he is? What part of the country you have seen, which you like best? and indeed write what you think proper, when you have leisure, without suspecting your duties. When I see that my advice can be useful, it shall not be withheld, as I sincerely wish your peace and happiness.

Your friend,

 Jas. Moore
I wrote to him, a letter of introduction to Commissioners &c. dealing, if a letter
rather I spoke in your favor. Either of these have not been
read you, from which it might be inferred, that they had not
satisfied with your conduct, but it may be otherwise. I hope
it is. It seems strange, that they should not mention you if
my having been to pay in your favor.