

U. S. Naval Academy  
Annapolis  
Md.

My dear Mother

I hope you will not be angry with me for not writing to you before this and I am sorry to say that I have no excuse to give you, but I will be more regular in writing to you in future for I am now settled down for life, at least until I fail in one of my semiannual examinations, and I am not quite sure that I will not in February, however I will try not to. I received your last letter a few days since by a paper to day which I am very much obliged to you for. I suppose Aunty has arrived in England by this time and has been to see Rose Hill. I hope she likes it as well as I should if I was there, ~~also~~ and also that you like the squirrel I sent out to Rose & Doc, you must not let them handle it, for although he will not bite, when he turns over them his claws are so sharp that he would scratch pretty hard, he has been a great comfort to me all winter for he has been quite a companion to ~~me~~ for he would come and sit on my shoulder and look on when I was reading or climb up into my pocket and be up to all kinds of tricks, Henry will take care of him for me I dare say and feed him on nuts such as shell barks or pea nuts or Filberts, and give him a little water every day. If Henry could make him a larger

cage for him when he has got time out of wood he would not need to come out of his cage very often for he could run in the wheel, you may think it silly in me to tell so much about such a thing as a squirrel but I liked him so much that I would be very sorry to be ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> dead. Will you please to send me out my paint box and all my things that I had when I was at home and I also should like to have some preserves very much such as currant jam or plum preserves but I do not want them unless you have got them to spare, and if you happen to be making any pound cake will you send me a little one, if you send any thing direct to me, care Chase Lilly & Co. - Baltimore and I will get it.

(I am just going to bed so I will put up my letter until morning.) The gun has just fired and the drum is now <sup>to town for</sup> beating — I suppose you ~~se~~ would like to know a little about what I have to do every day so I will try to make it as short as possible. The reveille drum beats at half past three every morning and a gun fires to make us think about waking up, but we do not have to get up until 6, 0, clock and then we have half an hour to dress ourselves, make our beds, and sweep out our rooms (you must think I look pretty doing the last two jobs that I have mentioned.) We then have to go to prayers and afterwards to breakfast or mess as they call it here. At 8, 0, clock we have to go to battery exercise, and fire the big 32 pounders, you may believe it makes my ears ring running round not more than three feet from the guns, at half past nine it is study hours until half

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... ten when we have a recess for half an  
... then go in for study hours until dinner  
... after dinner we go to recite, we come out at four  
... and have from four to half past to ourselves, at  
... half past we either drill ~~with~~ with muskets or  
... out fleet sailing or boat exercise, When we get  
... back we go to supper and after supper we have  
... dress parade and then study hours and at half past  
... we go to bed. (I am just going to battery  
... exercise - I have just come from my battery exercise  
... and of course feel pretty warm, from working and there  
... being a very hot sun out to day, I have got a lesson  
... in arithmetic to learn <sup>so as to be able</sup> to recite at twelve o'clock, it  
... being Saturday but as I know it, I will continue  
... my letter, I wish grandmother had my measure so  
... to know that she could have a pair or two of white pants, for  
... the ones we get here are as coarse as sailcloth, You  
... asked me to tell you what kind of a person Mr. Marcy  
... was, I cannot very well describe his looks but  
... he is a very fine officer and a very strict one when  
... on duty but when off duty he is very kind to everybody  
... I like him very much, he helps me along very much  
... here and if it had not been for him I do not think  
... I should have passed my examination quite so  
... easily as I did, for the board of examiners asked  
... me to do a sum in ~~the~~ Federal money, and Mr  
... Marcy seeing that there was some chance of my  
... not understanding it, he asked them to change it  
... to English currency which they did and I passed

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of course, and I hope ~~that~~ I shall be able to stay  
here until I go through with the whole of it. I do not  
think I can write any more now so with love to  
Grandmother and tell her I have not forgotten her  
although I have not written to her, ~~and~~ and with  
to the doctor, hoping the college is thriving and remem-  
ber me to Henry & Ellen and with love to Rose & I  
and not omitting yourself I remain

Your affectionate  
son

(E. Cushman)