

May 7, 1903.

Dear Father:-

I am sorry to hear that Aunt Meta's health has been so bad. Do you think that she will last through the summer?

We have just heard that the cruise will be along the coast and that the Hartford, the Indiana and the Chesapeake will be our training ships. Besides these ships, there will be a number of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers. The first classmen will have details of about a week at a time on the torpedo boats

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while our class and the third class will be assigned to the three ships. We will leave on June 7, - just how we will go on the ships I do not know, but I heard that we would go on by companies - that is, one company have one ship a certain length of time, then another company etc.

The three commanding officers are, of the Indiana Comd'r Badger (our new commandant), of the Chesapeake, Comd'r Halsey, and of the Hartford, Comd'r Osterhouse. Also heard

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that the fleet would make New London and around there, a base of supplies. The other day I had my physical exam and everything was all right except my ears. They are treating them though, that is, washing them out, and in a week or so they will examine them again.

Last Saturday was the day of the boat race with Pennsylvania. Well the weather was so rough that the Pennsy boat sank about one half of a mile from the finish. The two boats were about even at that time, and our crew finished the race alone.

We were also to row their freshman crew with our second crew but on account of the water, it was postponed and as it stands now, both races

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will be rowed on May 16. You remember in my last letter I told you of my promotion to the first crew. Well, that was only temporary because the regular man was sick. I rowed three days with the first crew though, and am now a regular second crew man.

On May 9, our first crew races Yale; on the 16th, Pennsylvania, and on the 23d, Georgetown.

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Our second crew races the Pennsy freshmen on the 16th and the Georgetown 2d crew on the 23d.

You see we keep the strictest kind of training and about three or four times a week the first and second crews have trial races. Well, lately we have been making the first crew hustle. About the last quarter of a mile, it is something awful, one thinks that the race will never end. But the minute the race is over I feel all right again.

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We get excellent food at the training table and I have been feeling so healthy during this season that I have made up my mind to keep in training all the year round. It is just as easy as not.

Sunday afternoon, I spend now in sailing or in going out in steam launch parties. There are now about forty steam launches here and about thirty sail boats, and all a midshipman has to do is to ask for one at the office because they are here for our use.

Next Sunday I am going to take Beauregard and a number of my friends up the river to spend the day, that is from the time we get out of church to about sundown.

There are a number of ~~of~~ new

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fourth classmen who have passed their entrance exams, but they are not coming in until June 8th, the day after every upperclassman has started on the cruise. This will show you that our new Supt. is determined to put a stop to hazing.

The other day Charlie Mason sent me a dime. It came just

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as I was going down to the boat house to get ready for the Pennsy race. I put it in my left sock for good luck and sure enough the race was decided in our favor. Tell him about this.

I thank you very much for the ~~for~~ offer to help me in what I need this September. My plans were about as follows.

Church can not go home this Sept. so he and I will spend part

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of our vacation together in Washington. Then I will go to Stewart's home in Glens Falls, NY and spend a week. Then we would both come back to Annapolis and spend our last two weeks at the Academy. You see, we can come back to the Academy as soon as we want to. Then, next September, I will come home again. What do you think of that plan?

Well, I can think of nothing else so I will close, with my best love to Mama and the children and all the rest.

Your son

[signed]

Chester W. Nimitz