

Charles E. Etting to Rebecca Gratz

July 14, 1861

West Point July 14th. 1861

My dear Aunt.

That I could not answer your kind note sooner is a worn out excuse, but you must allow me to use this time as for once at any rate it was the fact. Although we are doing no studying at present the drills rifle practice and Guard duty take up much of my time, only a portion of my class are as yet in the Battalion and as the Corps is so small the Guard duty his harder than it ever was before, I have been on duty three days out of the last eight, it gives one some priviledges however that
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in a measure compensate for the work it gives us, on the day after that is the day we march off we are at liberty to go on Public Lands until one o'clock instead of being confined in the chain of Sentinels. The 4th. was very prettily celebrated here, some fourteen steamers came here on an excursion from New York, but as it is against the orders here for any transient steamers to land excursionists here they were with this exception of a couple of reporters driven away by a Patrol sent down for the purpose, and as we were armed had not much
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trouble in driving them back although they were a little obstinate about it and did not relish the idea

of leaving without seeing the sights,
the reporters however gave an
account that was ridiculous, You
may have seen the article in the
New York Times of the 5th., the N.Y.
World had another just such
a one. Remember me kindly
to Cousin Horace not forgetting
yourself and believe me ever

Your attached nephew
Chas. E. Etting.