

SYLVESTER CLAPP, 1823, of Hadley, Mass., was a member of the Philomathean Society.  
(Died: 1873)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

To Tuition, Room-Rent, use of College Library, Servant's Hire-Printing, &c. &c.	Dollars.	18	Cts.	50
Public damage,				87 ½
Private damage,				
Delinquent in returning to College,	days			
By permission	times			
Prayers,	15 times			
Recitations,	16 times			
Absent from Rooms,	times			
Town,	times			
Church,	times			
Tardy,	times			
		31		
Excuse rendered	times			
Without excuse	times			
				31
				10 33 ½
				\$30 02

Please return the above bill, by the student, to be receipted.

Particular Information.

The conduct of your *your* during the last term has been *good*  
 His Scholarship in Mensuration, &c. *good* Belles Lettres, *above the minimum*  
 Tactics, *good*  
 His attendance *good*

The next term will commence on Friday the 3d May next, in the evening, when you will be required to attend in this place, and when payment of this bill must also be made. No deduction is made by the Institution, from the usual charges of tuition and room-rent, on account of absence from College.

Nor are the Faculty allowed to sign any degree, certificate or dismissal for any student until his bills are settled. Board at College Hall, at \$1,50 per week, paid quarterly in advance. The following persons, keeping boarding-houses, are authorized to board students for the term commencing in May, and ending in July, 1822, viz. C. Hamilton, Widow Burdett, C. J. Groff, H. Barrum, J. Bells, W. B. Bassett, H. De Cantillon and Widow Teeder.

Time of Ringing the Bell.

	March 1st to Oct. 15.	Oct. 15 to Nov. 6. Feb. 1 to March 1.	Nov. 6. to Feb. 1.
Prayers,	6 20	6 30	7
Breakfast,	7 45	8 15	7 20
Study Hours,	9	9	9
Recitation,	11	11	11
Dinner,	12 10	12	12
Study Hours,	1 50	1 20	1
Recitation,	3 50	3 20	2 50
Prayers,	4 50	4 10	3 50
Tea,	5 15	4 45	4 15
Study Hours,	Candle light.		
	Sabbath.	Sabbath.	Sabbath.
Prayers,	7 50	7 45	7 45
Breakfast,	8 45	8 45	8 45
Tea,	7 45	8 15	8 15
	5 30	5	4 30

Officers attend morning prayers in alphabetical rotation. Each officer visits college in alphabetical rotation. Each Officer to notice and report all damages in his hall—Also all rooms not supplied with a reasonable quantity of wood.

The examination of the Classes will be according to the printed order of Studies.

DECEMBER.

The Freshman Examination will close Tuesday noon.  
 The Sophomore Examination will close Wednesday morning.  
 The Junior Examination will close Wednesday afternoon.  
 The Senior Examination will close Thursday noon.

APRIL.

The Freshman Examination will close Tuesday noon.  
 The Sophomore Examination will close Tuesday evening.  
 The Junior Examination will close Wednesday afternoon.  
 The Senior Examination will close Thursday noon.

JULY.

The Senior Examination will close Wednesday evening.  
 The Freshman Examination will close Thursday noon.  
 The Sophomore Examination will close Thursday evening.  
 The Junior Examination will close Friday evening.

Course of Studies.

Preparatory for Admission into Union College, pursued in the Schenectady Academy.

- Latin Grammar and Farran's Latin Courses.
- Selecte e Vet. Eutropius and Clark's Introduction.
- Corn's. Nepos, Cæsar's Commentaries.
- Virgil, Cicero's Select Orations, Greek Grammar, Greek Testament, Greek Introduction and Græca Minora.
- Arithmetic and English Grammar.

It is desirable that scholars, preparing elsewhere for admission into Union College, should pursue the same course of studies.— This however is not rigidly insisted on—less attention being paid to the books read than to the amount of knowledge acquired.

COURSE OF STUDIES

PURSUED AFTER ADMISSION INTO UNION COLLEGE.

FRESHMAN CLASS.	1st Term.	Cicero De Officiis, de Amicitia: de Senec. Horace and Latin Prosody. Collectanea Græca Majora.
	2d Term.	Geography, English Grammar and Composition. Horace and Roman Antiquities. Collectanea Græca Majora.
	3d Term.	Livy and Sallust. Græca Majora. Arithmetic.
SOPHOMORE CLASS.	1st Term.	Algebra. Græca Majora. Tacitus.
	2d Term.	Algebra. Græca Majora. Tacitus.
	3d Term.	Euclid. Græca Majora. Logic and Composition.

Robert Clapp

College

JUNIOR CLASS.	1st Term.	{ Plain Trigonometry—Fluxions and Spheric Trigonometry. Blair's Lectures. Græca Majora.	
	2d Term.	{ Mensuration, Gauging, Surveying & Navigation. Butler's Analogy, or Paley's Evidences. Cicero De Oratore and Quintilian.	
	3d Term.	{ Conic Sections. Natural Philosophy, . . . . . Enfield. Moral Philosophy, . . . . . Paley.	
SENIOR CLASS.	1st Term.	{ Chemistry. Natural Philosophy. Philosophy of the Human Mind, . . . Stewart.	
	2d Term.	{ Chemistry. Astronomy. Elements of Criticism, . . . . . Kaime's.	
	3d Term.	{ Law of Nations or Longinus and the Heb. Bible. Chemistry, Mineralogy and Botany. Elements of Criticism, Homer and Virgil.	

Besides the regular recitations, lectures are delivered during the collegiate course,

- On Moral Philosophy and the Evidence of Christianity.
- On Rhetoric and Oratory—On Natural Philosophy.
- On Chemistry, Mineralogy and Botany.

No student can be admitted under the age of fifteen years.

Every Student provides his own bed, room-furniture, fire-wood and candles.

It is required of every Student, before admission, to exhibit proper testimonials of his good moral character, and afterwards to spend a session, not less than one Term, on probation. And such Students as do not appear to yield a willing obedience to the laws, and to pursue their studies to the satisfaction of the President, are refused matriculation.

The necessary expense of Students, during term time, for board in the Hall, tuition, room rent, stove rent, and the use of books, amounts to \$114 00 per annum, and if they remain in the vacations to \$146 00 per annum. Students are allowed to board at several other licensed houses, but the expense is thereby increased; and if any Student board at a house not licensed, he is liable to an additional charge of twenty cents per week.

With respect to fire-wood, candles, clothing and washing, as these articles are not furnished by the College, the amount of expense therefor, must vary according to the individual economy of Students, and cannot therefore be precisely estimated.

A Student that remains at College, during vacation, may clothe himself decently and pay all his other bills, if he is economical, with about \$225 00 per annum.

A Student that indulges in elegance of dress and furniture, and that travels in vacation, will require from \$ to \$ per annum. More than this, even by such a Student, can not be expended, without diffusive charity or censurable extravagance.

It is made the duty of the College Register, to act, without charge, as Banker for the Students, and to receive and pay out all moneys intended for their use—an account of all receipts and disbursements, to be rendered to their several parents. And it is required, that all moneys intended for the use of any Student of Union College, be transmitted to and deposited with said Register.—Nor will the Faculty consider themselves under obligation to continue under their care, any Student, whose parent or guardian is unwilling to comply with this regulation.

The Collegiate year is divided into three sessions or terms of study, and the expense of each term is paid in advance.

The Commencement takes place on the Fourth Wednesday of July—after which there is a vacation of eight weeks. There are two other vacations, of three or four weeks each; one commencing about the 15th of December, the other about the 1st of April.

The Faculty consent with reluctance, to Students remaining either in College or in Schenectady, during vacation: as experience has shown that it is usually injurious. Parents ought, whenever it is practicable, to provide either for their sons' returning home, or for their visiting their friends during vacation—and when this is not practicable, they ought to notify the Faculty, that those Students who have no place to go to, may be placed in some retired situation, or employed in some useful study or healthful excursion, and not left to pass so important a portion of time in idleness or dissipation.

The most scrupulous attendance on Church, Prayers, Recitations, and all Collegiate exercises is required, and no excuse, except sickness or unavoidable necessity, is admitted. The penalties are Fines, Admonitions, Rustications, Suspensions, and Expulsions. An accurate and daily account is kept of the transgressions of the Laws by each Student, and a copy of the same is transmitted to his Parent or Guardian at the end of the term.

SYLVESTER CLAPP, b. East Hampton, Mass., Oct. 11, 1791; Williams  
Coll., 19-21; Union Coll., 23; teacher for several years; ord.  
Hampton, now Amherst and Aurora, Me., Sept. 15, 30, p. to 36;  
res. North Sedgwick; res. Middleboro, Mass., and there d. Apr.  
28, 1873.

Graduate  
Bangor Theological Seminary Catalogue  
p. 24

U. A. M. March 1935

## THE CORRESPONDENCE OF MR. CLAPP

THERE came into the possession of the Graduate Council recently two letters written to Sylvester Clapp of the Class of 1823, which we found very interesting in spite of the hundred and more years that have elapsed since they were written. This interest was heightened by the insight into the character of the three persons concerned in the letters, Clapp, their recipient, G. Ripley and Oliver Ives, the senders. Of all three of these men we know but little.

Clapp transferred to Union in 1821 from Williams College, and was graduated in 1823, though he seems to have left college before the commencement exercises, which in those days occurred in July. As the letter from Ives indicates, Clapp went to Amherst, but evidently remained there but a short time, for in 1824 he attended the Bangor Theological Seminary at Bangor, Maine. He was ordained in the ministry in 1830 and preached at Aurora, Maine, until 1836. After that time he resided at North Sedgwick, Maine, and in Middleboro, Mass., evidently engaged in teaching. He died in Middleboro in 1873. Such are the facts that we know of Sylvester Clapp, who received the letters, but the personality and character that were his, one may only surmise from the content of the letters. It is at this point that the apparent conflict in nature might arise.

The first letter from G. Ripley, then a student in Harvard, dated Dec. 21, 1821, is full of the highly emotional religious fervor, of which college life of those days gave frequent evidence. Now such emotionalism seems, to many, rather too unrestrained, and even lacking at

times in genuine sincerity, and yet it has its counter part in modern times in such movements as The League of Evangelical Students, whose religious aims are just as serious but whose mode of expression is different.

The second letter portrays another side of the life of the times, that we believe was as typical as that shown by the first letter, and from our present standard, at least, a side that exhibited many more human qualities than one would gather from the first letter were the attributes of Mr. Clapp. The writer of the second letter entered Union College from Lee, Mass., was graduated in 1823 and died that same year in Lee, Mass. We rather suspect that his letter, received at Amherst, was a welcome epistle, perhaps more so than the longer one from Cambridge.

Oliver Ives seems to have participated in the general student life of the college and the town, and the indications are that the students of 1823 and 1935 had some interests in common. The young ladies of "Durip," it would seem were not averse to dates, and perhaps were not as shy as they have been pictured. The mysterious Mr. F— has his counterpart in our modern day, though he does not have to slip out surreptitiously, for his "engagement on State Street" as there is no Dr. Nott or Nottian henchmen to come visiting students' rooms in the evening, to see that the "young gentlemen" are there.

The importance and seriousness of the class orations and the orations delivered by members of rival societies, as indicated by the Ives letter, may seem a little

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strange today, when a stage appointment at Commencement is regarded not as an unmixed blessing. The honor is appreciated, but the incumbent oratory, frequently is not.

The two letters combined probably give a rather good insight into the life of the times and the general character of the students. They reflect two sides of nature that seemed to run together concurrently without any violent conflicts. The students were human beings, remarkably like modern youths as Mr. Ives shows in his letters, but they were living in an age given to an intense emotionalism which frequently expressed itself in religious fervor, as well as in other ways and which we ultimately and loosely classified as Victorianism. Thus the two letters which follow are not as conflicting as they appear at first thought, but are merely pictures of human nature and interest which our forebears combined frequently into most useful and exemplary lives. The letters follow:

Harvard University, Cambridge  
December 1, 1821

My Beloved Friend:

Your letter of the 22 Oct. was received not until a month after date. The joy at hearing from a valued and long absent friend was damped by the unfavorable account you give me of your health. I can sincerely sympathize with you in this visitation of your Heavenly Father—for I, too, have been called to drink the bitter cup, and to suffer the chastisement of the Almighty. When I received your letter, I had but just resumed my studies from which I had been laid aside for about ten weeks, five of which I was confined with a severe bilious fever. My health is not completely restored, but at present is in a very delicate and critical situation. I will not add, however, to the dejection you express on account of your afflictions by recounting the sorrowful detail of my own, but rather would pour the balm of friendship and Christian sympathy into your bruised spirit. I would follow

you, my friend to the cross of our Saviour, and there recount the tale of our sufferings and sorrows to him, that heareth prayer. I would wish to exercise the spirit of resignation after the example of Jesus saying, "the cup which my Father has given me shall I not drink it."

Sickness is not to the true Christian, an evil. On the contrary it is often the discipline, which is necessary to recall us from our wanderings—to tear us from our hold on this world—to fill us with elevated desires after a country of unmingled holiness, purity and felicity.

I do feel, my friend, that it is good for us to be afflicted—that we need something to make us sensible of our entire dependence upon God and to wean us from the alluring pleasures of sin and the world. And we find that those whom God trains up for high and distinguished usefulness and piety are often called to pass through the hottest flames of affliction. We have all much dross to be separated from the pure gold before we shall be well prepared for faithful laborers in the vineyard of our God. We have too many earth-born passions and low desires which need a severe but salutary discipline to eradicate them. On the bed of sickness the things of this world and the solemn realities of eternity appear each with their proper value. How vain do the most glittering honours—the proudest distinctions of literary fame—and the most splendid laurels of intellectual greatness appear, when viewed in comparison with the glories of the unseen world.

I would willingly exchange,—when the body is racked with anguish and heaven and hell rise up unveiled before the sight,—for one smile from my Saviour,—all that is estimable and exalted in the fleeting scene of earthly pleasure and worldly renown. And if these feelings are excited by the suffering of sickness, ought we not to rejoice and "kiss the rod which strikes our comforts dead?" If we are even doomed to an early grave we should not repine. Though, we look with ardent longings, on the prospect of doing good in the world, yet it may be most for the glory of God, that our agency should not be employed. We may be taken away in the freshness of our strength—the fairest hopes of our friends may be blasted by our premature removal—yet the cause of God will still flourish. Others, will be raised up, holier and more faithful than ourselves, who will enter into the harvest and labour in that place to which we aspired. But it will all be right. Let us be willing to be absolutely at the disposal of God and whether health or sickness, life or death

## THE CORRESPONDENCE OF MR. CLAPP.

is our portion, let us be found faithful, looking for the coming of our Lord.

I had not previously to the reception of your letter, heard anything from you. During our vacation I was sick in Boston, and I have not seen since any of our friends in Hadley. Neither did I know that you had transferred your connections to Union College, though I supposed that you would not continue at Williams College. What is the state of learning in Union College? You mention mathematics as forming the standard of scholarship—what is your course? Are you made thoroughly acquainted with the subject or study it, as most do here, without comprehending its principles? I hope for the honour of science, you do not. As far as I can judge, by a very superficial attention to the study, it is of singular utility in forming sound and efficient intellectual habits. We make use of a system translated for our students from the French of LaCroix, Legendre, Benoit and others. It proceeds strictly on the analytical method and thus the results are pretty clear and satisfactory.

Do you pay much attention to metaphysical studies? We have just entered the course, and find them very pleasant. I think you will agree with me in admiring Stewart, notwithstanding it is so fashionable to decry his method of philosophising. He has made some applications of intellectual philosophy to the subject of taste and the fine arts and the common business of life, that are truly admirable. It is very interesting to view the influence of his mode of philosophy on theological reasoning. By a cautious and serious use of it, no doubt much light might be shed on many principles of interpreting and investigating religious doctrines which have been involved in obscurity. But this is not to be treated of in a familiar letter. I hope we shall still continue to love learning well, but to love religion better. Let us make all our science and philosophy subservient to the will and cause of God. We must pursue it with rigour so long as we have strength, but let us recollect that while feasting our minds on the ethereal visions of fancy and the profound speculations of philosophy, thousands of wretched souls are hurrying to their last account, unwashed and unsanctified to whom we have an opportunity of displaying the grace of life and pointing out to them the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world. Adieu my long loved, much loved friend, I would write more with pleasure, but I must tear myself from conversing with you.

With sincere affection,  
G. RIPLEY.

Union College

June 9, 1823

Dear Sir:

I received yours of May 12, per Mr. Snell and on account of his short stay could not gratify *his* wishes or *yours*, in showing all the wonders of the *far-famed* city of Durip. I received ten dollars of Mr. S—— which I distributed to your several creditors as you directed. A few days after the receipt of your first letter, I received the second of May 10; for both of which I return you my thanks. I was pleased to hear of your entrance upon the task of teacher so soon after you left us. And still *more pleased* when I heard that you were surrounded with *ladies*. Instead of turning my attention to the ladies this term as I anticipated, I have not yet had the good fortune to get acquainted with a single new one. I have to speak plain *unvarnished truth*, seen the *one* that you hinted at in yours. I did not push business so far as to ask her for a *kiss* for myself or for you. But I hope soon to see her again, when if there is no cloude in motion, ande all is still (except *Cupide*) I will try to gratify your wishes. It will all depend upon the impulse of the moment. I have seen no cause as yet sufficient to impel me to the *laborious* task of breaking F——s head or hold. He does not interfere with me or my *cousinry* in the *least*, if so, not openly. On the contrary he rather appears to be *engaged* in *State Street*. Every Saturday night he *disguises himself*, as the saying is, in a clean shirt and *openly* declares he is bound for the ladies company. How much *oftener* he goes I am not able to say. Report says *every other* night. I fear that *you* will be compelled to *break* something. Our Junior Orators are Curtis & Morris; Adelphic, McKray and Arms; Institutes, Howard, and Waters. Morris had only *one* majority over Shephard and *that* was given by Yates from the *chair*, who was then vice pres. Young of the Institutes, lately resigned his Oratorship with the expectation of returning home. Matlack was elected in his place by one majority over Johns. Young did not go home. Our ball managers have resigned. And instead of having *nine* we are to have only *six*. They are Mattick, Willing, and Hubbard; Walton, Bishop and Degraff. For fear that they could not sell tickets enough, they have bargained with Givens to furnish a ball and run the risk of getting his pay. The class Orators I mention *last* since they are the least respectable. They are *Bigelow, Cannon, Clark secundus, Drake, Degraff, Bosworth*, of the Adelphic: *Stone, Alden, Riggs, Watkins, Johnson* of the Institute, and our great speaker Hitchcock. Besides these

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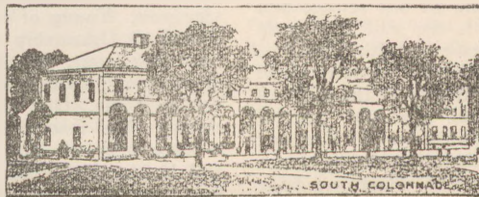
Rundle, Ellis, and Bishop have been appointed by the Faculty. Stone and Alden have left here for Litchfield, Conn. Brewster came on in the beginning of the term, bought all the books that we are studying, besides cloth for a new *black coat*, but *left* the second week declaring it was not his intention to stay the term. I suppose he was disappointed respecting an Oration. Drake is to deliver a *Hebrew Oration*. Shall we not have a *fine commencement*?

I am not studying either Hebrew or —?— but have the forenoon to myself which I generally employ in studying Greek and Latin. I expect to take an Academy in Westfield next winter when Cook leaves. If I take it I shall have 400 dollars a year and my board. In fact chum I am pretty certain of it, but say nothing about it. If I should fail in getting it I would not like to have it known. This station would be about as good as a tutorship in this college, the tutor having only 500 dollars and boards himself. I cannot say anything respecting the Miss Adairs, only that I saw F— walking the other evening with a couple of young ladies that looked very much like the *two youngest*. Concerning the rest of your acquaintances in town I know nothing. I am glad to hear that you are well pleased at Amherst. I expect that in the land of *steady habits, good girls, and wise olde maids* you feel quite transformed, something as when after a long and hard session at college, we

return home to kiss our *fair ones* and forget our troubles in the sunshine of *friendship*. If the banks of the Connecticut are as fair and the inhabitants as lovely as my imagination has painted them I envy you your happiness. Do not forget your promise respecting Miss L—. I believe I should like the girl from first sight. I will try to see her next fall. Chum, I should want you there to help me *break the ice*. You could best tell me when to strike first, what string— My present chum's bed has arrived and he has returned yours to Miss H—. He will probably pay me something for the use of it. If you should not be here at Commencement, but send some money to me, I shall be happy to attend to any of your comamnds. Such *little acts* are no trouble and only tend to remind me of our once having been chums. But I hope to see you *here once more*, and *once more* to exchange the salutations of *Friendship*. McGroch and Stevenson send their love. I shall expect you to write again and again before commencement. And if destiny prevents our meeting then, or ever after, in this world, do not let us cease writing. I am sure I shall always be anxious to hear of the *welfare* of my *chum*, whatever my own maybe. Remember me to Mrs. Snell, Richards and Edwards.  
Mr. S. Clapp

Yours Cordially,

OLIVER IVES, JR.





Easthampton Octo. 5<sup>th</sup> 1817

Dear Sir

I saw your uncle Mr. Enos Somers  
last evening, & was requested by him to write  
you on the subject of your commencing a course  
of studies, preparatory to the profession of theology.  
I will therefore communicate my views to you,  
without the trouble & formality of an apology.  
There are many disadvantages in beginning study  
at the advanced period of life, to which you have  
attained; but the circumstances of your age simply  
ought not (in my opinion) to deter you from your  
contemplated undertaking. As I am unacquainted  
in a great measure with your condition as to  
pecuniary circumstances & mental improvement, I  
should not dare to give you positive advice either  
way. But I would recommend it to you, as the safest  
course you can adopt. to obtain & follow the advice  
of literary gentlemen in the vicinity where you reside.  
If some clergyman in Troy would represent your  
case to Dr. Yates or Mr. Hayland of Union college,  
they would give you the best directions. For myself  
I think it vastly important that as many young men of  
piety should be qualified for the ministry, as can be found  
& educated. for the the harvest is great & the laborers  
few.

Perhaps it may be thought expedient for you to devote two or three years to the study of the languages, & then to commence professional studies without attempting to acquire a collegiate education.

If you are destitute of property, you can probably obtain support from some charitable society.

They receive indigent young men of piety at Phillips Academy Andover after three months probation.

Few if any applicants who exhibit promising talents are rejected. If you should be obliged to support yourself three months, the expense would be small. We expect to leave this state soon.

We can <sup>not</sup> promise you any assistance & patronage, but you will receive <sup>all</sup> that attention from clergymen & the public friends of learning & religion, which you may need.

Mrs Sylvia Clapp

Yours, with the sincerest wishes  
that you may enjoy the direction  
& blessing of the great Head of the  
church. Theodore Clapp

I & your uncle wishes me to inform you  
that he is & his family are in good health. & to  
assure you of his best wishes for your prosperity

10  
Mr. & Mrs. Clapp

Long. N. York

Mrs. Clapp  
to

ELIZABETH  
1840

Union College, 9 June 1826.

Dear Sir

Received yours of May 12, per Mr. Snell, and on account of his short stay could not gratify his wishes or yours, in showing all the wonders of the perfumed city of Quincy. Received ten dollars of Mr. S. — which distributed to your several creditors as you directed. — A few days after the receipt of your first letter Received the second, of May 15; for both of which. Return you my thanks. — I was pained to hear of your entrance upon the task of teacher so soon after you left us. And still more pained when I heard that you were surrounded with ladies. Instead of turning my attention to the ladies this term as I anticipated I have not yet had the good fortune to get acquainted with a single new one. I have, to speak plain unvarnished truth, seen the one that you hinted at in yours. I did not push business so far as to ask her for a help <sup>for</sup> myself or you. But I hope soon to see her again, when, if there is no cloud in motion, and all is still (except curiosity) I will try to gratify your wishes. — It will all depend upon the impulse of the moment. I have seen no cause as yet sufficient to impel me to the laborious task of bending his head or his hold. He does not interfere with me or my concerns in the least, if so, not openly. On the contrary he rather appears to be engaged in state street. Every Saturday night he disguises himself, as the saying is, in a clean shirt and openly declares that he is bound for the ladies company. How much oftener he goes I am not able to say. Eight days every other night. I fear that you will be compelled to break something. — Our Senior Orator is Curtis & Morris, Adelphe, McKean & Adams, Trustees, Howard and Waters. — Morris had only one majority over Shephard, and that was given by Gates from the chair, who was then vice pres. — Young of <sup>the</sup> Trustees, lately resigned his Oratorship, with the expectation of returning home. Matlack was elected in his place by one majority over Coburn. Young did not go home.

Our hall managers have one resigned. And instead of having nine  
we are ~~to~~ to have only six. They are Mallock, <sup>Phillips</sup> ~~and~~ Malton  
Bishop & Degraff. For fear that they could not sell tickets enough, they have  
bargained with Finns to furnish a ball and run the risk of getting his pay.  
The class orators I mention ~~last~~ since they are the least respectable. They are  
Bigelow, Larsson, Clark secundus, Drake, Degraff, Bosworth, of the  
Adelphic: Stone, Alden, Eligg, Watkins, Johnson, of the Institute; and  
our great speaker Fitchhook. Besides these Kimble, Elisha Bishop have  
been appointed by the Faculty. Stone & Alden have left here for <sup>Pittsfield</sup>  
Conn. Brewster came on in the beginning of the term, brought all the books  
that we are studying, besides cloth for a new black coat, but left the  
second week declaring it was not his intention to stay the term. I suppose  
he was disappointed respecting an oration. — Drake is to deliver a Hebrew  
oration. Shall we not have a fine commencement?

I am not studying either Hebrew or Rattall, but have the forenoon to myself  
which I generally employ in studying Greek & Latin. I expect to take an  
Academy in Westfield next winter when Cook leaves. If I take it I shall  
have 400 dollars a year and my board. In fact when I am pretty  
certain of it, but say nothing about it. If it should fail in getting it,  
I would not like to have it known. This station would be about as  
good as a tutorship in this college, the tutor having only \$500, and  
boards himself. — I cannot say any thing respecting the  
Miss Adams, only that I saw ~~her~~ walking the other evening  
with a couple of young ladies, that looked very much like the  
two youngest. Concerning the rest of your acquaintance in town  
I know nothing. — I am glad to hear that you are well pleased  
at Amherst. I expect that in that land of steady habits, good girls,  
and wise old maids you feel quite transformed, something as when  
after a long and hard session at college, we return home to kiss our

fair ones and forget our troubles in the sunshine of friendship.  
If the banks of the Connecticut are as fair and the inhabitants as lovely  
as my imagination has painted them I envy you your happiness.  
Do not forget your promise respecting Miss L. — I believe I should like  
the girl from first sight. I will try to see her next fall. When I should  
want you there to help me beat the ice. You could best tell me  
when to strike fire ~~at that string~~. — My present chemist's book has  
arrived and he has returned yours to Miss L. — He will probably  
pay me something for the use of it. If you should not be here  
at commencement, but send some money to me, I shall be happy to  
attend to any of your commands. Such little acts are no trouble  
and only tend to remind me of our once having been chemists.  
But I hope to see you here once more, and once more to exchange  
the salutations of friendship. Mr. Good & Huntington send their love.  
I shall expect you to write again and again before common council.  
And if destiny prevent our meeting, then, or ever after, in this world,  
do not let us cease writing. I am sure I shall always be anxious to  
hear of the welfare of my chem, whatever my own may be.  
Remember me to Miss Snell, Richard and Edward.  
Yours cordially  
C. C. Clapp.

Mr. S. Clapp.

P. Jones No. 2.  
June 9 1823

Philadelphia  
June 10<sup>th</sup> 1823

19 1/2

Mr. Stephen Clark  
Burlington  
Vt.

Harvard University Cambridge Dec. 1. 1821

My Beloved Friend

Your letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> Oct. was received, not until a month after date; the joy at hearing from a valued and long absent friend, was damped by the unpleasable account you give me of your health. I can sincerely sympathize with you in this visitation of your Heavenly Father - for I too have been called to drink the bitter cup, and to suffer the chastisement of the Almighty. When I received your letter, I had but just resumed my studies, from which I had been laid aside for about ten weeks, five of which I was confined with a severe bilious fever. My health is not completely restored, but at present, is in a very delicate and critical situation. - I will not add however to the dejection you express on account of your afflictions, by recounting the sorrowful detail of my own, but rather would pour the balm of friendship and Christian sympathy, into your bruised spirit. I would follow you, my friend, to the cross of our Saviour, and there recount the tale of our sufferings and sorrows, to Him, that hears the prayer. I would wish, <sup>to possess</sup> the spirit of resignation, after the example of Jesus saying, "the cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink it?"

Sickness is not to the true Christian an evil. On the contrary it is often the discipline, which is necessary, to recall us from our wanderings - to tear us from our hold on this world - to fill us with elevated desires, after a country of unmingled holiness, purity and felicity.

I do feel, my friend, that it is good for us to be afflicted - that we need something to make us sensible of our entire dependence upon God, and to warn us from the alluring pleasures of sin and the world. And we find that the blessed God trains us for high and distinguished usefulness and utility, an often called to pass through the Valley of Affliction. I have all much to do to be separated from  
 from conversing with you. <sup>with sincere affection</sup>  
 Yr. faithful

the pure gold, before we shall be well prepared for faithful labours in the vineyard of our God. We have too many earth-born passions and low desires, which need a severe but salutary discipline to eradicate them. On the bed of sickness the things of this world and the solemn realities of eternity appear, each with their proper value. How vain do the most glittering honours - the proudest distinctions of literary fame - and the most splendid laurels of intellectual greatness appear, when viewed in comparison with the glories of the unseen world.

P. I would willingly exchange, when the body is racked with anguish and heaven and hell rise up unveiled before the sight, - for one smile from my Saviour, - all that is estimable and exalted in the fleeting scene of earthly pleasure and worldly renown. - And if these feelings are excited by the suffering of sickness, ought we not to rejoice and "kiss the rod, which strikes our comforts dead." If we are ever doomed to an early grave, we should not repine, although we look, with ardent longings, on the prospect of doing good in the world, yet it may be most for the glory of God, that our agency should not be employed. He may be taken away in the freshness of our strength - the fairest hopes of our friends may be blasted by our premature removal, - yet the cause of God will still flourish. Others, will be raised up, holier and more faithful than ourselves, who will enter into the harvest and labour, in that place to which we aspired. But it will all be right. Let us be willing to be absolutely at the disposal of God, and whether health or sickness, life or death is our portion, let us be found faithful, looking for the coming of our Lord.

I had not, previously to the reception of your letter, heard any thing from you. During our vacation, I was sick in Boston, and have not seen since any of our friends in Hadley. Neither did I know that you had transferred your connections to Union College. I would not continue at William College.

What is the state of learning in Union College? You mention mathematics as forming the standard of scholarship - what is your course? Are you made thoroughly acquainted with the subject, or study it, as most do here, without comprehending its principles? I hope, for the honour of science, you do not. As far as I can judge, by a very superficial attention to the study, it is of singular utility in forming sound, and efficient intellectual habits. The ~~use~~ use of a system translated for our students from the French of Lacroix, Legendre, Bonnet and others. It proceeds strictly on the analytical method, and thus the results are pretty clear and satisfactory.

Do you pay much attention to metaphysical studies? We have just entered the course, and find them very pleasant. I think you will agree with me, in admiring Stewart, notwithstanding it is so fashionable <sup>for some</sup> to decry his method of philosophizing. He has made some applications of intellectual philosophy to the subject of taste and the fine arts and the common business of life, that are truly admirable. It is very interesting to see the influence of his mode of philosophy, on theological reasoning. A ~~very~~ cautious and serious use of it, no doubt, much light might be shed on many principles of interpreting and investigating religious doctrines, which have been involved in obscurity. - But this is not to be treated of in a familiar letter. - I hope we shall still continue to love learning well, but to love religion better. Let us make all our science and philosophy, subservient to the ~~advancement~~ <sup>advancement</sup> of our own souls. We must pursue it with vigour - so long as we have strength - but let us recollect - that while feasting our minds on the ethereal visions of fancy and the profound speculations of philosophy - thousands of wretched souls, are hurrying to their last account - unwaked and unanctified, to whom we have an opportunity of displaying the grace of life and pointing <sup>out</sup> to them the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. Adieu, my long loved, much loved friend, I would write more, with pleasure, - but I must bid myself from conversing with you. With sincere affection  
Yrs. faithfully



Cambridge MS  
Dec 4 - 5

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Mr. Leicester Clapp  
Student at Union College  
Schuylkill

Letters Recd by  
J. Clapp

W. Ripley No. 5.