General Hospital  
Falmouth, May 1847

I have again, my dear father, to acknowledge the receipt of the interesting letter gone, written immediately after the adjournment of Congress. Your commercial banks are particularly interesting to me, and afford me more practical views of political economy than I have ever derived from Sale or similar treaties. Although speculations of this kind do not immediately concern me, I am sometimes foolish enough to believe that, in the revolutions which threaten our own and other countries, and which may very well happen in my day, I must choose to be thrown into the teeth of responsibility when practical knowledge will be drawn. Thoughts of this kind, to which I occasionally give expression, may induce you to reflect me as a dreamer; yet, while I freely confess that I am somewhat given to cast the building in only to add an extent as excites me to further action and prepare, without hesitating and respecting one for actual life, by shaping...
We always be facing hard. The influence which the lately aroused military spirit is likely to exert on the destiny of our Republic, is a theme well worthy of meditation, and the conclusion to which I have arrived is that, we will run our course towards Real 64, if not to avoid Monarchy, than more surely & rapidly than before. When Democracy so fast loses light of constancy, as to deserve the extension of territory even by Napoleon upon the risk of others. The best of conquest has supplanted the love of freedom and will be grateful even at the expense of independence. A strong government is needed, firm & unchangeable in its purposes. Add to this natural tendency towards Monarchy existing in a Military people, free, with the load of conquest, the influence of successful military enterprises, the aim at the vainglory of permanent power, both for the gratification of their own ambition, and perhaps from a sincere conviction, arising from their minds, the education, of the superiority of a Monarchical institutions. Somehow, all this is not my affair in a letter.

We are left in great doubt about the future intentions of our General. His wishes are
sufficiently well known, but the means of account: raising them doubtful. Should the Polk reports of former neglect furnish their line with sufficient troops, Taylor will advance in San Antonio. This plan, no doubt, old Man will first have more laurels for Scott than he cannot pick up himself. I have often expressed to you my conviction that, the entire abandonment of this false and expensive line of operations would be advisable, but it is equally clear that if he determine upon occupying it, some one should be made of it. While believing that the capital is the point from which our armies should always go to the secondary cities of the country, so that in case of disaster, concentration would be easy, I have little doubt but that, once the late battle between Scott and Santa Anna (if rumors of a total rout of the Mexicans is true), he might move without fear on San Antonio, with four forces there more necessary some months ago. Certainly every report will be made by General Taylor to make a forced movement. Army horses are even now being sent north to assist them. Many of the new regiment are intended for this line. My only fear is that Government will fall into the same error with regard to Scott, that it lately did.
with delays, and in the end, in stead of having one efficient army, will cripple both by their cursed ignorance & parsimony. At this moment, to reap all the benefits of his strategy, Scott should command 50,000 men. With this force no rallying them should be given to the enemy, and peace cannot be inevitable. Should a similar system be repeated, he have a terrible, dreadful fate indeed, but to which he would sooner or later be forced to resort. Retaliation is necessary in such an event, and he must plunder for destroying a desert by the whole land. But let us not do this ourselves: it would demoralize Judea. As we have in the sections, the best guerrilla warriors in the world, give them their instruction to "do as they are done by," and let them loose. Justice would soon dictate her barbarism, when one with them as cruelly employing another. There is nothing personal worth mentioning, except my steady increase in strength & flesh. Many in our supper room yielded to far less bucking than myself, gave up sick leave but God has manfully spared & restored one. Give my best love to all, theys are, as I requested in my last by going again on a summer trip to Rejann elsewhere, you until you advise me of your intention to do this. Cannot rest satisfied.

I affectionately are

[Signature]