

DRAFT

DEC 19 1989

**THE
Parks Store
LETTERS:**

**The Antebellum & Civil War
Correspondence of the
Parks and Pierce Families
of Jackson County, Alabama**

Edited by
Benjamin Barnett Spratling III

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Introduction

During the Thanksgiving Holidays in 1989, while visiting my parents in Roba, Alabama, I decided to help my mother¹ search for old photographs of her grandparents, Millard Donalson Hartley and Ruth Brown Parks.² My mother had been asked to find a photograph of her grandfather to send to his old church which was publishing a directory of former elders. We looked through boxes of old records which had been stashed away for decades in the attic and in an old servant's house located behind my parents' house. My father and wife also joined in the search.

After we had spent the better part of a day moving heavy boxes and looking through all kinds of what appeared to be mostly junk, my wife said "listen to this" as she began to read out loud from some letters she had just found. I did not pay much attention at first because I was concentrating on trying to find photographs. Then I heard her read the date on one of the letters, "1854" and I started to listen more closely as she read, "... I have scarcely a justifiable reason to offer, much less a cause, for there are thousands to condemn my conduct and but few, if any, to applaud. In so doing I have subjected myself to shame that the lapse of ages can never efface" As she continued to read line after line such as, "I . . . bent my way to Texas, the great lucking place of the world," and "The slaughter probably excels anything of the War--think of the Yanks going up six men deep, and see them all mowed down, and see them make a second and third and fourth effort and still mowed down," I slowly began to realize that she had uncovered a "family treasure" of Antebellum and Civil War letters and documents.

¹Benjamin Barnett Spratling III (B.S., Auburn University, 1967; J.D., Vanderbilt University, 1971; LL.M. (Taxation), University of Alabama, 1982) is a member of the Alabama Bar and a partner in the law firm of Haskell Slaughter & Young, Birmingham, Alabama.

²Ruth Elmeria McCallum (Mrs. Benjamin Barnett Spratling, Jr.) born September 3, 1922, is the daughter of Ruth Omega Hartley (Mrs. Robert Ernest McCallum), born October 16, 1894, who was the daughter of Ruth Brown Parks (Mrs. Millard Donalson Hartley).

³Ruth Brown Parks, born October 4, 1855, was the daughter of Samuel Wiley Parks, born September 4, 1831 and Sarah Alabama Pierce, born about 1833. Samuel Wiley Parks was the son of Rev. John Parks, born January 14, 1782, a Methodist Minister and early pioneer of Jackson County, Alabama, and Ruth Brown, born October 18, 1796. Sarah Alabama Pierce was the daughter of Solomon Pierce (or Pearce), born about 1804, who was the son of James Pearce (or Pierce), born December 25, 1765, a Revolutionary War Soldier who moved to Jackson County, Alabama in 1821.

Thomas B. Parks to Samuel W. Parks

Keecheye Creek, near Centerville
Leon County, Texas
[February 22, 1854]

[Samuel W. Parks
Parks Store
Jackson Co., Alabama]

Dear Samuel,

Before this time you may have been informed that I have left the Washington Institute in a very unceremonious manner, for which I have scarcely a justifiable reason to offer, much less a cause, for there are thousands to condemn my conduct and but few, if any, to applaud. In so doing I have subjected myself to shame that the lapse of ages can never efface, or time worn enemies refuse to handle when I am buried in immortal slumber. But enough of this as it is a subject of no little importance and one too I hope my friends will treat with becoming delicacy or turn it off with as few words as possible. I left school on the 26th of January and remained in Nashville some 3 or 4 days. I thought it was too bad to return home in so short a time, and accordingly bent my way to Texas, the great lucking place of the world. As I have many things to write, and of more importance to me than my travels, I defer it for the present.

Suffice it to say, I traveled by the way of the great Mississippi, and up Red River to Grand Ecore. There I took a stage in upon the old San Antone Road. I will mention the various towns through which I passed, beginning at Grand Ecore, La., Fort Jessup, La., cross the Sabine River, the line between La. and Texas, Sabine Town, Many, St. Augustine, Nachogdoches, altho this may not be upon the map, and Crockett. From this last named place to Grand Ecore it is one hundred and eighty miles, and from Crockett to Centerville it is 40 miles, which distance I had to hire a hack at an enormous price. By this time I am nearly to my destination, and shall I relate our meeting, no! Hush, something says do not refer to that sweet moment when I stepped before the cabin door, her expression as I clasped her hand, "Lord have mercy it is my brother." Our faces were both effused with tears, and I was not myself for an hour. I found Jerome and Eliz enjoying very good health. He is as stout as the strongest man in Jackson County and nearly as black.

I want you to answer this letter, or some of you at least; do not delay 24 hours. I want you to go and pay a small tavern bill at Girlys for me as I forgot it. Billy Shelton has got my note for 14 or 15 dollars, if you can see any possible way, settle it off. I would like to know what Jim is doing about that land. If he has done nothing tell him to let it alone. \$5.00 per acre is enough for the land; tell him not to bid above five any way. Jerome has got a fine deer gun, and I killed five deer with it the th[?] after my arrival here. So you can tell pretty well what I am doing, for this is the fifth day I have been at Jerre's.

Sam, how are you and State [Sarah Alabama Pierce] fixing it up by this time. Are Ben and Sis married? Give me general information, and as soon as court is over, let me know how Rob and Guillatt's suit is decided. Also you may supply a few of McKelvy's words as everything is square with us boys. All the neighbors, the Galls, the Captain and Sally, Joe and all the family--give my love to everybody.

Thomas B. Parks

Thomas B. Parks to Samuel W. Parks

Centerville, Tex.
December 17th, 1854

[Samuel W. Parks
Parks Store
Jackson Co., Alabama]

Dear Samuel,

After one week's delay, I take the pleasure of acknowledging your favor under date November 12th, which finds me enjoying very good health, also with me J. and E. I have nothing of interest to communicate at present; but out of many things I must try to produce a few items at least. The reading of your letter gets hold of my sympathy, for it must have been an almost insufferable thing to have a severe spell of sickness in the honeymoon of matrimony. But as I have not had the experience of those things, I leave you to be the judge. But I am looking forward with happy anticipation to the time when I shall be inducted into the pleasures of the married life (i.e., if there be any). But and if after I change my condition in this life I find no pleasure, I shall then conclude with Solomon that there is no pleasure under the Sun. For as yet I never have derived any real pleasure from my present condition, aside from those gleaned from the Gospel of my Master, which is revealed to me in the Holy Scriptures.

What shall I write? This question I have asked myself many times, but have hardly furnished anything in the shape of an answer. I suppose something concerning myself would be interesting to you. I am doing nothing at present, and cannot do anything for the want of capital to work on. If I had a few hundred dollars to operate with I could soon make a handsome living in Texas. I have not as yet laid any plans for my future well being, for I have heard a true saying, that as long as there is a will in man, there is a way for that man to live. Consequently I conclude that there is a way somewhere in nature provided for me. But as these things are in the future, I shall try to be content and happy, not treasuring up the goods of this world, but ever try to treasure up the things that are eternal, even a hope of that blessed immortality beyond the grave.

I presume you have learned ere this time from my former letters to Alabama, that it is my intention to remain in Texas until sometime in the spring. That time is hard by, and I shall soon hale at my mother's door as her returning prodigal son, for such I am. Notwithstanding I have acted prodigal, I have not as yet fained to fill my belly with the husks that the swine did eat. Neither have I joined myself to a citizen of this country, though there is one thing that I would like to have. That is fat swine, as pork is worth \$5-6 per hundred, corn, \$1 per bushel, cotton, 8 to 9 cents in Galveston and commands 6 and 1/2 in Centerville, beef, 2-1/2 & 3 cents per lb, the best and fattest in the known world, good saddle horses, \$150.00, and brood mares, from 100 to 130 dollars.

There are a great many people settling in Texas this fall. Selden, Black's brother [-in-law?] is now stopped with Jerome, his name Phelleps[?]. Give my respects to all my relatives, especially my newly adopted sister, Alabama [Sarah Alabama Pierce, bride of Samuel W. Parks]. And for yourself, receive the best wishes of,

Your Brother,

Thomas B. Parks

Samuel W. Parks to Hardy Martin

Parks Store
[Jackson Co., Alabama]
March the 25th, 1855

Mr. Hardy Martin
[_____, La.]

Dear friend,

I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines this Sunday evening after so long a time. I have looked for a letter from you ever since you left here in accordance to your promise, but you have failed to fill your promise. What of that; I can look over that. I was glad to learn that you reached home safely, as you were in bad health when you left old Jackson. I was glad to hear of your health improving after you reached your home in La.

I hardly know what to write unless it be the state of the country. Prices current: corn worth one dollar per bushel, bacon from 10 to 12-1/2 cents per pound, flour five dollars per hundred, provisions of all sorts are high[?] in this country. At the present time stock is tolerably high, but little selling, horses still hold up at a fair price. We have not planted very much in this country; it is very cold here today which makes the 25th of March. I would suppose all of our fruit was killed this cold spell. If it is all killed I would be sorry of it.

I feel somewhat worse this evening on the account of being out in the cold last night attending our court of justice, which sentenced three of the Duke's to the state prison. Two of them for life, one for ten years, and tomorrow will try some more of the prisoners. Perhaps they will clear the jail, or very near it, before they stop, which you know it ought to be done.

There has been a great deal of sickness in the country this fall and winter, therefore been a great deal of deaths in this country around. I will not attempt to tell you all the names, however, I will mention a few of them. Commencing at home, Robert Parks lost three of his children, Butler Tipton his wife and some others. David Tharp died this winter, and more than would fill this whole sheet. If I had the time, Hard[?], I could tell you about many more.

The day is drawing near. I must draw my letter to a close by saying I am well and all my family. Mother's family is well except Mary. She is very low in bed. Your mother and Jack are well at this time. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends in that country. Remember to reserve the best love for yourself. I remain yours in love as,

S. W. Parks

Jerre N. Black to Samuel Parks

Keechi, Texas
June 18th, [18]56

[Samuel Parks
Parks Store
Jackson Co., Alabama]

Dear Sam,

I received a letter from you some times past and answered it immediately, but looking over my pack of letters yesterday found that I had neglected to mail it. And if I have answered it since that time, I have no recollection of it. And if I have, I hope this will be no offense.

This leaves us all enjoying good health. Joe was a little sick the other day but has got stout again. I hardly know how to write you anything of an interesting letter, as myself and Joe write so differently that you might come to the conclusion that there was some inconsistency in our writing. And as Joe has been writing in opposition to the way I should write in describing the qualities of Texas, I reckon it would be policy in me to remain neutral on that one, particularly as it is not my desire to persuade any persons to move to Texas. But suffice it to say that you must look over Joe's broad assertions, as I consider him at times somewhat frantic, but alleged to what we sometimes call homesick, in Joe's case, Jackson sick.

Times are tolerably dull in Texas at this time, but there is some excitement getting up about the election in August next. We are going to make the effort to lay knownothingism in the shade in our county next August. Last August they had a considerable majority, but there has been a considerable falling off since then. Time we have come to the conclusion as Uncle Ben says in his speech, sink them to the bottom this time.

The health of our country is good at this time, and a fine prospect for good crops, both cotton and corn. Though we are suffering for rain at this time, and if we do not get rain soon, we will be injured some, particularly early corn. Our country is in [a] high state of improvement, our little village is growing rapid.

Stock are all fat; the grass is about 3 feet high all over the woods. I have not been laboring bodily this year myself. I have been training the young mind how to shoot, and it requires a great deal of mental labor, as I have suffered myself to become so rusty in the sciences and arts. It requires a good deal of mental labor on my part to keep in advance of my students, as I have some that are pretty well advanced.

If you have any notion of moving to Texas, I would advise you not to listen to Joe's whims. Be your own judge for I rightly think that he is one of the most inconsistent fellows in his notion about things I ever have seen. He sometimes is on top of his head to buy him a place and some stock in Texas, and then again he says he would not live in Texas for no money. So I just let him form his own opinions and enjoy his own reckless sayings.

P.S. Liza sends her compliments to Alabama [Sarah Alabama Parks] and to all relatives. Oh, I had liked to forgotten to call you old dad .. ok .. ha.

Your most obdient,

Jerre N. Black

Joseph H. Parks to Samuel W. Parks

Centreville, Texas
July 20, 1856

Mr. Samuel W. Parks
[Parks Store
Jackson Co., Alabama]

Dear Sir, yours of May 28 is at hand and read with much pleasure. It found us all well and doing the best we can. Well sir, I hardly know what to say to you, but I can say one thing. It is one of the driest times that I've ever seen in my life. We have not had any rain in two months. You may say it is a dry time in Texas and the sun is so warm that you cannot no more hold your finger in it than you can hold it in the fire. Well sir, this country is quite different from that country. It's a great deal warmer than that country and it suits me very well so far as I have tried it. I have been as stout as a Jackass ever since I have been out here. At this time I feel lonesome and dull, Jerry and Lizzy are gone up to see Parson Wamack. He's very sick. I have just returned from Sunday School and had some company for dinner, but they are all gone to see the sick parson. Well sir, all that I have that is news is the election is quite interesting. It seems that the Know nothings are taking a great stand. Well sir, it is going to be ...tested this race in the church election Mr. W. B. Johnson is the ...and a full blooded Irishman born in a foreign land.

Sam, what did you mean when you wrote in your letter ...my native land. I love it. Didn't you know that I love my native land? But I love some of the girls out here a devilish sight better. Well sir, you may think that I am romancing. But you would think right if you did think so, but some of them are pretty sisters. What is Thorn doing? Is he at his ...train or is he just sitting looking at his pretty wife? I suppose he's at something of the kind as he won't write to me, him and Jack[?] Booth[?]. Would you say he never will come to Texas. Well sir, if he don't come to Texas, he will have to do something pretty soon as he will have to vary from his word and acknowledge he is the very boy that got me to come to this country. Ah, I could do so much better and could play the devil and get angry know what all and he was coming and how he couldn't hardly stay. Tell Pall[?] and you say he's found Texas in Jackson, he has made a devilish grand discovery. Sam, tell me how you would feel if you were scared[?] in such a way. I want you to let me know if he has done anything with my Birdsness[?] as he won't write to me on the subject.

Tell all my friends howdy for me, and enemies to go to the devil.

Kech Erye Creek, July 20

Well Sir, there is as much excitement about this little church's election as there was about Polk's for President in 1844. Well Sir, as to myself, I think I am a better Democrat than I ever was. I see the blackest principled men in it out here. I see some of the meanest men in it that are in this country. Thank God I have found some old Jackson men out here. It makes me feel happy to talk to such men, and I glory in their spunk. I was sorry to hear of our old friend, John G. Dettans[?] death, because he was one of the cleaver men, as much so as any man. What a change 8 or 9 months can make in time, but it seems like it has been almost a life time to me since I left old Jackson. Well, I can say one thing, I have some friends out here and some as good friends out here as I have in old Jackson County. And I say one more thing, I think that the girls are a great deal friendlier than they are back there, and one thing I know, the people [?] are more cleaver[?] than they were to me in your country and the girls won't get under bed when a young man comes in. They sit there and talk to him as brave as Jackson men talked to the women in New Orleans.

When I think how Tom has over it makes me mad and cannot help it. Right to me Sam as soon as you get this.

Joseph H. Parks

Thomas B. Parks to Sarah Alabama Parks

Forte Severe near Clarksville [Tenn.]
Feb. 10th, 1862

[Mrs. Sarah Alabama Parks
Parks Store
Jackson Co., Alabama]

Dear Bam,

You see from this heading that we have moved again, from Camp Jones to Forte Severe, about one mile from Clarksville. We are encamped around the fort, which is situated on a very high bluff hill which overlooks the river. This fortification is designed to operate against the gunboats, which are daily expected up here, after their success up the Tenn. River. And my candid opinion is that our fortifications to prevent their passage are totally deficient. Our people are not ready for an attack, but we will give them the best we have on hand.

There is great excitement here about the loss of Fort Henry. The soldiers are flocking in here by the thousand, from Hopkinsville and Russellville. General Clark has resigned and his brigade(?) has been moved to(?) the last [_____] of(?) Donnelson also Gen. Floyd [_____] Brigade from Russellville [_____] has taken command of the [_____] he will take Fort Henry if the [_____] him and I judge from the [_____] the troops that have passed on [_____] will do good fighting if the [_____] .

There are several regiments stationed here, and Col. Quarles is appointed Brigadier Gen. temporarily, and maybe it will be made permanent. In that case we will have to elect another Col.

My health is good at present, except bad cold from exposure in moving through the rain and cold. News has reached here this evening that the two armies are in two miles of each other. No doubt there will be a bloody battle somewhere between Fort Donnelson and Henry, or near here somewhere. No one can tell yet as to that. It seems that the enemy has changed his line of operations from Bowling Green to the Cumberland River, but our forces are fast enough for them. They will meet them on any field and contest the last inch of ground. We will not fare so well I fear as we have been, owing to so many troops being brought here. I fear Jane will be very uneasy about me. Altho(?) she need not be if she can help it, as I do not believe we will be(?) in(?) the fight(?) [] we will be kept here, and [_____] take place lower down [_____] in fact I know we will s[_____] [_____] Pillow and Floyd both s[_____] [_____] in Clarksville on the 8th [_____] like leading men to slaughter [_____] Regt in a fight, as they were(?) [_____] sufficiently, and this thing kept(?) [_____] .

I have written to H. L. Parks to desist from taking Henry from Tipton. If I had understood the matter as well before I received your letter as I now do, I should have acted differently. But if he has taken the boy before my letter reaches him, it will be too late to do anything in the matter. As I said before, I had placed myself under obligation to Lewis under certain conditions and contingencies which I had been informed had occurred. But from your statement of the case, Hugh had given up all the rights that I had conferred upon him by saying that he would have nothing more to do with the matter. If he has not taken the boy from Tipton, he will make no further attempt to do so. If he does, I want Tipton to resist it.

I am truly sorry for you, and that I have acted so hastily in this matter, because if I had understood it properly I would have done to the reverse, and I fear it is too late now to mend [] breach [] made[?].

[] one of the swell heads that [] swell about, and you may [] conduct that he is too low down [] by[?] genteel people. Although I [] to be brought to account for [] towards you, to keep him from [] another helpless woman.

It is very cold in the tent tonight and I must close this and go to bed to keep warm. We have had the bitterest weather for the last few days that we have had during the winter and we have moved during the time. Bose Russell is well, and gone off on a seven days detail to guard the train from Clarksville to Russellville. There have been thirty of my company on detail today. Duncairn[?] has been very low with pneumonia, but is up and going again. Jas McRay[?] has improved more than any boy I ever saw, in every particular.

Pip Harp weighs well onto two hundred - he is a fat harp now. Our company is in better condition than since we left. I do not know when I can come home, doubtless not at all - during the term of my service. I came near getting off a few days ago with Sublett[?], but the Col. would not give me permission to leave.

My fingers are too numb []

Close by saying write [] me good to get a letter from [] friend. Write often.

Yours V.,

Thos. [B. Parks]

Thomas B. Parks to Sarah Alabama Parks

Near Jackson, Miss.
May 27, 1863

[Mrs.] S[arah] A[labama] Parks,
[Parks Store
Jackson Co., Alabama]

Dear Sister,

Your very kind favor is received and it's contents carefully noted. I am sorry to hear that T. P. has been so sick, but glad and thankful his case is no worse than it is. It makes me sad indeed to think of the fine youths, the flower of our country that are melting away in this unholy war. All of us have some kind friends who are exposed to the fate of war. I have written to Jane since we had a fight on the tenth of May. We had a severe conflict with the enemy on that day. Lowring's division, to which is attached our brigade, and General Bowen's division were engaged, or parts of them. The fight was badly managed on our part and resulted in our retreating to this place and Bowen fighting his way back to big black river and finally to the entrenchments of Vicksburg. We had a good many men captured and killed, though we killed our share of Yankees while we were at it. The country will never know the results of the affair until the official reports are made up. I have not seen anything of it in the papers as yet, though it will never be forgotten by those who participated in it. We made a circle around the Federal lines under the cover of night that fairly eclipses Stuart's and Morgan's cavalry raids. We marched about one hundred miles to get to Jackson, when we were but 25 miles off the nearest route. The men suffered much in the march. For my own part I was completely give out, and the command left me several miles behind, but overtook them after they stopped one day.

I'm sorry to say that James Broadaway is a prisoner, he broke down in the fight. For our brigade was the reserve, and I tell you the reserve sees sights in a fight - they have to double quick. Our regiment did not get to fire a gun, but was under the fire of the enemy's artillery a great deal. Three others of Co. (I) were captured, John Vaughn, R. D. Grimmitt, Will Young, though Young was at the Hospital and has been parolled. The others have gone up North. We thought for a while Swafford and Bud Tipton were captured, but they went to Vicksburg, and Swafford has made his way through to us again. Also John L. Young.

Bud is still at Vicksburg and has had the honor of seeing the great fight that took place there on the 23rd. Our boys have slain the Yanks there by the thousand. They are still repulsed our men holding the field. The slaughter probably excels anything of the War--think of the Yanks going up 6 men deep, and see them all mowed down, and see them make a second and third and fourth effort and still mowed down.

In reply to your question about the I. M. Lewis note, I have this to say. I retain the note for the purpose of closing up the estate. There were some papers that I could not get at, and I thought it proper to make that disposition of the matter, as the note was in a peculiar situation. It will about take the note, from the best calculation I could make, to square off the whole matter, and I settled with you on this calculation though it is not final. As I remarked to you at the time, I hope this will be satisfactory. The note is my property, of course, until I make a final settlement of the estate.

I am pressed this evening on business and must close up my hasty note. Give my kind love to all of the family. I still have a grateful recollection of past favors and kindness.

Yours V.,
Thos. B. Parks

N. Bartlett Pearce to Virginia D. Pearce

West Point, N. York
May 6th, 1848

Mrs. Virginia D. Pearce,
[Jackson County, Alabama]

My dear and affectionate Aunt,

I yesterday learned the sad news of the death of my dear Uncle Solomon, and it has not been over a month since I received news, from home, of the death of my dear Uncle H.[or A.] B. Pierce. I suppose that Pa has written to some of you in Alabama and informed you of the sad intelligence. But we must try and submit calmly to the will of divine providence. He knows better than we what will be for our good. And we should be always ready to obey his calling, "for the son of man cometh when we least expect him," when in the vigor of life, when we think that our time of dissolution is far distant and neglect the affairs of the future world and are occupied with the things of this vile world. Then before we are aware, He calls us to account, before the throne of God, for the deeds done on this earth of sin.

I know that your life is a severe one and one that cannot be remedied by human aid, but trust in Christ and your affliction will seem to be comfort. For the affliction that he experienced for us is far superior to any that we experience ourselves. Trust in him and be comforted.

I have written to you and Uncle Solomon twice since I have been at West Point, but I have not received a word from you. I will start home in about six weeks and will stay there until the middle of August, when, by the Grace of God, I expect to return to West Point to remain two more years. And then I will be a graduate and a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army. I have been here two years or very near it. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this, but if you should not write until some weeks after it comes to hand, then you must direct your letter to Princeton, Ky, as I will be there. It will take a letter about two weeks to go from here to Bellefonte [in Jackson County, Alabama]. So if you write immediately after getting this, you may direct your letter to West Point, N. Y.

We lost one of the family last summer, Paulina Desines[?], about a year and a half old, she died of scarlet fever. The rest of the family are all well, when I last heard from them. Brother James is in Mexico and has been for the last six months, and I don't know when he will return. He was well the last time I heard from him.

You must remember me kindly to your dear children, Cousin Alabama and Robert, etc., etc. Tell them that they must write to me, for although, my dear Aunt, I have seen them but few times, yet they are near and dear to me, and I would be in perfect ecstasy if I could be permitted to see them. I think that I will come to Alabama when I graduate and see you all. Give my love to Aunt Celia and family and to Cousin Gossitt's[?]. Tell the girls, my cousins, that they must write to me. I do not know their address, or I should have written before now to them. And give my love to Uncle Robert and family, and when you write to me give me his address for I want to write to him, but I do not know where to direct my letters. Remember me to all of the connection, for it is useless for me to attempt to name them individually. And tell them to write to me more frequently. And let us try to keep up a regular correspondence.

I'm doing very well here in my studies. I left Cumberland College to come here. I am in the service of the United States and receive \$24 a month and my tuition given me. And when I graduate I will after that receive \$64 a month. I studied at college, Latin, Greek, and philosophy, and mathematics in the lower branches. Since I've been here, I have studied algebra, plain geometry, trigonometry, descriptive geometry, analytical geometry, shades & shadows, linear perspective, and calculus, and surveying, the French language and drawing and topography. So you see that I am kept pretty busy, as I have done all this in two years, and have as much more of different sciences to accomplish before I graduate. I have made a great many very strong and intimate friends since I've been here. And among them is Mrs.[?] Gen.[?] Scott. I expect to visit her on furlough, if I have time. I must close, believe me the same, your[?] affectionate and [____?] nephew.

N. Bartlett Pearce
Cadet U.S.M.A.