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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from a Dickinson Student to Joseph T. Soule

**Date:** January 5, 1844

**Location:** I-Friends-2008-1

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Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penn.  
Jan. 5. '46.

Dear So.

Your expected letter came to hand yesterday, after having looked for it for a long time. I have been to the Post office near every day for a week or two past, i.e. since I received the paper from cousin Sarah Ann, saying that both of you would write that week. I am very fond of receiving, as well as answering letters, when I have time, which valuable commodity I can almost always find. As this is Friday night, and we have nothing of importance for to-morrow morning, which would otherwise keep me from writing, I am enabled thus soon to answer your agreeable letter.

And, whereas, I am one, and you and cousin Sarah two, & therefore have the advantage of me, I will only at present write to you, reserving a future opportunity of bothering her with a few lines. It might not be uninteresting to you to know what have been my general proceedings since I wrote you last while at Washington. Nothing accidental happened to me in my journey from W. hither, though I ~~was~~ witnessed the result of a very painful accident that occurred on the way between Baltimore & York, which was that 12 or 13 poor fellows were very much maimed by the running off of the cars, several one or two having died since. Time has been passing on as usual since our arrival here without materially ~~&~~ differing from the course it took last year; it has turned another corner and entered on a new year, and this new has brought us into a new session; there being three in a college year which extends from the 15 of September to the 15 of July. There have been numerous <sup>rich</sup> occurrences happening <sup>here</sup> almost every day ~~along~~ with which a college life is

is ample, and which renders the time spent at College the most agreeable in our lives. As "there are always some black sheep in a flock," as the saying is, so there are some pretty unruly cases among us. They have caused the Faculty of the College to meet frequently to determine upon the course to be taken with respect to a few of ~~some~~ <sup>them</sup> who have been trying to enjoy themselves in various ways, some of which it seems have been contrary to the statutes. A pretty no great while since being aware that the steward of the College (not of the ship, mind you) had a number of barrels of apples stowed away in one of the store rooms, took it into their heads to force an entrance into the same & despoil the contents. One or two, thinking that they might be more successful in another quarter and at different work proposed to let the steward's chickens loose, but the majority ruling and the first motion being more to their taste, an essay upon the store room was made, but it appears they "couldn't come it," and in making the noise the President (Durbin) caught wind of them and affected complete surprise. ~~All~~ <sup>save one,</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>from</sup> made a precipitate retreat. This young gentleman was ordered to his room, but his restless spirit would not allow him to stay there long: he soon found his companions, and they continued undisturbed to play their tricks <sup>on the occupants of</sup> in various unlooked rooms. A Faculty meeting ~~of~~ was the result, and when these are held there is quite an excitement; all are on the lookout to know what is going to be done with the guilty, and after the examination of each they are asked a thousand questions about what the faculty said to them & what they said to the faculty. The others of the party who, either being ~~seen~~ <sup>recognized</sup> or strongly suspected, know that they will be called up soon, and feel particularly anxious to know all the proceedings, and the

exact ~~version~~ <sup>version</sup> of the stories told by the others, that they may frame one agreeing with them. As it was the first officer with the most of those concerned in that plot nothing serious was the consequence. I have nearly always been ignorant of these night expeditions, as I sleep pretty soundly, or I would ~~not~~ <sup>was</sup> very likely have been with ~~the last one~~ <sup>some of them</sup>, most particularly with that party that ~~was~~ after the steward's apples, an article on which I have the most affectionate regard. This is not the only scrape about ~~the~~ <sup>which</sup> the faculty has had meetings. Even during the vacation that has just passed, a few of our number had the pleasure of appearing before their respectable body. The affair ~~arose~~ <sup>arose</sup>, as all such do, from pure mischief, and a desire to plague the old steward with whom a considerable number board, (though thanks gracious, I don't.) It appears that they are by no means fond of him, nor his better half, ~~the one~~ by whom he is held under petticoat government. They thought they would make the old lady redd by throwing torpedoes. Truly were they successful; she got piping hot, and called a faculty meeting (or rather had one called). Right in the examination no one threw any, none knew ~~anything~~ who threw them, though they were seen. The faculty considered it a "bore" & let it all blow over. I saw in the newspapers a short account of the loss of the *Day* in an *N. States*. Was not your crew in a mutinous state before the accident?

We have had glorious times lately. During our holiday we have done nothing but eat, sleep, and be merry. On Christmas and New Year's days ~~we had~~ we were particularly engaged at the former of these three employments. Jim & I do not board at the college table, but in town, where we have elegant " grub." On Christmas and New Year's day the apples and oranges near me did not suffer " nor nothing." On Wednesday during the holiday we enjoyed ourselves mightily at an oyster supper held at one boarding house by our fellows, there being twelve or fourteen of us.

As I have filled up three sides & having nothing more of consequence to say I must close, promising Cousin S. to write to her soon. Yrs. aff. cousin T. V. H. M. L.

Mr. Jos. Thos. Soule,  
Amherst,  
Mass. U.S.

*(scribble)*

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Amherst,  
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Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna.

Jan. 5. '44.

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Wm. Jos. Thos. Soule,

Amesbury,

Mass-its.