

YALE UNIVERSITY
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Dear Father,

I wish to ask whether you think it would be advisable to apply at the coming Convocation for the degree of M. A. I think I could find time to prepare a thesis; and I would not suggest doing so if a happy idea had not occurred to me.

It is to take as a subject Hydraulic Lime & Cements with reference to their ~~to~~ composition & properties, & the action of fresh & salt water upon them. One of our courses of lectures takes up their properties & chemical composition; and the lecture on Harbours deal pretty extensively with ~~the~~ another part of the subject; so that its preparation would not be without its bearing on my work, and I would

Willems
Luyck

AC
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Willems

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also have a considerable amount of information at my disposal without requiring to do much special reading. It is a very interesting subject, and I suppose the thesis would not require to be very extensive. I have also got the celebrated work of Vicat on the subject which is very ^{concise} ~~short~~ & very dear (\$3⁰⁰) and Burnell's hand-book, which I intend to read at any rate.

I will wait till I hear from you, as I will not be able to begin before some time in February. It might be useful to have the degree in case of a Professorship coming into competition. The Master of Engineering I might also take, but I intend to ask that the examinations here be taken as equivalent to those required for it, and must therefore, I suppose, wait till I get the Diploma here. I know, however, that the Inspector would not hesitate to certify that I was in a fair way to receive one, as he has already expressed that opinion. If this

would be sufficient, there is no reason for
my not applying for the M. G. also, as
my time will be up in May next.

I would also like to know whether
you think it advisable for me to
return by Havre & N.Y. this time.

My reason for suggesting it, is that
I will have a good deal of luggage.
If I go by L'pool, I would send it
on by freight a sufficient time be-
fore hand; and it remains to be seen
whether there is much difference in the
expense. Another advantage would be
that I would not mind travelling
2nd Class on the Havre line as there
is would not be any one I knew on
board.

I remain your affectionate
son.

William.