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August 14, 1943.

Trooper Robert Hughes,  
Black Horse Troop,  
Culver Military Academy,  
Culver, Indiana.

Dear Bobby:

Your mother called Aunt Bess last evening and was quite concerned regarding some of the boyish pranks that you have indulged in. When these things are called to the attention of an older man he can always recall how many mistakes this older man made in childhood.

The educator says that we have our childhood to grow and to develop. And this is very true. Every fellow makes mistakes and has a right to make mistakes, but to make the same mistake many times is not a mark of intelligence. The intelligent man will learn by previous mistakes and will not repeat these mistakes. That is true in basketball, isn't it, Bob? We call them fouls and the other side has the free throw from the free throw line. And if we foul an opponent while he is shooting two free throws are given.

Fifty-two per cent of all the games won in basketball in America are won on account of free throws. In baseball we call them errors, and in football we call them penalties. The reason that we have athletics in high school and college is to teach education through play. There are rules of the game that you must play by and the referee calls the fouls or violations. If a fellow makes many errors in baseball his side loses.

So we look at this game of life the same way. The Master Planner of men put certain obstacles in our way that cause fear, concern, joy, exhilaration of spirit which we call morale, dejection which we call blues and so forth, inhibitions which are contributed if certain privileges that may not be had by people at different times. Belonging to certain groups or gangs is the right of the fellow belonging. Other fellows would like to be in this gang but they are not asked. And the fellow on the outside wonders why he isn't asked by that group. They just don't want him, that is all, because he doesn't have anything to contribute, so the gang thinks.

Always it has been this way through the world, Bob. Wherever we have men gathered together we have some men who want to lead. We have others who are content to follow. Then we have others who despise order and fellowship, and they are the fellows who are bent on destroying the better associations of men. We call these fellows anarchists.