

University of Mississippi
eGrove

Correspondence

James W. Silver Collection

12-7-1957

Joe to Jim, 7 December 1957

Joseph J. Matthews

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_corr

Recommended Citation

Matthews, Joseph J., "Joe to Jim, 7 December 1957" (1957). *Correspondence*. 166.
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_corr/166

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the James W. Silver Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

MRS. JOSEPH J. MATHEWS

924 CLIFTON ROAD, N. E.

ATLANTA 7, GEORGIA

December 7, 1957

Dear Jim:

I know you are not a sentimentalist--at least you profess not to be -- but even you would have been impressed with the real concern felt throughout your Emory following when it was known that the pneumonia bug had you in its grips. And the relief and rejoicing when news came that you were on the mend would have penetrated the heart of the proverbial brass monkey. I'm trying not to overdo it--for the sake of your thin skin--but we are damn glad, one and all, that the attack proved no worse. You don't have to acknowledge or even admit it, but there is a pretty sizeable group of completely devoted Jim Silver friends hereabouts. I am proud to be one of them.

I suspect that you and Dutch and Marcia and I have a good deal in common these days in our interest in the Harvard class of '61. Frankly, I don't quite know what to think about the progress of our one and only in that class. He is a pessimist by nature-- at least as far as reports to his parents go -- and in consequence we know all about the competition, the impossible study conditions in the dorms and in the Lamont Library, and the utter hopelessness of an ordinary mortal in the kind of competition that Harvard presents. But his first report of grades was reasonably good and we have simply decided to withhold judgment. Of one thing we are certain: he is thoroughly enjoying the experience and that is something. Tim says that Frank Freddele invited him and Billy over for Thanksgiving but uh-

IRWIN H. HYATT

fortunately Tim had already accepted a Turkey day invite from an elderly friend of ours in Cambridge.

Irwin Hyatt--you had him in one or two classes last summer--is ~~just about to~~ just about to finish up his M. A. thesis and enter the Marine Corps. I agree with you that he is a very promising lad. You will doubtless hear shortly from Nelson. I told him that I would let him report to you and I hope you will respect this bargain. I don't know quite what was wrong with Nelson but he never really got his teeth into graduate problems. Almost from the word go he began to fall behind and he became progressively despondent about it. I have had several long talks with him but have never felt that I was able to penetrate his real thoughts. He has said that there were "personal" considerations that he did not care to go into, and has intimated at the same time that you would "understand" them, has stated that he felt that he was not "mature" enough for graduate work and that he needed additional experience before going on. I have not had him in class but the people who have say that he is erratic: that he shows real promise but simply does not meet his obligations. I tried to urge him to fight through the first quarter, in order to avoid a set of failures on his record, but he could not see it that way. He still thinks that in three or four years he will make a come-back, and I think he realizes that no school of recognized standing will accept him without considerable trepidation--certainly none would subsidize him--but this is his decision.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of my "Reporting the Wars." Its a damn good book. I don't ask that you read it.

The very best, *Joe*