

"Bingham School"
April 1st 1876

Dear Pa

I don't expect this letter will be very interesting, but I thought I would write you & ask you what I should do about some clothes to wear home. You know I have never bought but one uni-form coat, & it is now in rather a bad condition. I have to wear it on drill, & every time that I am on duty as "officer of the day"; hence by the end of this term it will not be fit to wear. As this is my last term here, I do not think it would pay to buy another "Spike";

but my room-mates, who do not intend to return next session, have bought uniform sacks, which are much better than the spikes & which will be of service after they quit school.

If I buy any, I had rather have one like this. When Maj Bingham orders caps this

term I didn't give him my name, for I thought, that with the \$3.75 that I would have to pay for a cap, I could buy a hat, something like those worn by the Knoxville Cadets, or rather get you to buy it. Then since I have been appointed "Fifth Sgh" I will have to have some "stripes". They cost from \$2.50 to \$5.00. I guess you could buy the

hat for me in N- at some
military furnishing Establishment.

I had a letter from
Mama the first of the
week. She said they had
all had bad colds, but
were better. This leaves me
well. There is a good deal
of excitement in school
now, Maj B- is thinning
out his company. It is
thought that 3 boys were
suspended last month.
I rec'd the paper you
sent me the other day.
Am much obliged.

Please excuse haste-

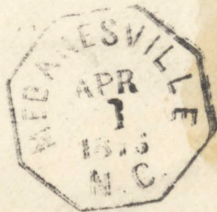
Your Affectionate Son
E. G. Caldwell

Bingham School,

CLASSICAL,

Mathematical, Commercial and
Military Academy,

MEBANEVILLE, N. C.



Hon Jno. K. Caldwell
House of Representatives
Washington D.C.