

DAR-HB-09

James W. Grimes Letter

Dartmouth College, August 25, 1833

Transcription (Verbatim with Minor Clarifications)

Dartmouth College Aug 25th 1838

Friend Chase — Simon says I will willingly carry a letter from me to you, but I did not think of it, consequently know nothing of it till this moment, so you must excuse these lines hastily put together, now I will give you a vocabulary of news — Firstly — Bartlett's father has written to the Prof giving him a ___ case — you have probably heard of it before.

Haddock and Hale were in your favour, and Haddock also says the proceedings were altogether wrong. I have been sick rec., am now well, I am well — more during vacation — very regular —

The study professor has been dropped twice in recitations, so that he was obliged to leave off. I begin to study Greek again next term, come on and study with me — I expect always to have a room here —

Write by the bearer of this,

Your friend &c.,

Jas. W. Grimes

Historical Notes (Museum Quality)

Author Identified: James W. Grimes (1816–1872)

James W. Grimes was a significant 19th-century American political figure who later served as:

- Governor of Iowa (1854–1858)
- United States Senator (1859–1869)

This letter dates from his early adulthood during his time at Dartmouth College, making it a rare example of **pre-political personal correspondence**.

Dartmouth Context: The letter is written from Dartmouth College, where Grimes was enrolled in the 1830s. Early Dartmouth manuscripts tied to later national political figures are considered highly desirable for institutional collections.

Content Significance: The letter reflects:

- Collegiate academic life (recitations, professors, disciplinary issues)
- Social networks among students
- Informal communication practices of the period

References to professors such as “Haddock” likely point to faculty members active at Dartmouth during this period, adding contextual academic relevance.

Archival Importance: This document holds elevated significance within the H.B. Chase archive due to:

- Direct association with a future U.S. Senator
- Early-life documentation (rarer than later political correspondence)
- Connection between Dartmouth College and the Chase correspondence network

Recommended Classification: POL – HB – 05 (Political Correspondence) Cross Reference: DAR (Dartmouth-related materials)

Condition Notes (Visual Assessment):

- Original fold lines present
- Ink stable but moderately faded
- Minor staining consistent with age

Archival Summary

This letter represents an important intersection of early American collegiate life and future national political leadership. As part of the H.B. Chase archive, it strengthens both the **institutional relevance** and **historical depth** of the collection.

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