

55. Alexander Krueger to August Krueger, December 10, 1896

[45] ALEXANDER KRUEGER TO AUGUST KRUEGER, DECEMBER 10, 1896  
Slides 278 - 281.

Money wanted  
\$10.00  
1220 University Ave.  
Madison, Wis Dec.10.96

5 Dear Parants + Sister  
I received Sarah's  
letter + papers yesterday at noon, and saw that  
you are getting along nicely. I am doing the  
same but plenty of work. I wrote you the  
10 last letter I wrote that I was going to take  
forge work. I will start in tomorrow  
afternoon. I will work at the forge every  
third day. Three hours a day. My cash run  
pretty low. I had to Pay \$2.00 to enter the  
15 shop, and for \$1.00 I had to by tools. I bought  
one folding rule and one compass cost me \$1.00  
The compass is shaped like<sup>1</sup> this for measuring  
iron bolts and the like. I had to pay .25¢ for  
a locker key (returnable with close of term)  
20 and had to buy one blue jacket for working  
in the shop for .60¢ That cost me  
\$3.25 to enter the forge work. I also had to  
buy me a pair of new shoes for \$1.40 I got a  
pair of No. 9 shoes. My sunday shoes were to  
25 small for every day's wear. I must have about  
\$2.00 more for books. I have just \$4.25 left  
My board and room rent is due Tuesday 12 P.M.  
When I pay that I will have .75¢ left. Try  
and send me \$10.00 Saturday Dec. 12. Then I  
30 think I will have enough till I come home.  
I will be home Christmas. They will not have  
school on Christmas, and if they have any on  
Saturday I don't care I will miss that. I have  
spent \$23.86 so far, and out of this I spent  
35 only 5¢ church, 5¢ cigar, and 5¢ car fare 5¢ <sup>Tobacco 20¢</sup> what  
I could have saved. Here in Madison it costs  
a dollar every time a man turns around.  
I got a very nice book from Prof. Henry, it is the  
Thirteenth Annual Report of the Agricultur ex-

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<sup>1</sup> Hand drawn picture of a compass.

40 periment Station of 1896. It is all bound in cloth  
Every Short course student got one free. I asked  
him if I could not get another one to send  
home, and he told me I could not get any  
45 for \$1.00 a piece. They have so few of these  
books on hand. They sent many to foreign countries  
He said if any student lost his book he could  
not get another one  
To-day I have been stock judgeing. We got  
through at 4 o'clock. After we left the farm  
50 I and some of our boys took a walk around  
town for exercise. Whenever I eat two hearty  
meals and have no exercise I can feel it in  
my stomach. I never beleaved it that eating  
much and no exercise would have such and ef-  
55 fect on a man, as it has.  
My apples are starting to rot pretty fast.  
I and Anders are eating all we can. At first  
we were quite-saveing with them but it is of  
no use. I get pretty nice board but I dont get  
60 my fruit so the apples come in nicely  
We have been experimenting with beans  
in the Horticultur Labrotary as to absorbing  
water. We first measured the beans a 100 beans  
in one can. filled the can with damp soil and  
65 pressed it down, very much, and a 100 beans  
in another can with the same kind of soil  
but only mixed them loosely with the soil  
then we let them stand for a day and there  
we sifted the soil all from the beans and  
70 measured them again and we found that  
the packed soil had swelled the beans about  
4 to 5 centimeters more than the loose soil.  
I think that our cornplanter with the solid  
wheel is better then Albert's with the opening  
75 Our experiment shows that pressed down soil  
will geminate seeds quicker then loose soil  
We have made many other experiments which I  
will tell you when I get home  
All the things we make at the forge  
80 belongs to us. But we must keep them in  
our lockers till the end of the term. then  
they will all be examined and our standing  
given according to our work.  
Here is quite a good deal of robbing going on  
85 in this city. One man was held up this week

his money stolen and bullet fired through his  
neck. Hold-ups most every night. The police  
has been dressed in citizens cloths ever since  
I have been here trying to catch the thieves, but have  
90 not succeeded yet. Most of our boys stay in their rooms  
evenings or not stay out late. Now I must close  
and look over my studies. One of the students gives  
lessons in arithmetic twice a week evenings for \$1.50 for eight  
weeks. I would like to take it but it costs money and time.  
95 Best regards to all. Answer soon. From  
your son Alexander Krueger

(added along top of page 3, SML)

Tell Sarah she may send II me some papers that she thinks  
will be of any interest to me. but do not send to many I will have  
time sundays to read and some evenings