

The Evening Star.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 3, 1904

W. R. Graham Esq
Dear Sir,

I did not have the opportunity to have as much tack as I would have liked to have on the day of the sale so take this occasion to write you on one or two matters which need immediate attention. As I understand it you are willing to rent my side of the Spring Valley farm. Of course it will scarcely be possible to arrange the details of the terms by correspondence. Still I would be glad to have you outline your idea as to the general terms upon which you would wish to rent & whether for a cash rent or on the shares.

Frank Coleman the colored man who occupied the house has moved out and it is now empty. I do not know whether this fact will invalidate my insurance or not. I have written to the insurance company on the subject. Anyhow for my own protection I would like to have the house occupied as soon as possible. I understood from some one that you had a man you intended to bring
(over)

Letter written to W.R. Graham from D.J. Mercie, who owned a farm W.R. wanted to rent for farming.

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Dear Sir,

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this is the case, and it is feasible, I would
suggest that he come along as soon as possible.
If you have not made such an arrangement,
I would suggest a man who worked for my
brother on the farm at Hamilton Station as one
who would I think prove a satisfactory hand
provided you and he could agree on terms. He
is a white man ~~and~~ is married and has one
child. He is a first class hand, strong, willing
and capable when he has some one about to
look after him. He got a little slack towards
the last as all the rest did and as nearly all
hands will do under similar circumstances. He
knows how work should be done and is not one
you have to be eternally showing and explaining to
what to do. As I say all that is necessary
to make him a thoroughly efficient hand is for
the boss man to be around on the same place
with him. His name is Ralph Thompson and
his address Irme Va in case you should care
to correspond with him. He is foot loose now
and in case you wanted him could move

If this is the case, and it is feasible, I would suggest that he come along as soon as possible. If you have not made such an arrangement, I would suggest a man who worked for my brother on the farm at Hamilton Station as one who would I think prove a satisfactory hand provided you and he could agree on terms. He is a white man, is married and has one child. He is a first class hand, strong, willing and capable when he has some one about to look after him. He got a little slack towards the last as all the rest did as nearly all hands will do under similar circumstances. He knows how to work should be done and is not one you have to be eternally showing and explaining to what to do. As I say all that is necessary to make him a thoroughly efficient hand is for the boss man to be around on the same place with him. His name is Ralph Thompson and his address (?) Va in case you should care to correspond with him. He is foot loose now in case you wanted him could move into the house at once.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

into the house at once & my Brother paid him \$10 a month and gave him sufficient meal, flour, bacon &c to board himself and family, and in this connection I frequently hear my brother say he was quite economical and did not try to impose on him in this respect.

I suppose of course you know my place is for sale. I was in hopes you could see your way clear to buy it along with my Brother's farm adjoining. I have two or three prospective purchasers one of whom I think means business. He is looking only for a country home and does not want to farm I think. So in case I sell to him, I judge he would be glad to have you farm the place though of course he would want the house and the immediate surroundings. There is about \$500 between us yet and I do not know whether we will be able to make a trade. I would be glad to see you get the place as I know it would suit you. In this connection I will make

(over)

My brother paid him \$10 a month and gave him sufficient meal, flour, bacon to (?) himself and family, and in this connection I frequently heard my brother say he was quite economical and did not try to impose on him in this respect.

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4.
you a special offer to be good until Feb 10
I need some money to make needed improvements
at the depot farm and in view of that fact
will take \$9500 for the place if the sale can
be consummated within the time specified. It
would only take \$2500 cash to swing the deal
and the balance could remain at \$ to suit
your convenience. I have always held the place
at \$10,000 which is not quite \$70 an acre, very cheap
I think for that grade of Loudoun land.
Indeed I think you will find the land itself
on my side of the place rather better in
quality and smoother than on the side where
you bought. There is not much fruit it is
true and the surroundings at the dwelling
are not as attractive as on your side but the dwelling
itself is a better one than yours though older. A
few hundred dollars spent on the interior of the
dwelling ^{and the surroundings} would make it a very attractive home
indeed. Let me hear from you when convenient.

Very Sincerely
yours
D. J. Mercie

I need some money to make needed improvements at the depot farm and in view of that fact will take \$9500 for the place if the sale can be consummated within that time specified. It would only take \$2500 cash to swing the deal and the balance could remain as to such your convenience. I have always held the place at \$10,000 which is not quite \$70 an acre, very cheap I think for that grade of Loudoun land. Indeed I think you will find the land itself on my side of the place rather better in quality and smoother than on the side where you bought. There is not much (?) it is true and the surroundings as the dwelling are not as attractive as on your side but the dwelling itself is a better one than yours though older. A few hundred dollars spent on the interior of the dwelling and the surroundings would make it a very attractive home indeed. Let me hear from you when convenient.

Very Sincerely, Yours
D. J. Mercie