

LAW OFFICES OF
HENRY & GRAHAM,
TAZEWELL, VIRGINIA.

March 29th, 1905.

W. R. Graham Esq.,

Hamilton, Virginia.

Dear Will:

I have just received a letter from Sam, and I am very much pleased at his enthusiasm, and that he seems to be very fond of you, indeed.

Dr. Davidson, the Oculist who treated his eyes, is a very intelligent man, and I think one of the most learned men in the South in his profession, and he thinks that Sam's eyes have improved very much, and that they will continue to do so especially in out-door work. I have just written to Sam that he must remember that there are some professions, the success of a man in which, is only measured and prescribed by his individual energy and ambition, and that farming is one of these professions; that there are other professions where other men circumscribe your efforts and your energies, whatever may be your gifts, and these are clerkships, or sub-employments, either for the Government or for other men. He ought to understand what I mean by this. You know that however long a boy may remain on a farm, it never hurts him from following anything which he is afterwards fit for. The farm is like a nursery, wherein you can plant in the same soil, many species of trees, - the fruit bearing tree, the wood producing tree, or the ornamental tree - all may grow in one soil and may be pulled up and transplanted, without injury, to other soil, to become useful wherever transplanted; so I have found ^{it} out to be the way with young men.

W.R.G.#2.

Farming life is a nursery from which, in fact, most all of our great men, and useful men, have been taken and transplanted into all kinds of professions and vocations. I told Sam that he should not stand back for snow, or cold, or rain, for that I have fought many a day in Loudoun, and about its fields, in the snow and slept there in it, knee deep, and in the night and in the rain, when I was younger than he and less able to stand it, and that I fought when I was sometimes half starved and half naked. I know that I could not live in my old days happy, to see my boys, reared as they have been, lead the contemptible life of "loafers". All I want them to do, ~~their~~ is to do their best, and although they may never be rich, let them be independent and honest men. I wish you would advise Sam to keep out of debt. He seems to have no judgment about the worth of a dollar; he has never known the worth of a dollar,

in fact; for you know that for a young man to be in debt without the ability to pay will soon destroy his self-respect, courage and manhood. I repeat, that you will confer upon me the greatest favor possible, one that I will never cease to appreciate, if you will teach this boy these underlying principles of manhood, which I know you so highly possess, and you can tell him how much you know that a Graham, be he rich or poor, prizes manhood, independence and honor. Do not fail to instill in him the necessity, as well as the noble attribute of labor, that all labor however humble it may be, is honest. And above all, you

W.R.G.#3.

live in a country where you are surrounded by the memories
of noble men, who have lived in your ~~town~~ *Country*

Yours truly,

S. C. Mahan