

the student was advised by the President, to pay special attention to the particular subjects in which he was then believed to be deficient; and having done so, to apply thereafter for a new order for a fourth examination upon these studies. So soon as favourable reports were received from each of the professors, the student then received an order to attend a convocation of all the faculty of the college, for the purpose of undergoing a new examination of all by the convocation. At this meeting the President presided, and the examination was conducted by each professor in turn who did not then confine himself to his own branch, but in the course of his examination ranged through all the collegiate studies. When this examination was over, the student retired and on the next day was informed by the President of the result. If this was favourable, he was then directed to prepare a thesis upon any subject he thought proper, and to deliver the same when prepared to the President. If this thesis when ~~presented~~ exhibited was found objectionable, in subject, style, or matter, he was required to prepare another or amend that which he had prepared. And when the thesis was finally approved, he was then informed that he was entitled to a degree, which would be conferred upon him in the college chapel, on its foundation day, the first day of August, before a public assembly that always convened there on such occasions. He was therefore directed to commit his thesis to memory, to be delivered by him as an oration on that day, and to apply to each of the professors, for a list of such questions and duties as they would propound and to impose upon him at his public examination, to the end he might be fully prepared for this last experiment.

To all these fiery ordeals did I now resolve to expose myself. I was well aware of the difficulties I would have to encounter, and in deciding to meet them, I also decided to leave nothing untried which I thought could contribute to my

success. Early in the spring I therefore began to revise all my college studies, with much more care and attention than I had originally bestowed upon them. I read constantly, both by night and by day, scarcely allowing myself time for necessary refreshment and repose. So soon as I had gone through this revision, I applied for the necessary orders for my private examinations, each of which I passed not merely with success, but with high approbation from all the professors. (p.142) My examination before the convened faculty was also satisfactory. My thesis was approved by the President without the slightest alteration. And on the 1st of August 1792 I received my diploma in the chapel of William and Mary from the hands of its venerated President Bishop Madison, who accompanied it with a high eulogium upon me, delivered before a large concourse of persons, who were there assembled, to witness this then singular spectacle. I say singular spectacle, because such was the difficulty of obtaining a degree in this seminary at that time, that no such honor had been conferred for many years before, and I believe was the last which was conferred in this mode. Some years afterwards this rigorous course was changed, time was then and has been ever since regarded as sufficient evidence of qualification in the applicant, and the test of examination became a mere matter of form, as was the public examination of that day.

Having finished my collegiate course before I was eighteen years old I returned home early in August 1792. The pleasure of my father depressed received from my success was not a little damped by the appearance I then exhibited. I had imposed too much upon myself during the preceding six months, and now that the excitement was over, which alone had sustained me under the labor privations and fatigue I had voluntarily endured during this time, I was ready to sink under their effects- Pale and haggard in appearance, my emaciated form, hollow cheeks, and troublesome cough, were to my good father the sure presages of a

fast approaching decline, into which his boy, then more endeared to him than ever, was rapidly sinking.- Medical aid was instantly obtained for me, and by the advice of my physicians I was forbidden by him from even looking into a book. To guard me effectually from the dangers he apprehended from study, he proposed for me a trip to the Northern and Eastern states, from which I was strictly enjoined not to return until the approaching winter. His friend Bishop Madison was then about to proceed to New York to assist in the consecration of some Bishop there, and I was immediately provided with every thing necessary to enable me to accompany him.

A journey from Williamsburg to New York was then a much more difficult and arduous undertaking than it has since become. The roads throughout a great part of the distance were scarcely passable and the accommodations execrable and a single stage which in some parts of the route, travelled but twice a (p. 143) week, and carried but three passengers was the only mode of public conveyance. Rather than encounter all these inconveniences Bishop Madison determined to travel by water. A vessel was therefore hired, and we went on board at Yorktown from whence we proceeded up the eve Chesapeake to the village of Elkton, from which we calculated we should meet with no difficulty in reaching Philadelphia. Upon our arrival at Elkton however but a single hack could be procured. This Bishop Madison and his companion the Rev. Sam McGriskery took for their own use, and left Robert Carter, myself and servant to follow them as we could thereafter. Soon after they left we learned by accident, that a line of packets had recently been established between Baltimore and Philadelphia by the way of Frenchtown, and Newcastle which run once a week so that if we could get to Frenchtown, we might there very possibly find some means of crossing into Newcastle and thence up to Philadelphia. We therefore hired a cart, in which causing our baggage to be transported, we

walked from Elkton to French town, where we were lucky enough to procure a shattered old vehicle, in which we got safely to New Castle. Here we were detained several days, waiting for the packet, in which we at last reached the city of Philadelphia. I mention these things merely to show you what was the situation of the country as to the conveniences of travelling at the time I am now speaking of, thirty-odd years ago. - Upon my arrival in Philadelphia, the first object which attracted my attention was, a man cover'd with the small pox, near to whom I had been standing some time, before I knew what was his situation. Neither Mr. Carter or myself had ever had the small pox, it therefore became indispensably necessary in our opinion, that we should immediately undergo inoculation, to guard- if possible against the danger to which we had been so exposed. We took lodging at once and submitted to this process on the same evening. We were both inoculated by Dr. Kuhn. Carter had the disease very favourably, and soon recovered, but I was afflicted by it most severely indeed, I was confined by it for several weeks, and greatly reduced, so much so that as soon as I was able to move about, my physician very strongly recommended change of climate to me, and advised me not to leave the sea coast. In consequence of this advise, I left Philadelphia about the last of September, and went to New York. Here my sole companion Robert Carter left me and returned home. Bishop Madison had done so before, his public duties requiring his presence at his college early in October, I was thus left alone in New York, in very delicate health. So soon as I had satisfied my curiosity in this city, I proceeded to Boston. I had not reached this but a short time, before the weather became quite cold, a change very little suited to my debilitated and impoverished (p, 144) state. I soon felt the effects of this change.- It gave me a violent cold, that terminated ere long into a severe

quarter ague, which confined me to my bed every third day.—My health and strength now failed so rapidly and my spirits became so much depressed, that the physician I had called in advised me to return as quick as I possibly could to the South.— I therefore quitted Boston about the last of October, and took my course homeward, travelling only two days in three, being confined to my bed every third day wherever I then chanced to be. Travelling in this way I reached Philadelphia again about the first of November, but so much exhausted that I was no longer able to travel by land. I therefore got on board of a brig in Philadelphia, bound from thence to Norfolk, and arriving there safely, made my way to Kingsmill once more. I arrived here much more dead than alive, about the 26th of November 1792. When I reached home I found nobody there but the overseer and the negroes. My father was absent in Richmond attending the general court, my grandmother had removed with Mrs. Wickham to Richmond, and my sister after her departure was boarded in ~~Richmond~~ Williamsburg. I was too weak to leave the house, and had become so much broken in spirits, that I was perfectly indifferent as to my future destiny. I could not summon up resolution enough to open a book even, but spent my whole time in bed, patiently waiting for the moment I expected soon to arrive, when I should cease to be.— In this situation my father found me when he returned. Medical advice was immediately taken, in pursuance of which I was covered with flannel from head to foot, and directed to take a great deal of exercise. To induce me to comply with this direction more readily, my father provided me with horses, dogs, and guns; and whenever his avocations would permit it, he accompanied me himself into the field. My disease altho' mitigated, by the regimen which was prescribed for me, still continued however; and with it the apathy and listlessness

which is one of its accompaniments. Altho' forced by my father to join him in all his rural sports, there was nothing I disliked more. Exercise had become painful and disagreeable to me; and I greatly preferred remaining at home and amusing myself with books to all the pleasures of the field. But study was prohibited to me, and I incurred my father's displeasure whenever I was found reading. About the last of this year 1792, a young gentleman by the name of Coeke came to our house. He was the son of a very old friend of my father's, Col. Richard Coeke of Surry,- who had requested of my father to suffer his son to read law with him, and in order to obtain some company for me during the periods of his necessary absences from home, my father had consented to ^{direct} ~~supervise~~ his studies. Mr. Coeke had been an old school fellow of mine at Haury's school, and a fellow attendant at William and Mary. He was a very amiable, honourable, worthy, young man, who having the misfortune to be a cripple from his birth, could not participate in the exercises prescribed for me, but was confined to the house and to his legal studies.- The winter of 1792-3 proved to be very wet, I was thereby often prevented from going out, and during such periods I was suffered to spend my time with Mr. Coeke in the study. I soon learned from him the course of study my father had prescribed; and of my own accord pursued it. Altho' my reading was carried on by stealth, and unknown to my father, yet I found no difficulty in keeping up with Coeke, notwithstanding the frequent interruptions to which I was exposed.

I continued this mode of life until June 1793, when, as my disease still continued, my physician recommended that I should be sent to the springs, and not to return home until cold weather.- I pursued these directions I was accordingly equipped for this journey and directed by my father to

travel by very short stages to the Berkley springs. I pursued these directions and after passing through Richmond, where I spent some days with Mr. Wickham and Fredericksburg, I arrived at Winchester.- On the very day I crossed the Blue Ridge, I missed my ague for the first time, and finding my health then rapidly improving, and the season being yet not sufficiently advanced for the company to assemble at the springs, I remained in this neighbourhood for some days, when I proceeded to Bath, where I arrived about the last of July 1793. I was soon joined by my father at the Springs by my father former fellow student and much esteemed friend John Mercer of Fredericksburg. He had accompanied his uncle Gen. Weedon to this place, but after some days of experiment, the waters not agreeing with the old gentleman, and being unwilling to return to the wretched lower country at that season, they proposed to make an excursion through the valley of the Shenandoah, and wished me to join the party.- My health was now nearly re-established, my curiosity fully satisfied, and as after the departure (p. 166) of Mercer, there would be none left at the springs, in whose society I should take any pleasure, I readily agreed to join them.- We left the springs about the middle of August, and after visiting Harper's Ferry, proceeded up the valley to Staunton, stopping by the way to see Madison's cave.- From Staunton Mercer and myself went to the Natural Bridge; and upon our return to Staunton, where we had left Gen. Weedon, I very unexpectedly found my father there. He had exchanged his circuit for this, and had just arrived in Staunton to hold his court there. I remained in Staunton with my father while this court sat there, and upon its adjournment accompanied him to Charlottesville, where his next court was to be held. During the session of this, I amused myself in the neighbourhood, where I found many of my old fellow students; and when the court adjourned, instead of proceeding to Fredericksburg with my father, where I had

once been, I proposed to him to suffer me to return home. My health being now perfectly restored, he agreed to my proposition, and after spending some days in Richmond with Mr. Nickham, I reached home once more about the first of October 1793.

Nothing now existed to prevent my commencing and continuing my any regular course of study I thought proper. I had health, strength, and abundant leisure to do so, and might have prosecuted it without interruption. But Cooke had had left my father's house when he went from home, and I had no example to invite or competition to stimulate me. My horses and hounds and very fine weather presented many temptations too to return to the sports which I had formerly disliked when my health was bad, but for which I now began to feel some relish. Yielding to such temptations, I now instead of reading commenced the life of a sportsman, spending all my time in the woods and fields. My father returned home about the last of October, but seeing the very great change which had taken place in my appearance, and ascribing it to the exercise I was in the constant habit of taking, he could not prevail upon himself to check me, but instead of doing so, even inciting me to a continuation of my present course by his example. About this time too he was translated to the Court of Appeals, and soon leaving home to attend to his new duties in Richmond, I was left again to my own control.

The whole winter of 1793 and spring of 1794 passed away in this (P.147) manner; nor until the hunting season was over did I ever open a book or think of study of any kind. When the warm weather commenced however finding no amusements out of doors, I betook myself once more to my study for occupation; but I had then been so long idle, that I could not reconcile it to myself to pursue any regularly course of study, and altho' I then read a good deal, yet

my reading was my desultory, and I derived but little benefit from it. At length my father became sensible of the impropriety of the course I was pursuing, and advised me seriously to commence the study of the law. This I accordingly did but had scarcely revised the books he recommended to me and which I had formerly read with Mr. Cocks, unknown to my father, when another event occurred which again interrupted my new course. I had been for some years enrolled in the militia, and the insurrection in Pennsylvania occurring at this time, in the month of September 1794, I was detailed as one of the quota Virginia was required to furnish, to constitute the army intended to quell the insurgents. The novelty of this situation gave me much pleasure, but it produced in my father who reflected upon it much better than I did great anxiety and uneasiness. His situation was such at this time however, that he could not properly object to my going and with much reluctance. I was equipped for this new mode of life. The regiment to which I was attached was directed to rendezvous at Hanover Court-house, but when I joined my detachment at Williamsburg, I was immediately detached by the commanding officer, to Richmond, with a communication to the Governor, and orders to rejoin my my detachment at the place appointed for the Regimental rendezvous. Being well mounted, I proceeded rapidly towards Richmond, to execute my orders. Excessive fatigue however, and travelling in the hot sun at this season of the year, was more than my constitution could bear. I was taken very ill before I got to Richmond, and with difficulty could reach that place. Here I remained confined for so long a time, that the regiment to which I belonged had marched from its rendezvous before I could leave my bed; and I was then so weak that the commanding officer advised me to return home, and not to join the army. This I accordingly did, and arrived at Kings mill about the ~~last~~ middle of October 1794.

My health was then too feeble to permit me to resume my studies, and by the direction of my father, I was again made to recur to (p. 148) to the same mode of life, from which I was supposed to have derived so much benefit on a former occasion. Shooting and Hunting again were my sole occupations, and all reading was entirely neglected. I continued this course until September 1794, when my father being elected to the Senate of the United States, determined to take me with him to Philadelphia. My health by this time was entirely re-established. We left Kingsmill the latter part of December, and travelling by Norfolk and Baltimore arrived in Philadelphia early in January 1795. This was probably a most fortunate change for me. Had I been left at home by my father, as had formerly been the case, I had contracted such habits of idleness, and had become so much devoted to rural sports, that I should have found it difficult ever to have changed my course thereafter but by removing me from my idle companions, and placing me in a new situation, a new direction was given to my inclinations, and ~~new~~ ~~course~~ ~~opened~~ ~~for~~ ~~for~~ my pursuit.

Soon after our arrival in Philadelphia, I was directed by my father to attend Mr. Edmund Randolph, who was then the Secretary of State and who I was told would advise me what course of reading and study I ought to pursue. As Mr. Randolph was a lawyer of much distinction I took it for granted I was placed under his care for the purpose of prosecuting the study of law, and accordingly brought some law books and again began to revise what I had before read. I attended at the secretary's office every morning, but instead of telling me what books I should read or what course of study I should pursue, so soon as I appeared, I was put to translating some public document or other, and kept at this employment until three o'clock, when the office was closed, and I saw nothing more of the secretary until the next morning. In the evening of my own accord,

I occupied myself with revising my legal studies, and read a good deal. I was now seriously disposed to study and if I could have received any encouragement or direction what to do, I have no doubt I should have profited much, but I was turned over to Mr. Randolph exclusively, who only employed me as I have stated. I continued this course for some weeks, when discovering no change, I mentioned to my father how my time was wasting and begged him to place me in some other situation, where I might prosecute my legal studies to more advantage, and with less interruption. He then, for the first time informed me that he wished to bring me up for diplomatic employment (p. 149) and that this was his reason for placing me in the office of the Secretary of State. I was utterly confounded at this communication, which seemed to render useless all I had acquired for some years past, and this under my father's own advice. Considering the profession of the law as that for which I was ultimately destined, I had made up my mind to become a lawyer- if I could, and already began to derive pleasure from the study. I felt moreover much aversion to public life, and was confident that I never could qualify myself to become a diplomat. I expressed these opinions to my father fully and begged of him to suffer him- me to return to Virginia, and study the law with my friend Mr. Wickham. He would not consent to do it however but directed me to continue my attendance at the Secretary's office as before, informing me at the same time that he expected in a few days to obtain for me the appointment of Secretary to some of our foreign ministers.

In a few days afterwards, I was presented to the President Gen. Washington in order to enable him- as I supposed- to judge of my qualifications and fitness for the appointment my father desired for me. The President received me very courteously, conversed with me a short time as to my family, where I had been

educated, what had been the course of my studies. He had been intimately acquainted with my grand-father Waller, for whom he expressed very high respect, and made many inquiries as to his family descendants.--Whether the President was not satisfied with me, or what other may have been the course- I know not but in a few weeks after this, my father informed me that if I still persisted in my inclination to study the law, and still wished to go to Mr. Wickham, He had no objection to my doing so. I was highly gratified at this, and so anxious was I to get away from Philadelphia, lest some thing might occur to change my father's purpose, that I set off for Richmond on the very next day, and travelling through Georgetown, Baltimore, Alexandria, and Fredricksburg, I arrived at Mr. Wickham's early in February 1795.

My situation now was most agreeable indeed. With Mr. Wickham I had already passed many years of my life, and was sincerely attached to him. With Mrs. Wickham I had been brought up, and altho' the sister of my father, yet being some what younger than myself, I had always considered and treated her as my own sister, and she felt for me the affection of a sister. My paternal grandmother had resided with her daughter ever since her marriage, and my own(p.150) sister had recently become an inmate of Mr. Wickham's house also. So that I found myself placed in the bosom of my own family. There were a number of young gentlemen moreover in Richmond at this time in Richmond who had like myself just begun the study of the law. We soon formed a little society of our own, in which each stimulated and excited the others to study, both by example and conversation. I read a great deal, and aided by the society of these young men who were engaged in the same pursuit as well as by the conversation of Mr. Wickham, I profited much by what I did read by what I did read and very soon made such progress in my studies as to render myself of some use to my friend Mr. Wickham, which gave me great satisfaction.

My course of life was this. I rose very early in the morning, and went into the office, where being then free from interruption I prosecuted the regular course of legal study, which was recommended to me, until after breakfast. After breakfast I returned to the office with Mr. Wickham, and assisted him in attending to the current business until this was completed, when I again resumed my regular course of study.- So soon as I had completed the last in this that I always imposed upon myself, and which usually employed me about six hours, I laid aside the books I was reading, and amused myself with tracing some of the subjects which had engaged my morning's attention through the different authors; this occupied me until dinner. After dinner I employed myself in reading desultorily any books other than law books, to which my attention was attracted. and the evening was spent either in company with my fellow-students conversing upon the subjects of our studies or in visiting with some of them at the houses of some of the respectable families in Richmond, or at homes in the society of Mr. Wickham and his family. This regular and proper disposition of my time was rarely interrupted by any cause, during the whole period I remained in Richmond. By a strict adherence to it, my health was perfectly re-established, my progress and improvement was rapid and considerable and my life was passed in useful and agreeable occupation. In looking back I do not think that any period of my life was ever passed as profitably, and satisfactorily to myself, as that which I spent in Richmond, while I was there studying the law under the direction of my good friend Mr. Wickham, with the exception of a very few days spent at Kings mill, during the autumn (p. 151) of this year, upon the occasion of the marriage of my sister to Mr. Benjamin Taliaferro during the Autumn of this year, I never lost an hour in the prosecution of my legal studies. My advancement in these was such, that in the month of May 1796, Mr. Wickham after examining me very closely, decided that I was

Qualified to commence the practice and advised me to apply for a licence. This I accordingly did. I found no difficulty in obtaining my licence to practice, which was granted by each of the judges by whom I was examined with high commendations upon my acquirements, and I was considered at this time by my fellow-students as the best read lawyer belonging to our society. After getting my license, I remained but a few weeks in Richmond, when I once more returned to my father at Kingsmill, in June 1795 prepared to begin the world on my own account. I was then a little more than twenty-one years of age. The first question for me to settle now, was, where I should locate myself, and begin the practice of my profession. This important subject occupied a great deal of my own reflection and I frequently consulted all my friends, in order to obtain their advice and opinion before I came to any decision upon it. My own inclination was to establish myself somewhere in Kentucky or Tennessee. To this all the friends whom I consulted objected very much and recommended an establishment in Virginia as preferable. Mr. Wickham advised me to return to Richmond and settle myself there. My father disapproved of this, and preferred my fixing myself either in Fredericksburg, Alexandria, or Winchester, and my uncle Benjamin Waller who was then at the bar, advised me to remain where I was, and to commence the practice in Williamsburg and its vicinity. Each of them urged so many cogent reasons in support of his own opinion, and my own being in favor of the Western Country was so strong, that I felt much embarrassed in coming to any decision. Accident at length however terminated my perplexity and fixed the course I was afterwards to pursue. Some weeks after I had been at home I rode up to Williamsburg one morning, to the post office. There I met with my uncle, who was on his way to James City Court, and who proposed to me to accompany him. Having no engagement to prevent it, I readily agreed to his

proposal, and we walked up to the Court-house together. Soon after the court set, my uncle being engaged in a suit then about to be brought on; proposed to me to join him in the argument of the cause. This I at first refused to do, but his repre- (p. 152) senting that my engaging in the mere arguments of causes must certainly be of advantage to me thereafter and could not possibly interfere with any determination I might be disposed to form as to my future location, I finally agreed to join him in the discussion. My uncle who was the plaintiff's counsel opened the cause. He was replied to by two other gentlemen of the bar, who were engaged for the defendant; and the conclusion of the cause was left to me. The case altho' of not much consequence in itself, yet turned upon the proper application of a legal maxim which is not even now generally understood. The defense rested upon the legal proposition *ex nece. pacto non oritur actio*. I had ~~occasional~~ had occasion to investigate this matter very minutely with Mr. Wickham a short time only before I left his office and was of course perfectly prepared for its discussion at this time. I managed the cause such to the satisfaction of my uncle and his client and having succeeded in it received the congratulations of my acquaintance and a fee from the successful party. This was on the 11th of July 1796, from whence may be dated the commencement of my professional career.

When I returned home in the evening, I mentioned to my father what had occurred, and he was pleased at it and advised me to continue to argue causes with my uncle in this mode for some time longer, before I made up my mind decisively where to fix myself. But to be very cautious not to commit myself in such a way as to make it necessary for me to remain in that part of the country one moment longer than I chose. This plan I determined to pursue, and accordingly accompanied my uncle the following week to York court. Here I argued several

causes with him and performed sundry other professional duties out of court from which I derived some emolument. The success which has as yet attended all my professional exertions began not to give me some little reputation, and I received several propositions from clients to engage in their causes. These however I always accepted conditionally, informing the applicants, that it was yet uncertain how long I might continue to attend the courts in this part of the country. At the Hastings court of Williamsburg which came on in August 1796, I was employed to argue a very important cause depending in that court in which I was alone, and opposed by my uncle and the most distinguished practitioners at that bar. The case was one of a good deal of complexity, and occupied a good deal of time. By great exertions however, I made myself master of the cause and succeeded in it, contrary to the expectations of (p. 153) my uncle and of the bar generally. This enhanced my reputation much, and gave me a standing at the bar which probably did not merit. My father was now much congratulated by his acquaintance upon my success in this cause particularly; and now seemed to be exceedingly anxious, lest influenced by my success I should hastily resolve to fix myself in this part of the country, but as yet I had no such wish. One day about the last of August 1796 while my father and myself were engaged in conversation upon this subject, my uncle came to Kingsmill bringing with him sundry bonds amounting to several thousand dollars due by several persons in the county of Elizabeth-County to some merchants in Philadelphia. These he said he had just received from the obligee's with instructions to collect them, or to place them in some other hands for collection. And that as he did not practice himself in Elizabeth city, he had determined to offer them to me in the first instance. Adding that there were some other bonds due to persons in Williamsburg of his own acquaintance which he had denied

to offer to me also, provided I would undertake the collection of them, I refused at first to undertake this business, stating that if I should do so, it would be decisive of my future course, inasmuch as it would constrain me to remain here until the collection could be completed which might not occur during any definite period of time; and that I resolved not to commit myself in this way. My father concurred with me in this opinion. But my uncle (who seemed to have set his heart upon fixing me in this part of the country) readily answered that I could take the bonds and proceed to Hampton the next day if I pleased where if I succeeded in getting the money due without any suit, it would yield me a good commission; and if I did not do so, I could bring suits upon them, which suits I could readily turn over to any other lawyer at the bar, whenever I decided to remove. To such a course no reasonable objection occurred to either my father or myself, and I therefore decided to adopt it. My uncle took this occasion to enter into a very long discussion with my father as to my future establishment. In this he stated to my father, that from he had witnessed himself at the several courts which I had attended with him he would undertake to pronounce that my success was certain, if I would settle in this part of the country. Nay, that I had already succeeded to a much greater extent than any other young man within his knowledge had ever done before in the same time. (p.154) And that all this vantage ground would be lost and abandoned, if I now removed and settled myself elsewhere, when I must again begin a perfect stranger in an unknown place, and must of course encounter all the risks of failure, which every one under such circumstances must overcome. These remarks had no influence upon my father however, He replied, that if I had succeeded here, it must have been by the same means which promised success any where else; and that the utmost success in the

part of the country where the sphere of practice was very limited would bring with it little emolument and less gainance in any profession. Whereas success in many other places where the field was larger, would be crowned with much greater advantages. Finding my father unmoved by what he had stated, my uncle changed his ground, remarking that altho' the consequences here were not as advantageous as they might be elsewhere, yet that it would yield us an ample fund for my support and that the certainty of this ought to be estimated very high in comparison with the more contingent prospects elsewhere. Besides the public duties of my father would compel him to be absent very often and for long intervals from home, when his affairs would certainly suffer, but that if I remained at home, my presence there would correct many of the mischiefs likely to flow from his absence and that this advantage ought to be taken into also, in order to enable us to a right conclusion, and he concluded by observing to my father, that as I was his only son, he would probably bestow upon me, should I survive him, a large part of his real estate situated in this part of the country- That should I remove from hence now, such a disposition as my father would certainly intend ~~make~~ to be beneficial to me would not prove so, for that when I should succeed to the estate, I must either break up my new establishment and return here again to enjoy it, or I must dispose of it, which would not probably be effected except at a great sacrifice, or I must manage it by an agent, which every one well knew would probably be productive of loss and injury. Whereas if I remained where I was, by aiding my father in the management of his affairs, which I could well do without detriment to my professional avocations, I should be rendering him him great assistance, but at the same time acquiring that kind of information which every man in Virginia must find requisite and useful at some period of his life, and that I should in truth be commencing at once the execution

of permanent plans, which if postponed many years I should most probably (p. 155) never live to realize. This last remark of my uncle seemed to produce great effect upon my father, who made no reply to it at this time, but changed the subject of conversation. On the next day I went to Hampton. It was Elizabeth-City court day. At this court I was employed to argue several causes, which I did successfully. I also concluded an arrangement with the several persons whose bonds I held, whereby they severally confessed judgements for the amount of their respective bonds, and I allowed them a stay of execution on that judgement until the fate of to be instituted on other bonds which they gave me to collect and which much exceeded these judgements in amount should be ascertained. Under this arrangement a great many suits in Elizabeth-City county court on the bonds I had so received. Upon my return home I was engaged to defend a prisoner, charged with murder in the District Court of Williamsburg, from whom I received a fee of \$100. I also received two letters, one from a gentleman in Petersburg containing another fee of \$100 as a retainer in an important cause he had depending in the same court, and the other from my friend Mr. Wickham. In this he requested to know, whether I had whether I had decided to fix myself where I then was as he presumed I should do, stating as my reason for this inquiry that if I should come to such a determination, he would attend the District Court of Williamsburg and Suffolk at their next terms, for the last time, and would then surrender to me his dockets and papers in these courts, and requesting me in the interim to attend to some of his business in the former of these courts. These letters of course required a prompt reply, and it was obvious, that by the reply he should give to them, my future course must be fixed. If I declined the offers they made, it was certain that no occasion so fair for establishing myself in this part of the country, was likely again to present itself, and if I accepted them, I could

not properly afterwards recede from the engagements my acceptance would impose upon me. I felt a good deal embarrassed how to act, and the more so as my father was then absent, and I had no opportunity of consulting with him. His return was however expected the next day, and I employed myself in the meantime in preparing for my own satisfaction a statement of the sums I had already received, of the suits in which I was then engaged, and in forming from these an estimate of the amount I might reasonably hope to earn in the course of a year, provided I determined to settle where I then was. To my great astonishment I found that after making every proper deduction from this estimate, if I continued to enjoy only the same success in future, which I had during the last two months, I might reasonably calculate upon clearing at least \$1,000 per annum.

This sum so far exceeded any thing. This sum so far exceeded any thing to which my most sanguine hope had ever reached, and so far exceeded the profit earned by my friend Mr. Wickham during the first year of his practice in the same courts, that it decided me at once to remain where I was provided my father would consent to it.

He returned as was expected the next day. On his return I showed him the letters I had received, mentioned the necessity they produced of an immediate answer, stated why this reply must be decisive of my future course, and exhibited to him the estimates I had made; observing that its unexpected result was such that I was perfectly content with it and was willing to stake myself upon it, as the sum was abundantly sufficient to gratify all my reasonable wishes. To my great surprise and satisfaction my father very promptly replied, that he believed my calculations were all correct, and that he concurred entirely in my opinion. This point being fixed, he suggested to me that as I had now staked myself upon my success in the prosecution of my profession in this quarter of the country, I had better remove to Williamsburg, where I should be more

not properly afterwards recede from the engagements my acceptance would impose upon me. I felt a good deal embarrassed how to act, and the more so as my father was then absent, and I had no opportunity of consulting with him. His return was however expected the next day, and I employed myself in the meantime in preparing for my own satisfaction a statement of the sums I had already received, of the suits in which I was then engaged, and in forming from these an estimate of the amount I might reasonably hope to earn in the course of a year, provided I determined to settle where I then was. To my great astonishment I found that after making every proper deduction from this estimate, if I continued to enjoy only the same success in future, which I had during the last two months, I might reasonably calculate upon clearing at least \$1,000 per annum. This sum so far exceeded any thing. This sum so far exceeded any thing to which my most sanguine hope had ever reached, and so far exceeded the profit earned by my friend Mr. Wickham during the first year of his practice in the same courts, that it decided me at once to remain where I was provided my father would consent to it.

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convenient to my courts, my clients, and my business, than I could be
~~anywhere~~
anywhere in the country, and that I should not hazard my success by any
want of diligence, or punctuality, or remit my legal studies in any degree,
when my business would suffer me to attend to them. I was fully sensible
of the Propriety of these suggestions, and on the very next day, I went up
to Williamsburg, where I rented a house, and office which my father assisted
me to furnish, by supplying me with his law library, and the apparatus of
his study, with a bed, chairs, etc.

The manuscript of Littleton Waller Tazewell ends abruptly in this place. I
will try to supply some facts with regard to his later years; ~~that is my~~
~~knowledge of his life reveals~~ Of his career as a lawyer, and statesman, more
than I can say, will be found in the pages of Mr. Grigsby's "Discourse on the
Life and Character of Governor Tazewell" My father qualified as an attorney
in the Hustings Court of the Borough of Norfolk, on the 26th of June 1801,
and was married in Norfolk on the 15th of July 1802, to Ann Stratton,
eldest daughter of Col. Jno. Nivison. She died on the 15 of September 1858,
after a happy married life of fifty^{six} ~~four~~ years. My father practiced his
profession in Norfolk most successfully, until 1824, (but during this time
he was sent to assembly) ^{He} and ^{Convention} was a member of the Virginia[^] of 1829, which
was called together to revise the first Constitution of Virginia. In
1824 he was elected to the Senate of the U. S. Senate, and having served
one term, was re-elected, and remained in the Senate, until the close of his
second term, which expired in 1833. He then retired - as he thought, from
public life - but in 1834 he was elected Governor of the Commonwealth, and
true to his principle, ~~which~~ of never refusing any position, whether lowly,
or exalted, when his state called for his services, he accepted the office,
but resigned before his term expired. The remainder of his life was

passed at his home, and I think he was always in Norfolk, except when he visited his estates on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. This pultry sketch is all that I can state of the facts concerning the public life of my father, as I have not access to his papers.— Such of his speeches as I have been able to collect, I place in this book. His speeches in the Senate I presume are on the records of that body. I enclose one or two which have accidentally come into my possession. Of his course in the Convention, such may be found in the "History of the Convention of 1829" by H. B. Grigsby. This book I have not been able to procure, but perhaps I may yet see it, and if so, I will copy such parts as refer to him. His life ended before slavery was abolished, and his indulgence as a master was so well known, that in the settlement of estates when negroes had sometimes to be sold to effect or division of the property, (they most generally being allowed to choose their homes,) all in the surrounding country, who could do it, would apply to him to purchase them, and in a great many instances he did do so. His daily life was devoted to his family, and as a husband, and parent, his appreciation of, and tender affection for them was beautiful to see. No language could express my profound admiration for my father; nor can I attempt it. The public eulogies passed at a meeting of the bar in Norfolk, and the notices and remarks of the newspapers at the time of his death; not only in Norfolk, but throughout the country, give ~~some~~ estimate some idea of the estimation in which he was held as a lawyer, and statesman, but of his life in his own home, none can speak but those who were nearest and dearest to him, and with whom he was constantly associated, and they are all dead except my sister and myself. My (p. 156) father died ---- after a short but severe illness--- on the 6th of May 1860 in the 86th year of age. He had quite a large family. Some of his children died before he did, but many survive him.

His eldest daughter Louise Nivison Tazewell was born in Norfolk in 1804 and died there unmarried in 18 . Interred in Elmwood cemetery Norfolk

His eldest son, Henry Tazewell was born in 1805 in Norfolk and died unmarried, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1828. Remains removed and re-interred in Elmwood.

His second son Jane Nivison Tazewell was born in Norfolk in 1807 and died- unmarried- in Norfolk in 1869. Interred in Elmwood.

His fourth child and second daughter Sarah was born in Norfolk in 18 and died in Norfolk while an infant in 1809. Her remains are interred in Old St Paul's church yard.

His fifth child Sarah Ann Tazewell was born in Norfolk in 1812 and is still unmarried living and unmarried.

The sixth child and last son Littleton Waller Tazewell was born in Norfolk in 1815. Was married in 1844 to Mrs. Sarah Harris widow of ----- Harris. He died in 1848. He was interred on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. His remains were removed to Norfolk and re-interred in Elmwood.

The seventh child Anna Elizabeth Tazewell was born in Norfolk in 1817, was married in 1847 to Lieut. Edmund Bradford U. S. A. of Philadelphia, who died April 26th 1889 She is still living. He was interred in Elmwood.

The eighth child Mary Tazewell was born in Norfolk in 1822 was married in 1848 to Matthew Page Waller of Williamsburg, Virginia, who died in 1861. He was interred in Williamsburg from there they were removed to Norfolk and re-interred in Elmwood. She died in 1886 and was interred in Elmwood.

His last and ninth child Ella Wickham Tazewell was born in 1826 and died in 188 She was interred in Elmwood.