streamed off instantly. But it was the only chance we had to save our lives, and we did not delay. At length, Barinister, whose strength was nearly exhausted, made some violent effort, which failing he sank. The water dashed immediately upon us, drenched and drenched him by the hair, and as speed him from drowning. And even afterwards by some means of which I have not myself discovered, I fortunately succeeded in retrieving myself, and pulled him out of the sea.

But our days was not over yet. When we got into the air our wet clothes immediately froze upon us and became so stiff and heavy and the sides of our boots so slipping that we could not walk. We therefore adjusted each other in cutting them off, the only means by which we could go on. And in this situation, exhausted, barefooted and without coats, we commenced our journey for the nearest land which was distant much more than a mile from us. It was now very dark, and before we proceeded farther our vision failed us, so that we were so exceedingly dark that we could not discern the land, and were directed solely by conjecture. How long we continued wandering about in this manner I know not; we began to experience however, that luminescence and torque which always results from stagnating circulation and felt an unchangeable disposition to sleep. We were both fully sensible of the cause of this, and that if we went to sleep we should awake as men and therefore for a time stimulated each other to further exertions. But at last we could no longer resist the inclination and stretched ourselves upon the ice to sleep. In the very act of doing so a shriek of despair was immediately uttered by us both, that was instantly answered by a hollow heavy sound. Raised by this I raised myself up for a moment and hailed in an agony begging for assistance. I could do no more but, again sunk down by the side of Barinister, who already slept soundly. Before I closed my eyes however, a sailor stood beside me, who finding our situation took Barinister on his back and one by the hand, quickly carried us to his to his vessel, which lay but a little way off frozen up in the ice, but concealed from our view by the darkness. When we got on board the vessel we were both stripped naked by the good sailor, who after bating us first all over with cold water and chafing our limbs and bodies, at last pulled us up together in the same blanket, and put us into his narrow berth, beside a large fire in his cabin and closing the door, left us to go to my of Athen's home for assistance. He had scarcely left the vessel, when the fire was communicated to the wooden chimney, and setting that in a blaze would soon have consumed the vessel and
all in it but for his instantaneous return. With admirable presence of mind he instantly threw the chimney overboard, and throwing our wet garments upon the fire soon extinguished it. Our lives were thus twice preserved by this good man, for we were both fast asleep, and knew nothing of the fire but although it burned.

Having secured every thing better, he set off a second time for my father's house, and returning to the shore came up with a carriage and dry clothes for us, we were soon conveyed to my father's house, where we arrived about midnight, one limb swolled to an immense size occasioned by the cold, and the irritation of the numerous wounds we had received on the shore. For my part I never felt the slightest inconvenience afterwards from this dreadful occurrence, except what was produced by the pain of the wounds into which the cold having penetrated deep, they were long in healing and very troublesome. Rev. Ramisten did not escape so easily. He caught a violent cold, that lasting on his lungs, terminated in a pulmonary consumption, which brought him to his grave during the next year. Nothing particular occurred to me during the residue of the year 1791. I still lived with Bishop Madison, and my college studies and duties went on regularly as before. In the spring of the year 1792 after an examination of all the classes, Mr. Madison being much pleased with my performances, advised me to prepare myself to apply for a degree. I refused at first, not believing him in earnest, but upon communicating this to my friend Thompson, added his persuasions so strongly, that I at last determined to do so. The mode of obtaining a degree in Virginia was very different from what it was afterwards. The course was this. The student who wished to obtain a degree, notified this wish to the President, and applied for an order for his examination. This order the President immediately gave him, directed to some one of the professors. When the examination by this professor was completed, (which usually occupied several days,) the student received from him a sealed report directed to the President. Upon presenting this, he received from the President a new order for examination directed to some other professor, who pursued the same course with the first. When all these reports were presented if a majority of them were unfavorable to the applicant, he was told by the President that he was not considered as sufficiently
prepared to receive a degree. But if some one or two only of the reports were unfavourable, the student was advised by the President, to pay special attention to the particular subject 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 those 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 by this 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 prepared was found objectionable, in subject, style, or matter, he was required to prepare another or to a novel that which he had prepared. And when the thesis was finally approved, he was then informed that he was entitled to a degree, which could be conferred upon him in the college chapel, on its foundation day, the first 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 propose to and impose upon him at his public examination, to the end he might be fully prepared for this last experiment.

All these severe ordeals did I now resolve to expose myself. I was not aware of the difficulties I would have to encounter, and in deciding to meet them, I also decided to leave nothing unnoticed which I thought could contribute to my success. Early in the spring I therefore began to review 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 order for my private examinations, each of which I passed merely with success, but with high approbation from all the pro-
My examination before the convocated faculty was also satisfactory. My thesis was approved by the President without the slightest alteration. And on the 3d of May 1792 I received my diploma in the chapel of William and Mary from the hands of its presiding President Bishop Madison, who accompanied it with a high eulogium upon me, delivered before a large concourse of persons, who were then assembled, to witness this 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 manner. 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 my father received from my success was not a little stamped by the appearance I then exhibited. I had indulged too much upon myself the preceding six months, and now that the excitement was over, which alone had sustained me under the labors, 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 a tremulous cough, were to my good father the same 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 prepared for me a trip to the Northern and Eastern states, from which I was strictly enjoined not to return, until the approaching winter. This friend Bishop Madison was then about to proceed to New York, to attend on 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 excessively payable, and the accommodations separable and a single stage, which in some parts of the route, travelled but twice a
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 creek 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 boat could be procured. Thus Bishop Madison and his company, the Rev. Mr. B. Braheny took for their own use, and left R. D. Carter, myself and servant to follow them as well 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 Trenton and Newcakette which ran once a week, so that if we could get to Trenton, we might there very possibly find some means of reaching Newcakette and thence up to Philadelphia. We therefore hired a cart, in which carrying our baggage to be transported, we walked from Elkton to Trenton, where we were lucky enough to procure a shattered old vehicle, in which we got safely to Newcakette. 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 covered with the small pox, near to whom I had been standing some time, before I knew what was the situation. Declan D. Carter, or myself had seen people with the small pox, it therefore became indispensably necessary in my opinion, that we should immediately undergo inoculation, or guard if possible against the danger to which we had been exposed. We took lodgings at once and submitted to this process on the same evening. We were both inoculated by Dr. Eich.
soon felt the effects of this change. It gave me a violent cold, that
terminated by long into a severe quartan ague, which confined me to my
bed every third day. My health and strength now failed so rapidly, and
my spirits became so 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 whereas I then chanced to be. Travelling in
this way I reached Philadelphia again about the first of December, 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 arrived there safely, made my way to Kingsmill once more.
I must now much more deal than alive about the 20th of November, 1792.
When I reached home I found nothing there but the overseer and the negro.
My father was absent in Richmond attending the general court, my grandmama
had removed with Dr. Willingham 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
courage 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, my
father provided me with horses, dog, and guns; and wherever his
requisitions would permit it, he accompanied me himself into the field. My disease at this time was mitigated, by the regimem which
was prescribed for me, and continued however; and with it the apathy
and listlessness which is one of its accompaniments. Altogether for
my father to join him in all his rural pursuits, 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, my young
gentleman by the name of Cooke came to our house. He was the son of a very old friend of my father's, Col. Richard Cooke of Sussex, who had requested of my father to put his son to read law with him, and in order to obtain some companion for me during the periods of his necessary absence from home, my father had consented to confide him to his studies. Dr. Cooke had been an old school fellow of mine at Gwyn's school, and a fellow student at William and Mary. He was a very amiable, honourable, worthy, young man, who having the misfortune to be a cripple from birth, could not participate in the exercises provided 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 Dr. Cooke in the study. I soon learned from him the course of study my father had prescribed; and of my own accord pursued it. Although my reading was carried on by stealth, and unknown to my father, yet I found no difficulty in keeping up with Cooke, 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 physicians 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 Berkeley springs. I pursued these directions, and after passing through Richmond, where I spent some days with Dr. Wickham and Fredericksburg, I arrived at Winchester. On the very day I crossed the Blue Ridge, I missed my equestrian 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 this springs, I remained in this neighborhood for some days, and, when I proceeded to Bath, I soon arrived about the last of July 1793, I was accompanied by my father at the springs, by my father's former fellow student and much esteemed friend John Deaton of Fredericksburg. As he had accompanied his Uncle Kant Wole to this place, but after some days of experiment, the waters not agreeing with the old gentleman, and being unwilling to return to the northern country at that season, they proposed to make an excursion through the valley of the Shenandoah, and invited me to join the party. My health was now nearly re-established, my curiosity fully satisfied, and as after the departure
of Mercer, there would be none left at the spring, 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 Harpers Ferry, proceeded up the valley to Staunton, stopping by the way to see Madison's camp. From Staunton Mercer and myself went to the Natural Bridge; and upon our return to Staunton, where we had left Jack Waddel, I very unproudly 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 the 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 neighborhood, 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 preferred to remain to suffer one to return home. My health being now perfectly restored, he agreed to my proposition; and after spending some days in Richmond with Mr. Weedham, I reached home once more about the first of October 1793.

Nothing now expected to prevent my commencing and continuing any regular course of study I thought proper. I had health, strength, and abundant leisure to do so, and might have pursued it without interruption. But Cooke had just left my father's house when he went from home, and I had no example to invite a 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 temptation, 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 changes 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 inviting me to a continuation of my present courses 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 the spring of 1794 passed away in this
manner; nor until the business then at hand was over, did I even open a book, or think of study of any kind. When the warm weather commenced however, finding no amusement 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 my regular course of study, and all this I then read agood deal, yet my reading was very 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 read the books he recommended to me, which I had formerly read with Dr. Coke, 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 greater 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 County, 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 resign 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 sick 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 Kingsmill about the last 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 return to
to the same course of life, from which I was supposed to have derived so much benefit on former occasions. Shooting and hunting again became my sole occupation, 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 Richmond in 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 even 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 a new course opened for for my present.

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 the law, and accordingly I bought some law books and began to pursue 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 transcribing some public documents, or kept at that 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 reviewing my legal studies, and read a good deal. I was now strongly disposed to study, and if I could have received any encouragement in that 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 wasted, 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 one son for diplomatic employment.
and that was his reason for placing me in the offices 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 position 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 veneration to public life, and was confident that I never could qualify myself to become a diplomatist.

I expressed these opinions to my father fully, and begged of him to suffer me to return to Virginia, and study the law with my friend Dr. Wickham. He could not consent to do it however, but directed me to continue my attendance on the Secretary of State till the appointment of Secretary to some of our foreign missions.

In a few days afterwards, I was presented to the President, Genl. 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 Water, for whom he had always a high respect, and made many inquiries as to his family descendants.

Whether the President was not satisfied with me, or what else may have been the cause, 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 Dr. Wickham, he had no objection to my doing so. I was highly qualified at this, and so anxious was I to get away from Philadelphia, lest something might occur to change my father's purpose, that I set off for Richmond on the very next day, and travelled through Georgetown, Baltimore, Alexandria, and Frederickburg. I arrived at Dr. Wickham's early in February 1796.

My situation now was most agreeable. With Dr. Wickham I had already passed many years of my life, and was sincerely attached to him. With Dr. Wickham I had been brought up, and all the sister of my father, yet being somewhat 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
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; and Richmond, who had like myself, just begun the study of the law, had formed a little society of our own, in which each stimulated and excelled the others to study, both by example and conversation. I read a great deal, and sided by the society of those 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 rapid progress in my studies so as to render myself of some use to my friend Mr. Wickham, which gave me great satisfaction.

The course of life was this. I rose very early in the morning, and went into the office, where being then free from every interruption, I pursued 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 its current business, until this was completed, when I again resumed my regular course of study. Soon as I had completed the last in this that I always imposed upon myself, and which usually employed one 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 decantatory, 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 some of them at the houses of some of the respectable families in Richmond, or at home in the society of Mr. Wickham and his family. This regular and proper disposition of my time was rarely interrupted by any care, 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 Kingsmill, during the autumn.
of this year, upon the occasion of the marriage of my sister to Mr. Benjamin Taliaferro during the autumn of this year, I removed to Lynch in the preservation of my legal studies. My advancement in these was such, that in the month of May 1798, Mr. Wickham, after examining me very closely, decided that I was qualified to commence the practice and advised me to apply for a license. This I accordingly did. I found no difficulty in obtaining my license 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 not only 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 1796, preparatory to begin the world on my own account. I was then at little more than twenty-one years of age.

The first question for me to settle was, where 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 Indiana. It was 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 going myself either in Fredericksburg, Alexandria, or Winchester, and my uncle Benjamin Walker, 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 as many cogent reasons in support of his own opinion, and my own being in favour of the Western County 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 assented to his proposal, and we walked up to the Court house together. Soon after the court met, my uncle being engaged in a suit then about to be brought on, proposed to me to join him in the argument of the case. This I at first refused to do, but his persuasiveness prevailed, and I agreed to do so. The argument was long

...
reading that no engaging in themere arguments of cause must certainly be of
advantage to me therefor and could not possibly interfere with my determination.
I might be disposed to form as to my future location, I finally agreed to join him
in the division. My uncle who was the plaintiff counsel opened the cause
We was called to by two the gentlemen of the bar, who were engaged for the defendant,
and the conclusion of the cause was left to me. The cause, all this of not much
consequence in itself, yet turned upon the proper application of a legal maxim
which is not commonly generally understood. The defense rested upon the legal
proposition as made pat to my own or his action. I had occasion 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 much 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 1793, from whence may be dated the commence-
ment 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 engage
causes with my uncle in this mode for some time longer, before I made
a move up in the mind decisively where to fix myself. But in very cautious
not to commit myself in such a way as to make it necessary for one 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
many other professional duties out of court, from which I derived some
enlightenment. The practice which has so far attended all my professional
experiences began now to give me some little reputation, and increased
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 Quarterly court of Williamsburg which came on in August 1793,
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
my mind at the long distance. This enhanced my reputation much, and gave me standing at the bar which probably did me credit. My father expressed much congratulation by his acquaintance upon my success in this cause, particularly, and was seemed to be exceedingly anxious last influenced by my success, I should hasten to settle myself in this part of the country, but as yet I had made no wish. One day about the last of August 1795, while my father and myself were engaged in conversation upon this subject, my uncle came to Kingsville bringing with him promising 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 this obligor 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 his first instance. Adding that there were some other bonds due to persons in Williamsburg of his own acquaintance which he had been desirous 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 of my future course, as much 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 giving me in this part of the country, readily assured me that I could take the bonds and proceed to Hampton the next day if I pleased. When if I succeeded in getting the money due without any suit, it would yield me a good compensation; 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 long discussion with my father as to my future establishment. In this he stated to my father, that from his had entertained 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.
And that all this regrettable result would be lost and abandoned, if some removal and settlement elsewhere, where I must again begin a fresh start in an unknown place, and must, of course, encounter all the ills of failure, should every one under such circumstances must somewhere. 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 anywhere else; and that the utmost success in this part of the country, where the sphere of practice was very limited, would bring with it little encouragement and less emolument in any profession. Whereas success in many other places where the field was larger, would be deemed with much greater advantages. Having so lately immersed by what he had stated, my uncle, then changed his ground, remarking that although the consequences here were not as advantageous as they might be elsewhere, yet that it would yield me an ample fund for my support and that the certainty of this ought to be estimated very high in comparison with the mere contingent prospects elsewhere. Besides the public duties of my father, would compel him to be absent very often, and for long intervals from home, where 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 me to a right conclusion, and he concluded by observing to my father, that as I was the only son, he would probably favor upon me, should I survive him, a large part of his real estate situated in this part of the country. That should Gravemore, from home being such a disposition as my father would certainly intend, to be beneficial to one 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 affected 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 by rendering him great assistance but at the same time acquiring that kind of information which every man in Virginia must first acquire and useful at some period of his life; and that I should, in time, be commencing at once the execution of permanent plans, which if postponed many years I should most probably
new line to reality. This last remark of my uncle seemed to produce great effect upon my father, who made no reply to it at that time, but altered the subject of conversation. On the next day I went to Hampton. It was Elizabeth City county court.

At this Court I was employed to argue several causes which I did successfully, and also concluded an arrangement with the several persons whom lands I held, whereby they actually confessed judgments for the amount of their respective bonds, and I allowed them a stay of execution on that judgment until the date of 10th to be instituted on said bonds which they gave me to collect, and which amount exceeded those judgments in amount should be ascertained. Under this arrangement a great many suits in Elizabeth City county court on the lands 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 assurance 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 written to him that I intended to 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 one his accounts and papers in those courts, and requesting me to the intervals to attend to some of his business in the former of those courts. These letters of course required a prompt reply, and it was obvious, that by the reply he should give to his, any future course must be fixed. If I declined the offer they made, it was certain that on 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 anxiety could improve upon me, and 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 mean time 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 engage my time succe in justice which I had during the last
two months. I might reasonably calculate upon clearing at least $1200 per annum. This sum is far exceeded in any thing. This sum is far exceeded by any thing to which my most sanguine hopes had been raised; and so far exceeded the profit gained by any friend of mine. Indeed, during the first year of his practice in the same county, 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; steering 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. In my great surprise and satisfaction, my father very gravely replied, that he believed my calculations were all exact, and that he concurred entirely in my opinion. This point being fixed, he suggested to me that as I had now placed myself upon my purpose in the prosecution of my profession in this quarter of the country, I had better remove to Williamsburg, where I should be more convenient to my courts, my clients, and my business, than I could be anywhere in the country, and that I should not hazard my success by any want of diligence, or punctuality in sending 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 thought me to furnish, by supplying one with his law library, and the apparatus of his study, with a bed, chair, etc.

The manuscript of Littleton Walker Taywell ends abruptly in this place. I will try to supply some facts with regard to his later years, bastardizing the beginning of this letter. Of his career as a lawyer and statesman, more than I can say will be found in the pages of Dr. Griswold's "Discourse on the Life and Character of Governor Taywell." His father qualified as an attorney in the Massachusetts Court of the Province of Dorset, on the 25th of June, 1820, and was married in Dorset on the 15th of July, 1822, to Ann Stagg, eldest daughter of Col. J. A. Division. She died on the 15th of September, 1858, after a happy married life of fifty-four years,
My father practiced his profession in Norfolk most successfully until 1824; but during this time he was active in the Assembly and 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., 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 principles, without of personal acquittal or reversion, left the body politic, when his state called him to its service, 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 hasty sketch is all that I have of the facts concerning the public life of my father, as I have not had 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, whereas one or two which have accidentally come into my possession. Of his course in the Convention, one may be found in the History of the Convention of 1829 by W.H. Wingate. This book I have not been able to procure, but perhaps I may get a copy, 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 whole settlement of estates negroes had sometimes to be sold to effect a division of the property (they must generally being allowed to choose their homes), all in the surrounding country, who could do it, would equally to him to purchase them, and in a great many instances he did so. His daily life was devoted to his family, and as a husband, and parent, his appreciation of and tender affection for was beautiful to see. No language could express my profound admiration for my father, nor will I attempt it. The public notices, paid at a meeting of the bar in Norfolk, and the notices and remarks of the newspaper at the time of his death, not only in Norfolk, but throughout the country, give 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, and deserving; but those who were nearest to him, and with whom he was constantly associated, and they are all dead except my sister and myself. My
father died — after a short but severe illness — on the 6th of May, 1860, in the 86th year of his age. He had quite a large family. Some of his children died before he did, but many survived him.

His eldest daughter, Louise Division Tazewell, was born in Norfolk in 1804 and died there unmarried, in 18, ... Interred in Elmwood Cemetery, Norfolk.

The eldest son, Henry Tazewell, was born in 1805 in Norfolk and died unmarried, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1838. Remains removed and re-interred in Elmwood.

The second son, Jesse Division 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 Churchyard.

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

The sixth child and last son, Christopher Wallace Tazewell, was born in Norfolk in 1815. Was married in 1844 to Dr. Sarah Harris, widow of Dr. Harris. He died in 1848. 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 Dr. Edmund Bradford, M.D., of Philadelphia, who died 26th April, 1889. She is still living. Her remains are interred in Elmwood.

The eighth child, Mary Tazewell, was born in Norfolk in 1825. Was married in 1848 to Patrick Page Waller of Williamsburg, Virginia, who died in 1861. He was interred in Williamsburg from where they were removed to Norfolk and re-interred in Elmwood. She died in 1898 and was interred in Elmwood.

His last and ninth child, Ella Wickham Tazewell, was born in 1826 and died in 1888. She was interred in Elmwood.
Since writing my preceding account of my family, I have received sundry letters and documents, from Mr. George Morris Taswell of Saint Martin's, Canterbury, in England, who is the son of George Taswell, formerly of Madras in the East Indies. This George Taswell, it is, probably, the same person referred to in the commencement of this work, as having sent me a message concerning my family, by the friends of Mr. Thomas More, about the year 1811.

By the evidence thus obtained, I am perfectly satisfied that the Taswell and Taswell families were the same, although the names are now spelt differently, and the coats of arms are unlike. The following account, will shew the reasons of this opinion; and will furnish all the information I have yet obtained in reference to this subject.

A family tradition, derived from a Mr. Charles Taswell of Weston-Tyland, in Somersetshire, conceives it very probable that the family is of Roman or Flemish descent; and that the name was Tajsewull. This was pronounced in English, Tajsewell, and, for brevity's sake, Tajsewell. The latter was the name, as it was afterwards written, in Suffolk, by Wyllon Tajsewell of Dunze Saint Edmond, in that county, as appears by the pedigree of his family, extant from the Herald's Visitations of the County of Suffolk, made in the year 1661. The arms of this family, and those that never come down to me and which I now bear.

Another branch of the same family, is found in Dorsetshire, in 1588; and the name is there written, at first, Tarsewell, but afterwards Tajsewell and Tajsewell. But one of this Dorset family, having removed to the Isles of Wight, before the year 1649, the name appears to have become there written Taswell and Tajsewell. Such differences in the orthography of the same names, are very common at that early day.

The births of the family of whom I have obtained any certain information is William Taswell ofairm, in Dorsetshire. He must have been born before the year 1566; because, in the Baptismal Register of the Parish of Ruchland, Newton, in that county, the following entry still exists, 1566: "Juli - Vicentisimo quinto die natus et predicti baptizatus fuit Jacobus "Taswell, filius Williamis Tarsewell de Ruchland." Therefore, as he was the father of a son baptised in 1578, this William or Wyllson Tarsewell must have been born at least at early as 1566.
Of him, I know nothing more, with certainty. But I conjecture that he
married a daughter of Wyllym Tafell of Bruges Saint Edmond, in Suffolk; and
that she was his relation. The only reason I have for this conjecture, is the
identity of the arms borne by my ancestor William Tagwell with those given
to this Wyllym Tafell, as appears by the Heraldic Visitation of Suffolk, in 1561,
to which I have before referred.

By this, it happens probable, that the family of this Wyllym Tafell of Bruges
Saint Edmond became extinct in its male line, by the death of his only son Wyllym
Tafell without issue, after 1561. But Wyllym Tafell, the father, left two daughters, Anne
and Margaret, each of whom was twice married. After the death of their brother without
issue, these his sisters would have been entitled to the arms of the Tafell family.
Therefore, if William or Wyllym Tarewell of Beekland married a daughter of either
Anne or Margaret Tafell (as he might have done) the issue of these marriages would
have been entitled to the same arms; and the title to these arms would have been
stranger, if Wyllym Tarewell was, as I believe he was, a cadet of the same Tafell or
Tafell family. No arms appear to have been granted to this Tarewell family until
1664.

On this as it may, however, it is certain that William or Wyllym Tarewell
had a son James, who was baptized by that name, at Beekland, Newton, in
Dorsetshire, on the 26th of July, 1638. The name of this James, who is said
distinguishing thereafter as James the First, is William Tagwell, in the Heraldic
Register, married Tarfold, 8 July, 1649 the first. He married Anne, the daughter of
James Borden, in the parish of Chalmondeley, Dorsetshire. By her he had
several children, who is said to distinguish thereafter as James Tagwell the Second. After
the death of his first wife, James the first married his own servant, by whom he
had seven another son; and she died in 1660, aged seventy-four.

James Tagwell the Second, whose name is sometimes spelt Tafwell, became
a considerable merchant. He removed from Dorsetshire to Cowes in the Solent district,
where many of his children were born. On the 26th of March, 1649, he married Elizabeth
Chipwell of Brighten, Sussex, who was born in 1624. She is described as being
accomplished as to her person, benevolent and of a very good action. By this
marriage he had twelve children. But all of them died young, during his life, except four. Of these, three were sons, James, William and John; and
one a daughter, Hannah. All these four, survived their parents, married and
left children.

In 1655, James Tagwell or Tafwell, the Second, moved from Cowes to
Brompton, in Sussex, where the family of his wife resided. He did not
remain here long, however, for in 1657, he removed to London; and in 1662,
he bought a good house in Greenwich, though he knew the greater part of
the town by town. (London) employed in merchandize.

He married Elizabeth
Wingfield of Andover in Hampshire, in 1670. By this marriage he made a
considerable accession to his property. I do not believe however that his sons
had any issue after his second marriage; he seems to have treated his
children by his first wife, unduly. In 1676, he purchased the Manor of
Limington, near Bristol, in Somersetshire, to which he afterwards removed;
and died there, after the year 1680, certainly, but when I know not. He
was contemporary with Colonel Nathaniel Waterston; but must have
been younger than Colonel Waterston.

James Tagewell, the Third, was the eldest son of James the Second,
was born at Cosse, in the Isle of Wight, on the 20th of February 1667. When
he was about twenty-three years of age, his father, having married a second
wife, withdrew his allowance from him and treated him indifferently. Others
upon this account, he went into the Navy and was in three engagements with
the Dutch. The afterwars retired to India, in the East, as a Merchant.

Having amassed some property there, he returned to England and married
Ann, daughter of Major John Wingfield of Andover, Hampshire. Upon the
death of his father, he inherited the Manor of Limington, where he was
living, in the year 1700, certainly.

By his marriage with Ann Wingfield, James Tagewell, the Third,
had seven children, whose names are all stated in the Parish Register
of Limington, and are there written James Wingfield, afterwards Tagewell,
and lastly Tagewell. Of these seven children, three were sons, James, John
and William; and four of them were daughters, Ann, Frances, Elizabeth
and Constance.

James, the eldest child, died June 11th 1710, without issue. I believe what became
of John, the second child, or of his four sisters mentioned above, I know not. But
of William, the third child, I will speak hereafter.

James Tagewell, the Third, although a few years younger, was contemporary
with Colonel Southey Waterston, and survived him many years.

William Tagewell, the Third son of James Tagewell, the Third, was
baptized in the Parish Church of Limington, July 17th 1691. He migrated to
Virenas, about the year 1715, where he married Sophia, the daughter of Henry Harman, son of Northampton County. Of him I have already given an account in the body of this work.

William Tassewell, whose name and that of all his descendants is always written Tassewell, was the second son of James Tassewell, the second. He was born at Cowes on the Isle of Wight, May 1, 1652. He was educated at Oxford and seems to have been a good scholar. He wrote memoirs of his family, beginning with the year 1609 and ending with 1682. These memoirs were written in Latin, a copy of extracts from a translation of the original manuscript have been furnished to me by his descendant George Maurice Tassewell. Of these, I have made free use in the preceding account.

This William Tassewell entered into holy orders in 1683; and was afterwards made dector of the parishes of Kemington Bullets and Bermondsey, in the county of Surrey, on the 21st of May 1695. He married Frances, daughter of Doctor Edward Sabes, dector of Saint Mary at Bell, London, and died June 20, 1751. He had many children. Of these, William was the sixth son, but the second of those who survived their father, is the only one of whom I have any certain information.

He was born at Kemington, in Surrey, December 20, 1705, was a master of arts, received holy orders, and became dector of the parishes of Woolton under Edges and of Almondsbury, in Gloucestershire. On the 13th December 1725, he married Dorothy, daughter of Roger Bannett of Fowemb, in Kent, and died August 6, 1775. He had many children. Of these, George, his third son, is the only one of whom I have any certain information.

George Tassewell was born at Woolton in Gloucestershire, October 17, 1724. He married, first, Anne, daughter of Charles, Brissown of Bradford, in the county of Antrim, Ireland. But she dying soon afterwards, without issue, he went to Madras, in the East Indies. On the 12th June 1776, he then married, Honora, daughter of Richard Beckfie of Dover, the widow of Captain Oebnow, by whom he had issue two sons, William and George Maurice. On the 11th December 1790, his wife died at Madras and George Tassewell then returned to England and settled at Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire. From thence, however, he removed to Tours in France, where he died November 20, 1810.

William, the eldest of the two sons of George Tassewell, was born at Madras, March 29, 1777. He married Octavia, daughter of Charles Cartridge of Gotham House, Gloucestershire, July 24, 1809, but has no issue. He resides now
George Davis the 2d son of George Tazwell, was born in London, September 10, 1703. He married Anne, daug. of Rev. and Mrs. George Step, Rector of Coggestall, in Kent. He has many children, and resides at Saint Martin's Canterbury, Kent.

Stephen, whose name is also spelt Tazwell, was the 3d son of James Tazwell. He was born at Brighton, Sussex, December 26, 1685. When he came of age, the same cause that sent his eldest brother James into the navy, as has been before stated, induced Stephen to go to Jamaica. From thence he returned to England and settled himself at Limington in Somersetshire, where he married Barbara, daughter of John Penny of Nadington in that county, about the year 1690. By her he had many children: but of none of these have I any certain information.

The arms now borne by the Tazwell branch of the family, and different from those of the Tazewell branch, although the same two branches have sprung from the same stock, James Tazewell, the 2d. The reason seems to be this: The Tazwell arms are copied from the tomb of Barbara, the wife of Stephen Tazwell, who was buried at Limington in 1706, and of Frances, the wife of William Tazwell, who was buried at Newington Butts in 1720. These arms may, therefore, be those of either of the families of Penny or of Salter. No arms belonging to the Tazwell family can be found in the herald's College, before 1663; and even then they are undefined. But as the arms I bear and which I derive from my ancestor William Tazewell, were certainly granted to the Tazewell family, before 1661, these two families were either of the same origin, or James Tazewell the 2d became entitled to them as the heir of his mother, who was a descendant of the Tazewell family, that had become extinct in its male line, before his birth in 1588.