Clerks Building, Norfolk, Virginia.
Clerk of Courts,
Samuel Kimberly.
May 20th, 1886

My dear Billy,

Nothing could have been farther from my mind than the idea of stopping my correspondence; it would be idle to tell you how much pleasure I was to receive your letter. I scarcely know what makes me so slow to write except that I like to write long letters and seldom have long leisure.

At all events, we have turned over a new leaf of our accounts and I will try to be as regular as
my wishes would make me. I am in arrears not only to you but to all my friends. Mamie occasionally gives me a rap across the knuckles in a preparatory way about my reminiscences, but some how the days pass by and are files up with their round of work and the letters remain unwritten. However I am resolved to write faster do die now.

My heart has told you where I am. Sometimes I think that you adopted the better course, plunging right into work, but here in my position as Deputy Clerk I have gained a
deal of practical information and acquaintance which I might otherwise never have received. I gave up the notion of the year at the University. All that I desired to go there for I have obtained here, together with a not very large but comfortable salary. But I have now been admitted to the bar, and will begin to practise about the first of July, going temporarily into the office of White & Garnett one of our leading law firms.
So it is very natural that you have not heard of my professional achievements, and alas, I am afraid it will be a long time before you can except from me. Although Norfolk is not an exceedingly large large city it is large enough to have numerous excellent lawyers and as you say, clients do not hunt up the young fellows. I know you are doing well, apart from your natural qualification of which we will not speak, the advantages which you possess from your father's already established practice and influence are very en-
Sir: We are in politics a better fortune, as a Candidate for City Attorney before the Democratic Primary, being beaten by all the other candidates. Since I received a very complimentary vote for a young fellow who had never been in court and who was not admitted to the bar until after he had been announced a candidate. The late Circuit Judge of this Circuit Court was beaten along with
me. Dally wrote me a very funny letter from Georgetown. Pointing Vienna on my wound, we had much a movement over it. But I am pretty well satisfied. I got a little political experience and a moderate amount of advertising but not quite votes enough to back.

I am sure old Pab is succeeding. I will try and square my accounts with him very soon. We hear from Dan through the boys who come home regularly every vacation as did their brothers in times gone by.

I tell you Billy I feel quite the old man when...
I look back on the Georgetown
days, and read in the Journal,
about this fellow and that
fellow playing Benedict
first Dan Lawler, then Mob-
lie McGahan—the, Rufus
McCoy and so on down the
list. Poor Rufus! I hope
he has become more manly
than he was. I received
the other day an invitation
to Medical School Commu-
nication from Louis Kugla.
I have had thank letters at
odd times from Joe Noman
out of old Penn, Willie Wagenseeck.
Dear, P. Cahill, Jim Morris, and the Bird: I have not heard one word this long time. Cally sent home Merrick Debate Card, the names on it were "Kids" when we were grave and reverent. Demas, Your letter was much appreciated at home. Mama says the best way to prove that you visit was pleasant is to come again. And indeed we thought from a remark you let fall in partner's Christ mas letter that you were coming East in the near future. If you do, remember and this I charge you, you are to come this
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way. As for my coming to the Black Hills well, I hope to do so some day, but you will be coming East I am sure and you will always find a door open for you in Norfolk. I wish it were possible for us to meet often, but we are very widely separated. Think of my "alter ego" Waggy being down among the bayous and the palm trees. I believe I told you that I attended the Commencement and alumni meeting last year. There
We are very few present that we know. One of President Cleveland's appointees, Char. Reedy, Minister to China, was here. He is not a very grand lion like thought. I wonder if the presence of the Catholic University in Washington will do much good for old Georgetown. I thought and I think it will.

I was about to ask you apropos of Georgetown if you were still a libber prisoner—but Jeff Davis is reviving so many war memories down South that I had better keep quiet, besides running in a danger-
no habit better fitted for colleagues than an attorney at law of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Well, I hope the length of this letter will be taken as an earnest of my intention to reform as a correspondent through indeed good friends ought not to wait for letter for letter, and you have not waited, Mr. Foxes without exp. Captain desire to be remembered to you. Present me to Mr. & Mrs. McCaulfield.
William L. McLaugh
Attorney at Law
Deadwood, S.D.