

and where great battles were fought and thousands of human beings slaughtered, but that you may have a good idea of the frame-work of society in the past. Gibbon's is certainly the greatest history ever yet written. From his work you will learn the causes and progress of the decline of a very high order of civilization. Hallam brings you through the gloom that followed the extinction of the Roman lights. Robertson, in his introduction and history, will show how, by little and little, order was adduced from chaos.

"You should of course read, and with great care, Bancroft's History of the United States. That will teach you how our American institutions were planted, grew and were molded into their present shape. It seems to me you can not do more than this during the summer. Of course your whole time will not be engrossed with these books, or rather your reading will not be exclusively in them; some of your time must be given to light literature. In that you must consult your own peculiar taste. I can prescribe your *work*. Your pleasures must be of your own selection. That they will be instructive as well as pleasing I am sure.

"A great calamity has fallen upon our nation. We are severely tried, but the nation and our institutions will live. The destiny of this people and our Government were not bound up in the life of the greatest and best man I ever knew.

"Your affectionate cousin,

"JAMES SPEED."

"ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
"WASHINGTON, January 27, 1866. }

"DEAR THOMAS: I received your letter of the 11th of January by due course of mail, and though much interested in the subject-matter, have not had time until now to give it a thought.

"I am, dear Thomas, exceedingly anxious that you should pursue the profession of your choice. I think the necessity you are under of turning your attention to another business for a short time will not be in the way of your ultimate success. There is nothing of greater advantage to a lawyer than a large experience in the practical affairs of life. The study of law can probably be more beneficially carried on with this experience than without it.

"As to what you should do when your money gives out, my notion is that teaching is the best business for you. While teaching you can still pursue your profession, or if you have a distaste for that line of life, then I would advise you to take a position as clerk in some mercantile establishment, which would give you practical ideas that would be very useful in your professional life.

"Until you come to the practice of your profession you can not be made to understand how closely allied is the business of a lawyer to