

Washington 9 Feb 1829.

My dear Son

I received your favor of the 1st instant. I am afraid you took too sensibly my remark, thrown out by way of caution, in respect to the injustice done you in the position assigned you in the class. It is quite likely that you may have ground for some dissatisfaction; but my intention was to guard you against any manifestation of your feelings. The world does not approve of complaints which emanate from one self as to the intellectual part which is ascribed him. I knew your general disposition, and my only purpose was to fortify it by the advice of your father and friend.

Why should you despair of the first honor? The young gentleman, your competitor, has great advantages; but there is nothing which we cannot do when we are firmly resolved.

You asked me in a former letter what I mean to do after the 4th of March. I shall return to England, leave here between that and the 10th and I shall reserve for my retirement at home the consideration of the question whether I shall again embark in public life.

Richard left here two days ago for the Point. He has the appearance of a re-appointment.

My health has not been so good of late as it was in the early part of the Session.

Your affectionate father

H. Clay

H. Clay Junr.