

Chester E. Jackson  
Ocell, Michigan

March 29 - 30

My dear Gran'chile

Yours of Thursday this week came duly and I am rejoiced that you got such good words from Quator Martin. He is yours truly and expects to make us a little visit the coming summer along with his splendid wife.

I am sending by this mail a most useful magazine published in Washington which gives one quite an idea about the existing features of the Consular & Diplomatic Service and which you may gain some points by a perusal.

On page 32 you will find some points - the "Linthicum Bill" - which may be adopted in this Congress, or if not ~~will~~ will be later, which I would prefer later.

Things have so changed since my time in the foreign service that I can scarcely believe it is a fact, but I bespeak a greater change for the future and I am glad that you are about ready to take advantage of it.

I like to take hold of points near their inception before the meddling crowd advertises them to the common world.

You may be surprised to learn that I took  
the bottom rung of the ladder when I entered the  
service, for the Department of State Register only  
gave a report of \$146.<sup>52</sup> fees as remuneration  
for ~~1876~~ 1876, Small potatoes, eh! but I took  
it - journeyed down there in the hurricane  
Season <sup>of 1878</sup> on an old sailship and found a new  
life new much as to warrant my return to  
the U.S. <sup>3 months later</sup> to get a dress suit. In the  
meantime the fees of office had increased to  
several hundred dollars during the interim of  
1877 to 1878 and kept on increasing until a  
Salary of \$1500 was allowed by Congress and  
permission to establish agencies from which I got  
half the the fees <sup>and</sup> which brought in all, to our  
Coffers, some \$2500 <sup>Salary and all</sup> ~~together with the salary.~~  
Jackson luck wasn't it?!

I resigned in 1890. I am writing this  
to show you how we started out, then we  
had to take old tubs for our journeys but  
you may take flying machines!  
where your strength lies is in your poise  
more than anything else and that is  
especially necessary to the business. That is a  
diplomatic quality and you were "born with it  
up your sleeve"  
I see you taking dictation from the Chief  
of the embassy, the ambassador to Argentina,

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And maybe things may change when Women may become Ambassadors or Ministers, or Consul Generals or Consuls or vice Consuls &c. &c. - Who knows.

The point of achievement <sup>to</sup> office will be by merit more and more and it's just a matter of ability + hard work and more than all - the "sticking to the saddle". He who works and waits brings home the bacon and you have the great patience for which you were born - inherited. It's the poise.

But poise means health. Can you save it? When health is lost not all is lost for it may be regained but time is lost and confidence often shattered if not destroyed.

Of course you will have to pass thru a practise period which means (I trust I am right) some three years at some Consular or diplomatic office somewhere when the examination final will be given, which determines the position you will assume for promotion. I take it you would prefer some Southern Spanish position where the languages you are now practising would be used, Spanish is the leading one in South or Central America but French and German are much used also

This is quite a world, this globe we inhabit, and this same United States will be the leader if not already and you need not be ashamed to stand in the shadow of the flag; but this is an old story.

One thing I am sure of, you would not be homesick, for things from grass roots to Cathedral spires and Mountain crests, would keep you looking and considering.

I never felt the pangs of that awful feeling, however distressing the surroundings even to sea sickness. I can truly say that I have seen some homesick surroundings but something to eat <sup>has</sup> always driven away the shadows and it <sup>was</sup> Jackson luck that ~~prevented~~ prevented the shadows from settling down.

I don't believe it would be good policy to show these lines to your parents for if anything should happen I might be blamed for influencing you and I would be blamed ~~unfortunately~~ unfortunately all round, but I say that I believe you are eminently fitted, or will be, to be a reasonable slave to ambition and - and - the Lord can't prevent it I really do believe.

Yours with you

Chester Alphalet Jackson