

Washington 23^d. Dec. 1831

My dear Son.

I have this day rec^d. your letter of the 7th. inst. from
which I have much satisfaction in perceiving that your reflections upon
what passed in K. immediately preceding your departure to N. O.
have brought you to right conclusions. In respect to yourself I
have no wish but what is connected with your prosperity and
success, and I will add that your success is the strongest
~~wish~~ ^{desire} that binds me to this world. As to the time of your commencing
your profession, it has been far from my view to limit it
by days and months. What I ~~do~~ wish is that when you do
commence it, you may begin with a preparation, by study
and research, which shall make you what I want to see
you, respectable and eminent. Without such preparation,
whatever advantages the state of the Bar and of Business
may present, you cannot embrace them.

On politics, the papers will inform you of all that
I can communicate. I have sent you some documents &
will send you more.

Your mother is well, and joins me in love to you
to Anne, Mr. Erwin, Mr. Duvalde, & Mrs. Clay.

Your affl. father
H. Clay