

My Dear Son

Washington 7th April 1832

The cheerful tone pervading your letter of the 26th Ulls, just received, has given me great pleasure. I unworthily desire your happiness and success in life. It is indeed one of the strongest feelings which reconciles me to existence. I hope you will continue to cultivate your present temple of mind.

The course of study which you have pursued the past winter, and which you have marked out for the future, appears to me to be very judicious. You were very fortunate in winning the friendship of Judge Porter, who writes to me in highly flattering terms about you.

I am glad that you have taken an interest in the grounds and garden at Oakland. I had heretofore always regretted that none of my sons would take such an interest, and that they seemed to regard themselves as strangers in their father's house. What you propose as to the grape vines is very proper and what I intended. Mr. Hoag will make whatever frames you may direct. I had intended to have all the dead trees and shrubs cut out and removed from the shrubbery, and should be thankful if you could have it done. I sent some superior water melon seed to Mr. Martin which should be planted; and we should desire Tom to plant some Cantalopes also. For water melons and potatoes the same piece of ground, between the ~~proposed~~ shrubbery and garden might be used that was last year. Mr. Martin must have