

The sturdy English and Dutch blood that came to us thru New England, New York and New Jersey should bring with it thrift and economy and the love of work and books. The Virginia, Delaware and Carolina elements should also be credited with a full share of intellectual and refining influences.

Soon after I left college my aunt Jeanette Thruston Powell, of Washington, asked me what profession I had selected, and remarked that "Our Virginia Thrustons had never engaged in trade. They were army or navy officers, or lawyers or planters, but never engaged in trade. I hope, Gates, you will choose one of the professions." I replied, "I expect to be a lawyer, auntie, but I have always been thankful that my Kentucky father was fortunate enough to marry the daughter of an Ohio merchant and banker, and thus bring a little money and love of work into our branch of the Thrustons."

I have often reflected upon this incident that illustrates so well the inherited pride of our old Virginia kindred, but I still think the labor-loving, book-loving strain that came down to us thru Yale, Princeton and New Jersey, is one of the best blessings of our inheritance, and all the more a blessing, if it has given us something of a money-making, money-saving gift—a gift that has much to do with one's peace of mind and happiness in this world, whatever it may threaten in the next. In our American social and business life, the merchant and banker is as useful, as important, and I may say, is usually as much respected, as the man of the profession or of the army.

My old friend, Colonel Garrett, of Nashville, who was justly proud of his Virginia ancestry, once said to me, that upon being introduced to a stranger he hesitated to ask where he came from, lest he might