



Aetna Insurance Company

Hartford, Connecticut

M. V. B. SPARKS & SON, AGENTS,
LAMPASAS, TEXAS.

Lampasas, Texas, June/8/1905.

Mr. John Sparks,

Georgetown, Texas.

Dear Uncle;-

Your letter of last December was duly received and was carefully read and re-read at the time, and I expect from the fact that I have not answered it, you have come to the conclusion ^{that} I have ceased to take any conizance of the fact that you were so kind and indulgent for me in the years past as to very heavily involve yourself, and that my appreciation for you is dead; but not so and I assure you that if my writing letters to you, going over these matters again and again, would cause you to feel any more kindly toward me, I would be willing to write every day; but since, from a financial view, my life has been a failure and from the fact that there has never been a day since I got out of that business that I had a single dollar to apply on the amount I owed you I did not know just how to write to you; I was fearful that wordy letters of appreciation without some cash occasionally to back it up would have a very insincere sound to you; I also realize that on account of the brilliant success that you have made in a financial way, that you are unprepared to believe or to realize how a man with ordinary intelligence and a good education can make such a dismal failure as I have made.

Numbers of times since you showed your faith in me by involving yourself, I have both in my letters and to you personally told you of my feelings toward you and of the unspeakable appreciation I had for you, and of the awful humiliation that I felt in not being able to lift any of the burden from you and I was fearful that you did not want to hear me any more. God knows that I want to pay that debt, I had rather redeem myself in your estimation than to attain a zenith of prominence in finances, politics, fame or anything else that a human might aspire to; to pay this debt has been the one aspiration above all others, aside from providing for my family, that has occupied my spare moments for the past years, and when vissionary prospects of financial success come to me the payment of this debt is the most pleasant thing that I have to think about; words ~~neither~~ ^{no} written or spoken can give you an idea of my feeling in the matter when I stop to realize the fact that my years are slipping by, that some of my best ones have already been lived, and that it is probably that when the last one is gone that this debt will still be unpaid.

It seems that I can't get a toe holt again; I plan and study and scheme and think and investigate and think of something to tack~~le~~ that will make me more than a bare living- I'd do anything that was honest, or go anywhere if there was any shadow of hope to earn money enough during the remainder of my life to relieve you of this burden.

When your letter was received Pa was sick at home and I was right bussy in the office and I did not have time to write to you before you left Texas and since then I have hesitated to tell you over again of my dismal failure.



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M. V. B. SPARKS & SON, AGENTS,
LAMPASAS, TEXAS.

Lampasas, Texas, _____

In your letter you asked me the question what I did with my salary. I have no salary; my income is what I can make out of the insurance and real estate business, which is very meager and it takes every dollar of it for the support of my family, not one dollar have I laid aside for an emergency.

You also mentioned in your letter that I had taken advantage of the bankrupt law and cleared my self of this debt; this is not the case; I have not taken the bankrupt law, have never had money enough to pay the expense even had I have wanted to. If I ever do, the debt that I owe you will be renewed as soon the bankrupt court gets through with me. My conscience would hurt me in my grave if I were to relieve myself of this debt in any way except to pay it.

Lucy and the children are in Georgetown and I hope that they will have the pleasure of seeing you while there; when you have seen the children I think you will say that I have something to be proud of, whether I ever have any money possessions or not.

If renewing those notes will help you in any way write me the amount and I will fix it up and send to you.

Your nephew,

M. V. B. Sparks