

Trying to Close up Ranks

Every husband and father is head of his family while he lives, and it would not be becoming for anyone who has become fatherless to claim anything unique in his bereavement, but surely in our case we could not be going on just as before. He who for forty years carried the load without shirking was gone from us.

After the funeral was over and the members of the family were leaving for his or her home and work one after another brother Frank said in the presence of the family still present "George must go back to school." Still, without any further discussion of the question it was true that Bun and I were the only children who had not made ~~one~~^{two} trips, sometimes long ones, away from home and business in two or three weeks. And we two had fewer ties elsewhere and were more acquainted with things at the old home than any of the rest.

So it seemed natural that we two should put our heads together and see what needed to be done at the old home. We sold a mule colt, I believe for something over \$50.00 and spent some of that on repairs to fences, gates and building about the home.

In all I was away from school about four weeks and the midyear examinations were over when I got back to school. I went to my teachers one by one and asked for a special examination and each of them gave me what I asked for without delay. They all passed me either then or at the end of the year. I was grateful to all of them for I had missed entirely about one-eighth of the time of the school year. In those days at the seminary it was pass or not pass, and no one knew anything about his grades unless he enquired specially.