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Letter from Mims Williams to His Mother

Mims Williams

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DUP.

Magee, Mississippi,

September 29th. 1913.

Dear Mama:-

I have your letter relative to the matter of Deuglas' will . I read the letter from Dr. Pritchett and have reread the copy of his last will and testament. I am more convinced than ever that we could not be benefitted by any attack whatever on the Will that has been probated. We would have to produce evidence to prove the unsound mind of Deuglas when he made the last will or show undue influence or duress in the making of same. This we have no kind of evidence to produce. To set aside the last will would bring into force the prior will. Then it would doubtless be contested upon the same grounds that we would contest the last will. This would involve us in the position of establishing the unsoundness of the mind of Deuglas at one time and the soundness of his mind at another time,- all of which we could not produce evidence at any time of any nature to substantiate. The if we would set up that his mind was unsound at both times that he made wills,- which would be a more consistent position,- we would have the local influence of Mrs. Davis to fight to a finish as that would eliminate her entirely. It could easily be shown by the two efforts at least that it was the intention of Deuglas to leave a will and not to have his property go to his collateral kin. This would be the strongest point of law in favor of the Will. The law plainly states that where it is shown that it was the intention of a person to leave a will that the courts should uphold such ~~manifest~~ intention. I shall help Dan in any effort that he thinks would inure to your good.

I am sorry Mama that you are so disappointed about the matter. I would not care anything about it. Douglas has evidently done as he wished at the time he made the will about his property. The letters from Lanier stated that Douglas was eccentric and peculiar, - that he would be great friends at one time with some people and would be so close to them that he wanted to do too much for them, - then he would change without any apparent reason and associate others with him and become as fond of them and attach himself to them and try to overdo the thing in their favor. This was his conduct all through life. The people over there knew him and because of this eccentricity of conduct there would be no inconsistency in the terms of his last will that has been probated. I always want to do what I can for you and am now ready to do so in this case. I feel like there is no need to try to undo the last will that seemed upon its face to be bona-fide.

With much love to you and all,

Yours son,