

From Charles P. Adams'  
Autobiography

-13-

also a northerner. While I was waiting to come to Grambling, I went over to the plantation and talked with Mr. Burns about my future work. He told me that my uncle had not done so well with the place since I left. He further asked me to go back to the farm and start raising sugar cane again. He promised to advance me all the money I needed to operate my farm. He contended that the land was very poor in north Louisiana. I decided not to tell him what I would do. I sincerely intended to keep the promise I had made to Mr. Washington. Thus, in spite of what he had said I continued to plan to come to Grambling.

Mr. Washington told our class just before graduation that "you must work if you get paid and you must work if you don't get paid." "Work" was his motto. You had to work if you had to pay someone to let you work. My classmates and I discussed this all the way from the chapel to our rooms and even after going to bed. We thought this was the most awful thing any one could say, especially Mr. Washington. Yet, when I came to Grambling I used this very same motto - work without pay, work with pay and pay someone to let you work. As a matter of record I worked for seventeen years without pay.

All through my struggles here in Grambling I have not forgotten these statements made by Mr. Washington. I am very sure that it was that statement that made me stick through the thick and thin. As it was, there was more thin than thick. My wife and I took courage from Washington's words and they kept us going.