Lexington, Va.

July 19th, 1878

My Dear young Namesake,

I send you the "Life of Albert Sidney Johnston", a book which I have written as a memorial of my father. When you get a little older I hope you will prize it for the sake of the writer; and when you come to read and understand it, I hope and believe you will find some things in the character of the man.
about whom I write which will help you to make your
self a better and more useful man. That is what we ought to live for.
I send you this, hoping, my dear boy, that you may live to become such a man, and that you may always be a joy and honor to your excellent father and mother.

Your affectionate kinsman and friend

Wm. Preston Johnston

To Preston Johnston Beale,
Botetourt Co., Va.