his work on the Rail road - I must be entirely & entirely broken up - you can form little idea my dear Sir - of the situation I am in - & the very idea of explaining, or showing why it is so desperate, involves so much, that as a wife & Mother I must stop here - after having merely stated facts -

The next thing then is the possibility of making Lloyd my own - by the arrangement alluded to in the sale of Harriets. - I confess I am at a loss what to say - in the first place, I fear we have no right to do so - & in the next would it not be rendering the hire to the injury of both Mrs Mat & yourself & other creditors - again - would feasible to purchase Lloyd, in whose name could he be held? - for as to James having the right - it would be out of the question - these are all questions of much moment & require to be duly weighed - I have not been able to see Judge Brown this week, but will take an early occasion to do so & advise with him as to the right. That is vested in any one to sell - Should James succeed in this Custom House - which I am sometimes weak enough to expect - as I know many powerful men are enlisted in our behalf - there would be no difficulty in purchasing Lloyd in a few months at any rate by the Winter - but this is a mere hope - I deeply lament that you should be driven to the extremity you allude to in the sale of my property - it will cost Sister & yourself many painful scenes & trial of feeling - but I too well know the exhausting - wearing out of soul & body - by this thing of debt - it is utterly impossible to know even common peace - much less comfort - whilst it exists, & I think you are very right to make such arrangements as will relieve you, consistent with the responsibility which I well know you both feel towards property of that nature - have you no prospect of aid from the North - can it be much longer before something is done there - - do tell me