of maintaining the title of the estate to the services of the child will amount to more than it will sell for — and yet, as it seems, your laws do not allow me the discretion of saving this expense — our system is not so exacting. The question occurs to me, however, whether on stating the circumstances to the orphan's Court I can be discharged from responsability by a special decree.

I am glad that you have placed the unpaid notes, and the bond of E. N. Hambleton in a legal course of collection — I must wind up the estate, and consequently whoever does not discharge his debt to it or to the Executor must be sued.

I have heard no more about Bramble, and therefore hope you have arranged with him. Please inform me, lest I should be taken by surprise by the actions he has instituted here.

To your observations respecting the proposition that I should agree to a case to determine the eventual descent or succession to the personality in Maryland, while I return you my thanks for the friendly spirit in which you have written, I am compelled to reply, after full consideration, that it would not be safe for me to accede to the proposition. Every suit based on this ground would be abated on the plea, which I must unavoidably make, that all the assets in the hands of either and both of the Executors are claimed for payment of a debt of the estate, for determination of which actions are now pending — the abatement would of course throw the prosecutors into costs. I know no method of discharging one portion of the assets of an estate, without regard since a debt (mean of a special character) is due by the whole estate, if at all.

I am perfectly certain of judgment in my favor on my marriage agreement — and hereafter you will appreciate at its due worth the liberality of my intentions respecting the personality in Maryland after satisfaction of my debt — but I must again repeat what I stated at first and invariably since, that if I shall be put to the trouble of law suits on this point, I shall and do hold myself utterly discharged of all and every expectation relating to the personality which I have at any time held out — If the parties interested do not think fit to rely upon me, they must resort to your courts to decide whether the property in your State is subject to the laws of Maryland or is governed by the laws of Pennsylvania — To decide the latter would gratify some of our politicians, who have long desired to obtain for Pennsylvania the natural boundary of the Potomac the Chesapeake bay and the ocean.

I cannot conclude without making my acknowledgments for your intimation that I am not to expect a suit from you and Mrs Feilchman, or your joining in one, should the other representatives institute process before the period to which I think it ought to be deferred. In this I recognise your generous and manly character, as well as the friendship which it is my pride to believe I possess — It is a right return for me to declare that, under such circumstances, if the other representatives recover against me on suit, I will not put you to the expense of one, but will account to you for such proportion as you would be entitled to if you had sued and recovered in the same manner and at the same time with the others — and I shall not confine myself this, or to several opportunities I may probably have before the estate is finally settled, for giving solid testimonials of the value I put upon such conduct as you inform me you will pursue, and of the friendship with which

I am truly Yours

B. Lewis

Col Feilchman