Balt 15 Oct 1830

My dear Father

The very serious disappointment with which I met in the non compliance of my father-in-law with his promise, the hopes of fulfilment of which was a great inducement to my removal here brings me very suddenly to a stand in my prospects & I can scarcely say leaves a doubt of bringing me to poverty if I continue in my present situation. The old adage that a rolling stone gathers no moss is in general true but as man is a creature of circumstances should they compel him into motion he has no alternative, I have seen & know enough of this world to know that if a man can settle himself down quietly so as to live in quietness at home, & keep himself out of debt it is as much as under existing circumstances he has a right to expect & as to attaining high professional honours he must first await the arrival of old age, the death of those who have the business & the slow & creeping progress of elevation — I am not at all cast down neither will I allow myself to be so, as long as I am capable of making an effort but if that effort will not meet expences I am not justified in continuing in a place & in a business the result of which will be poverty, more particularly under the expectation of an increased family which is now I believe beyond doubt — My observation on the rise of young men in my calling, is, that, unaided by fortuitous circumstances, (I out care what are their talents in the present depressed state of all kinds of business) they cannot gain head way & do not unless aided for many

16th Octo — I have witheld this letter hoping you would have come down with R who arrived here last night, & now submit it to you not so much to learn from you whether if I make a change it should be of the within proposed plan but rather whether I ought to hold out here or not if we determine on the latter I can then devise ways & means perhaps of a more permanent kind & surety, & for the execution

of which my farm or its value would be my capital I wrote you last week —

Mr C Birne
Carry Town
Tad Co County
Md

Baltimore Oct 15 1830
C. Birnie

Liverpool 16th October 1830

Dear Sir,

Very deeply I know will you regret the occasion which impels me to take up my pen to address you, namely, the death of my dear and good father which I have conceived it my duty to communicate to you. His lamentable event took place on Saturday last the 9th instant, a few hours after his arrival by sea from Bordeaux, to which place he had been in the vain expectation of the re-establishment of his health, which for the last six months had been declining. We had never been disposed to view his case as fatal, but rather as a mere depression of spirits to which he had always been at times subject, and which we conceived that only a change of scene and relaxation of mind would be successful, as in former instances, in removing; but the event has shown how grievously we were deceived. He had at first formed some intention of going out to the States to visit you, but we deemed the voyage and climate too great, and then he fixed on a sail to Bordeaux. He refused to allow any of his family to accompany him, but on his arrival there he wrote that he was growing weaker and wished his youngest daughter, Anna, and urged her to come to him. She went, accompanied by Margaret Blair's eldest daughter, and my cousin Henry Murray. On their arrival what a change in him was presented to their sight! from the late vigorous old man he was, they saw him unable to rise from his seat to greet the little party

SHIP

Mr C. Birnie
Hornsville
near Sandy Town
Baltimore
Maryland