years by money & with it powerful connection & as my funds are drawing to a termination I do not feel myself justified in breaking in upon my land for the purpose of a support alone, as although we certainly live as economically as it is possible for us to do, to maintain anything like respectability still even all my land is worth, that is, all I could raise upon it by mortgage, would not very much far maintain me until I could must expence judging by the gradual elevation of others similarly situated & as I have a prospect of a family I do not feel justified in letting my land slip through my fingers — possibly it may be my main stay at last however of little value it may be at present — Again spring I would be compelled to go to housekeeping if all things thro well — My circumstances so far from discouraging me rather excite me to greater energy as I do not intend to lay on my oars but before I can exercise it here I would require some reputation, in the attempt to gain which my purse may wear out — I have no fixed determination or course of pursuit at present but if I am compelled to move perhaps I might do worse than resume my old station in Tanny Town where I think I could be sure of a support & where I could attend to the cultivation of my farm which under existing circumstances I cannot neglect, & I cannot attend to it here — My increased age & experience in my profession would assist me & my punctuality hitherto would not injure me — If I went there I would make myself master of the German language I speak nothing else when acquisite — Parkin Scott a brother of Johns is about to go to sieve in Emmitsburg where he will have the catholic aid but I find he is undetermined whether to practise or be a magistrate & if he even practised I imagine he would not be in my way — This course of things as you may naturally suppose would be very far from my choice but if nothing else presents I have no choice & I would fain hope that it should not be my final place of abode but would expect it so to be perhaps for ten years — When there before I had no one to care for & indeed taking the good & bad into consideration I think my getting married was one of the best acts of my life if I behold it only as a spur — I have a prize timidity which I find very difficult to shake off & which is not near so great among those I consider my inferiors as with others. If I should determine on a residence there or in any other small place I would consider it only as a resting place or "point look out" for better chances — Mercantile life is too precarious & from my knowledge of the world if I could have my farm stocked & any kind of a comfortable abode there — there I would be — The things of this life beyond a competence are not worth having we have but a few years to enjoy them — we die — & are forgotten — I must therefore either make a change or an arrangement forthwith — As all demands here are for cash & if I get into trouble for want of it all my prospects are at an end — I consider it perfectly immaterial ~~to me~~ what a man lives if he live happily & comfortable or how he is occupied if he be honestly engaged in an honest vocation. He would not of course like such a change more than myself but I'm aware she has a sufficiency of good sense to accomodate herself to my circumstances & would be happy any where with me. If you are soon to be here, the sooner the better as you are the only one I have to advise with (whose advice would be directed to my interest & life has not experience enough yet — Uninterested persons are not to be depended on they are too trivial — I like to be some place where I would not only be respected but looked up to & which cannot be in a place like this unless I am positive & should I leave here 10 or 15 yrs might bring me back When the railroads &c will make the practice here infinitely better — I cannot agree to be living without at least some sensible purpose — I must always be so situated that community will or can command my time & services if they will — Returning to Trudk — to Tanny Town going to Westminster — staying here or renting a farm are all under consideration but as I hope to see you soon I will now stop —

Yrs very sincerely
C Biggs

Turn over

and he was wasted to a perfect shade. They stood a week at Bordeaux until the steamboat in which they had come returned, and brought him home. He was unable to converse much; all his anxiety was to reach home, and when he understood he was at length there, and my dear mother and his children around his bed, he breathed his last. Nothing could exceed the ease with which he died. His last words to Anna were on board the vessel, "I am going, my dear child, into my Saviour's arms." To me, when I hurried down to the vessel to get him from on board he could only articulate "Edward dear." To Margaret he said "Where is your mother, child," which were the last words he spoke. He evidently recognized all around his bedside, and, although unable to speak, was sensible to the latest moment. He was in the 72nd year of his age.

To descant on my dear old father's character were to you unnecessary. — The same qualities that distinguished him in his earlier days remaining with him to the last: — magnanimity of mind, an unexpecting confidence in others, attachment to his family and friends, and an extreme kindness of heart. He has left his family with some little property and a good business, which will be managed by me, his late partner, for the interest of my mother and myself. His daughters are all married, with the exception of Mary, the second eldest, who is in bad health, and Anna, the youngest, his greatest and a deserved favourite. His only other son besides myself is Matthew, a partner in his cousin Murray's house at Demerara, one of the most flourishing in the colony, and Matthew is there greatly esteemed.

I have nothing further to communicate to you which might interest you. If I can be at any time of any service to you or to any of your family it will afford me unbounded pleasure to do so, remaining, My dear Sir, Yours very sincerely & faithfully
Edward Steele.

A letter from Mr. R. Shaw of your neighbourhood was received a few days ago, addressed to my father requesting him to get his daughter, who he stated in this country, sent out to him. Be pleased to let him know we will do so should she come to us. The poor father was a sufferer by Mr. Shaw, both by the loss of money lent, and by having heedlessly enticed him to a house at Birmingham, with whom he contracted a debt which he never liquidated; but we know that my father would not have allowed this to interfere in doing him and his child this service.

E. S.