

to quarrel with them now. Notwithstanding that there is now no ground of quarrel, he is still proceeding to harass us all with dilatory & expensive proceedings in Chancery and thus squandering in unproductive Law costs, the fruits of my beloved Father's hard and honest earnings. As I hope for mercy from my Maker, I can acquit my conscience in the whole matter from first to last: and I would charitably hope that William's errors have been caused through some lingering delusion under which he is spellbound. There is not to my knowledge one man of character or respectability to be found signifiant of the proceedings, who would not testify against the injustice and error of William's conduct.

My next term the Decree of the Chancellor will be pronounced, and which I believe will be the earliest settlement, that there is the slightest ground to expect. There is no shape or form that I could suggest in which amicable proposals have not been made to William, & either refused or ultimately abandoned by him. Some time wrote to him the most tender and affecting letter, when on the dying bed - In vain - my beloved mother communicated her dying wishes - but in vain - Oh! that God may change his heart and restore him to a right judgment. It is melancholy to see me, who should hold so respectable a position in Society, who set out in life with such fair prospects,

and good character for conscientious & punctuality in his engagements - making such a shipwreck of himself & his interesting family.

I assure my dear Uncle, it pains me deeply to be obliged thus to write of my brother: but justice to my own character requires me to tell you the truth and which all disinterested friends can testify. I had from time to time delayed this answer hoping some amicable settlement would be effected but in vain. - He is for some time out of confinement: but his liberty was offered to him - age pressed upon again & again I again - upon the simplest conditions of justice & refused.

You mention nothing in your letter particularly about the family: it would give me great pleasure occasionally to hear from you, whenever you could spare leisure to write. I trust that the painful transactions to which I have been obliged to allude, will ere long be buried in a charitable oblivion and that we shall be able to correspond on matters more pleasing to communicate.

I am now working hard in the Legal Profession: having a wife & 3 children about me - the oldest upwards of 6 years old - many a change has taken place since your leaving us - old friends gathered to their long home - & new generations starting into existence. Give my most affectionate love to all the family & believe me dear Uncle your attached nephew
Joseph Napier