Washington Oct 16th 1848

My dear John,

I received your two letters at the same time both no doubt delivered at my room by the same hand, Capt Hardcastle, I would to God I had ~~[illegible]~~ spared the receipt of one of them, particularly at this time. In stating what I clearly thought was your duty in relieving me of a portion of a certain sum which I agreed to pay to save our family from a disputable wrangle, it was undoubtedly optional with you to comply or to refuse to comply with the suggestion.

Here you should have stopt. For there is nothing in the relations existing between you & myself which ~~would~~ authorised you in assuming the high & dictatorial air of censure pervading your letter. I am sure that reflection will convince you that these relations might authorise you in regretting any act of mine, but by no possibility could it authorise you in sitting down to read me in no very courteous, & termes a lecture which would be something amusing if attempted on one of your juniors.

You stand towards me as a younger brother whose advice & paternal care you have not on former occasions disdained. indeed I may assume that you have not unfrequently been benefited by it, and I should have been the last person upon whom you should have exhibited ill feeling. ~~and~~ You certainly were the last person from whom I expected such treatment, tho I must be frank and tell you that after your very cavalier & dis