Private

Washington Feb 13. 1859.

Dear John.

Received your note this morning. I am more satisfied than ever of the justness and propriety of the proposition I submitted to you for arbitration and which was declined by you.

Our dear old Mother is now quite advanced and as soon as it pleases God to take her from us before this matter is settled - you and myself will be involved in a law which may last our lives.

I have never seen a more angry spirit than is manifested by Albert, or one that is more determined in creating trouble, and I must in all frankness say, this spirit receives inflamation from the resistance which you make to all settlement on (what I have thought) reasonable terms.

He and those who think with him may with some show of reason say that you are procrastinating this affair until Mother's death, when the will forbids any further cutting of timber. God forbid that I should attribute any such base motive, but you may rely upon it that the proposition I made to you is just and reasonable and if you persist in rejecting it the opposite side will stop at no consideration