

me, neither did I know of Doct<sup>r</sup> Tillam's being the same, untill  
he came forward with this distressing proposition and alledg'd  
his right to demand it for his own Security, since which time  
they have both acknowledged themselves to be entirely safe as  
to pecuniary risk. In the Winter, two or three months previous  
to this cruel request, I sent for Mr. Troup and told him it  
would be very gratifying to me to have the Books examined,  
he said it was his wish also, as he was in such bad health,  
and was going to live in the Country; he not being well  
it was neglected for a while, but when this affair took  
place, I insisted on Mr. Scott's choosing an Accountant  
and examining them at his own house, which was done,  
and a Certificate given by the Accountant and Mr. Troup  
that every Shilling was made the most of and the Books  
kept in the most correct manner, and the Estate in-  
creas'd far beyond their expectation, but this you will  
see by the Statement I shall enclose, just as the Accountant  
gave it to Mr. Scott for me, also Mr. Troup's letter which  
he said I ought to have as a testimony of my good management,  
all of which I should have sent you early last Winter,  
but I had every reason to suppose that Doct<sup>r</sup> T. & Mr. S.  
would put this business into execution immediately; after  
begging as for my life, I prevailed on them to give me  
leave to write to you, at which I was rejoiced, and hasten'd  
the Accountant to get the papers ready to send with the  
letter, when to my astonishment Doct<sup>r</sup> Tillam told me some

Dear Brother

1806  
This is the first my replying, to your two last  
kind favours, the receipt of which afforded me so much pleasure  
as you therein expressed so great satisfaction from the accounts you  
had receiv'd from different persons who had been in New-York, as  
well as what I had written myself, there has been no exaggeration in  
this as I hope your own judgement will convince you of, if ever we  
should have the pleasure of seeing you. My Daughters, who are  
old enough to show their friends what they have to expect from  
them, are held up as a pattern by the parents of those they associate  
with; my eldest son George is with a teacher that was recommended  
by the Professor of the College, where he improves in all the bran-  
ches to fit him for that Seminary. William is at a School, where  
he improves as well, but I think they would both be better to  
board with some middle aged Gentleman of genteel manners and  
good morals, that would keep them in more strict subjection  
than the tenderness of a Mother can do with Boys; this is a plan  
that is generally adopted by people in this City, and except you  
think it proper to send for them to be under your own care, I  
shall try to make up my mind to adopt this plan also, provided  
it meets your approbation, under which sanction I should have  
been happy to have taken every step that I have done, as  
it respects the Children and the Estate, and as it is, I am sure  
you will approve of what has been done; I speak in full  
confidence as one who has been influenced by the warmest  
affection, together with the most strict integrity, to do justice  
to the confidence plac'd in me, in the charge of this vast

Estate, the statement of which, I had prepared to have sent  
you ~~seven~~ months ago, together with a reply to <sup>your</sup> last acceptable  
letter, but for the unhappy reasons I shall now state to you.  
I shall therefore address you under the same impression I  
ever had of your character, as to judgement, justice, and candour,  
and a proper deliberation on every case you should decide on;  
all this I know you possess without flattery, I want no greater  
justice than this, it is seven years next October, since I have  
had the charge of this Estate and Family devolved on me, which  
duty I have discharged with every attention to the comfort and  
respectability of it, and the increase of the Estate, which when  
you come to examine, you will find could not have accumulated  
so much in any other hands but mine. Who could feel that interest  
for the property of the Children like the parent, and my every  
wish has been to promote their comfort, and they are truly de-  
serving of it. — In this happy situation we have lived, and  
my greatest comfort has been in the pleasing gratification of  
fulfilling my duty in every respect; those endeavours have  
been smiled on by Heaven with great success, and what I  
wanted in judgement I made up in caution by getting the  
best advice, it was all I had to attend to, it was my Business  
and my pleasure; I had the happiness to have the applause  
of all my fellow citizens, and Envy itself can alledge nothing  
to the contrary: in this happy situation we were untill  
November last, when, to my astonishment, Mr. Troup my Coun-  
cellor called upon me, and said that Mr. Scott and Doct<sup>r</sup>. Tillary  
had been with him, and expressed their wish to have Guardians  
for this estate, I exclaimed all amazement at the ingratitude  
and injustice of this, and immediately asked him if it was

possible he had changed his opinion, he said no, and that he had  
always thought me the best Guardian for the Children & Estate,  
and that he still was of that opinion, and owned that he had  
given me that advice. Immediately after your Brother's death  
I sent for Mr. Scott, he advised me to take Mr. Troup for my  
Counsellor, I accordingly sent for him, that and I formed him  
that he was chosen for that purpose, I gave him a gentle fee  
and asked his advice, he recommended to me in the strongest  
manner to administer on the Estate, and not to think of  
Guardians, for many families had been ruined by them to  
his knowledge, and that the Ward's property was at a risk  
with the Guardians, and must go to pay his Creditors in case  
of failure, hearing this opinion, I determined to adopt what  
he advised; Mr. Scott had previous to this, in a slight manner,  
mentioned my having Guardians, but Mr. Troup had been  
so warmly recommended by him as Counsellor, I conceived  
it no offence to take any advice he might give, he did not  
appear to oppose it in the least, and as the Business for  
several years has gone on with so much advantage to the  
Estate, and my name so well established for good management,  
I thought there was no dissenting voice, untill these two  
Gentlemen have surprized and distressed me with their pro-  
positions; I never knew that I was under any obligations to  
Mr. Scott for being my Security, untill Doct<sup>r</sup>. Tillary told  
me three years after it took place, or I should have acknow-  
ledged it with thanks; I know not why it was kept from