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Title: Letters from Roger B. Taney and Jane Shaaff to Arthur Shaaff

Date: August 14, 1820

Location: I-SpahrB-undated-41

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Frederick Aug. 14th 1820

I feel much indebted to you my dear Arthur for your letter to me & blame myself for having suffered it to remain so long without an answer. My only apology is that my health has been bad ever since we parted, and the effect of such continued ill health has been to make my hand so unsteady that it is painful to write. For the last few months my health has improved and I hope I shall not again suffer you to be so long without a letter from me.

The letters you receive from your other friends in this country will no doubt tell you every thing you wish to know about them. It will therefore be my business to speak to you of the situation of your estate of which it is proper that you should be advised. The executors of your deceased father have found his estate to be indebted at the time of his death to an amount far beyond their expectations. These debts were created for the most part by your uncle, & after his death were

assumed by your father as his heir & representative. It
was the wish of the executors to have paid these debts
at once & to have delivered over the estate to Guardians
to be appointed by the Court. But there were no funds
~~known~~ to pay with, except by the sale of the lands
or the servants. The situation of the County has made
it impossible to sell any lands without a great sacrifice
of interest & we are most unwilling to see the
Servants who have all behaved faithfully and well
- and besides, if the servants were sold the land would
go into the hands of tenants & be thus greatly injured
in its value. We have therefore thought that we
should best discharge the duty your father confided
to us, by carrying on the farms just as he left them, and
endeavouring to pay the debts out of the profits. The
great economy of your excellent Mother in the management
of her family concerns, - who is willing to deny herself
every thing, in order to promote the interest of the
Children - gives us the hope that we shall be able
to pay off the debts by the time you come to the age
of twenty one years. ~~at that~~ And as soon as you are of
age it is our wish that you should be appointed the
Guardian for your younger brothers and sisters & the estate

of your father be delivered into the hands of his
children - to whom it belongs - Our hope is that we
may be able to deliver it just as we found it - un-
impaired in beauty or value & discharged from
the debts with which it was encumbered.

For the reasons above mentioned Guardians have
not been appointed for any of the children - and they
still remain under the care of the executors. But if you
my dear Arthur prefer a different arrangement
you are entitled by law to choose your Guardian
& we will then settle up the estate by a sale of some
part of the property & deliver it over to the Guardians
you may choose -

With respect to yourself my dear Arthur, we should
be glad that you would remain where you are until
your education is completed. All of the expense
of sending you abroad has already been incurred -
your annual expenses do not now exceed what would
be required to support you at College in this country -
- a change of place would produce a change of system
in your education, and of course in some degree retard
your progress - And above all it was as we believe the wish
of your father that your education should be finished at Gapsow

I am not only desirous to execute his intentions, but we greatly
rely on his knowledge and judgment. - I give you some
reasons - because at your time of life we ought not to ask you
to do any thing without being able to give you a reason
for it - and a good one. - I would be glad my dear Mother
to hear from you & know what you think of our
views and arrangements -

My health has been such as to render me unable to
visit George Town since last summer - and I have not
seen Mrs. Throff since that time. Your relations in this
part of the world are well - you have no doubt
before this time heard of the death of our good friend
Miss Dolly Munday. Your aunt Munday has borne
this severe loss with the firmness and resignation
of a Christian. She is well and cheerful.

Your Sister Jane is now in Fredericksburgh on a visit
to her friends, she talks of returning to George Town
next week. - I will say to you (what I certainly would
not say to her) that she is very beautiful & is surrounded
with the beauty of Fredericks - and I must add that she
seems perfectly indifferent to their attractions -

Our friend Capt. Marlbury is now with me - we have been
some days together at Arcadia, engaged in the concerns of
the estate. As I was not able to go to George Town, he has been

kind enough to come to Frederick on this business
He leaves me tomorrow and will forward this letter
to you - Mrs Tany and my little girls join me in a
great deal of love to you -

May God preserve you my dear Arthur and resto
^{you} in safety to your friends in America - who
talk about you continually - and love you
dearly - who love you not only for your own
sake - but for the sake of our departed friends
your excellent father and mother - and forgive
me for saying that perhaps I love you even still
more for the sake of your uncle whose name you
bear - who was long my most intimate and
valued friend & whose memory the scenes
at Arcadia constantly keep alive -

Farewell my dear Arthur

Affectionately yours

Friend -

R. B. Tany

1820

George Town

Sad and painful are the tidings my dearest
Brother which I have to write you and for which
you will, ^{be} so little prepared - our darling little John Thomas
is no more! he died on Friday the 11th of August
after suffering violent pain for a week, which he bore
with the gentleness of a little lamb. how sorry I am
that I was not at home! I did not get down
from Frederick till Monday - Mother says he kiss'd
both the children before he died, put his poor little
cold arms round their necks and bid them good
bye, was quite conscious until the last - a violent
dysentery was the complaint of which he died - you
can well judge of the distress of Mother and poor
Miss Peggy - it is like a dream to me I can
scarcely realise it yet - he was buried on Saturday
by the side of our dear father - it was a stroke
so unexpected that ^{you} can well judge how much keener
it is felt, poor little darling he was always so
hardy, so strong, look'd so much more likely to live
long ^{than} poor Charles, that ^{every} body seem'd to think he
^{not} could be taken before him, but he's gone, & with
him all the little happiness that Miss Peggy or
Mother had left to enjoy here - but you may be
assured my dearest brother I shall do, ^{my} utmost

to soothe and to comfort both, as much as in me
lies - it is a hard struggle a great trial to poor
mother you must be sensible - "the only son of his mother
and she was widow" yet the Almighty has a that
inflicted the blow I trust will give strength to
support her under it - she says she will write to you
as soon as she can - My dear brother you will see
by Mr. Toney's letter what he thinks of your return-
ing so, soon our dear mother begs I will tell you
that upon reading your letter she felt pleasure
thoughts of seeing you so soon, but upon
Mr. T's letter she thinks all he says is so
a proper - that she hopes you will appreciate
if he has written you and if I have any
influence let me intreat you to follow his advice, you
will be sorry afterwards should you not follow it be assured
what could be the possible advantage of going abroad to
be but one single ^{year} at school - excuse me my dearest
brother for thus writing, but indeed I love you so much
look up to you for so much - that I cannot help urging
you all I can - dont think that I do not wish to see you
- tis my constant prayer to heaven and the most
fervent and just wish of my heart - Mother hopes you
will write soon and tell her how you determine, do
think well and decide right - and as we all wish & as
you have been advised - write to poor mother soon
she loves you dearly - Charles is at home now, for a week
Mrs. M. Harvey are here also, and Mary Deogran is expected
to - morrow - Dr. W. was as kind & attentive as any man

would be during dear little John's illness, we all owe
him great gratitude - Mother, Miss Peggy, Susan & Mary
send their love with all their hearts to you my brother
and receive that of your ever affectionate
and fondly attached sister
Aunt S.

Jan 9/62

MS

MS



Mr. Arthur Shaaff
Care of John Lang
Cooper
Glasgow
Scotland
New York

Mr. Jane Shaaff
to her brother
Arthur

down
us to kiss
you all

From Roger B. Taney &
Sister Jane
Date August 14. 1862.

All your friends asked particularly of you in Frederick
and appear to take great interest in you - this letter
was sent down (when I came) to see if mother approved
what Mrs T. had said relative to your return

Frederick Augt. 14th 1820

I felt much indebted to you my dear Arthur for your letter to me & blame myself for having suffered it to remain so long without an answer. My only apology is that my health has been bad ever since we parted, and the effect of such continued ill health has been to make my hand so unsteady that it is painful to write - For the last few months my health has improved and I hope I shall not again suffer you to be so long without a letter from me. -

The letters you receive from your other friends in this Country will no doubt tell you every thing you wish to know about them. It will therefore be my business to speak to you of the situation of your estate of which it is proper that you should be advised. - The executors of your lamented father have found his estate to be indebted at the time of his death to an amount far beyond their expectations. These debts were created for the most part by your uncle, & after his death were assumed by your father as his heir & representative. It was the wish of the executors to have paid these debts at once & to have delivered over the estate to Guardians to be appointed by the court. But there were no funds to pay with, except by the sale of the land or the servants, The situation of the Country has made it impossible to sell any land without a great sacrifice of interest & we are most unwilling to sell the servants who have all behaved faithfully and well. - and besides, if the servants were sold the land must go into the hands of tenants & be thus greatly injured in its value. We have therefore thought that we should best discharge the duty your father confided to us, by carrying on the farms just as he left them, and endeavouring to pay the debts out of the profits. The great economy of your excellent mother in the management of her family concerns, - who is willing to deny herself every thing, in order to promote the interest of the children - gives us the hope that we shall be able to pay off the debts by the time you come to the age of twenty one years. And as soon as you are of age it is our wish that you should be

appointed the Guardian for your younger brothers and sisters & the estate of your father be delivered into the hands of his children - to whom it belongs - Our hope is that we may be able to deliver it just as we found it - unimpaired in beauty or value & discharged from the debts with which it was incumbered.

For the reasons above mentioned Guardians have not been appointed for any of the children - and they still remain under the care of the executors. But if you my dear Arthur prefer a different arrangement you are entitled by law to chuse your Guardian & we will than settle up the estate by a sale of some part of the property & deliver it over to the Guardians you may chuse -

With respect to yourself my dear Arthur, we should be glad that you would remain where you are until your education is completed. All of the extra - expence of sending you abroad has already been incurred - your annual expences do not now exceed what would be required to support you at College in this country - a change of place would produce a change of system in your education, and of course in some degree retard your progress - and above all it was as we believe the wish of your father that your education should be finished at Glassgow & we not only desire to execute his intentions - but we greatly confide in his knowledge and judgment - I give you our reasons - because at your time of life we ought not to ask you to do any thing without being able to give you a reason for it - and a good one. - I would be so glad my dear Arthur to hear from you & know what you think of our views and arrangements -

My health has been such as to render me unable to visit George Town since last summer - and I have not seen M.^{rs} Shaaff since that time. Your relations in this part of the world are well - you have no doubt before this time heard of the death of our good friend Miss Polly Mendact. Your aunt Mendact - has borne this severe loss with the firmness and resignation of a Christian. She is well and cheerful.

Your sister Jane is now in Frederick on a visit to her friends, - She

talks of returning to George Town next week - I will say to you (what I certainly would not say to her) that she is very beautiful & is surrounded with the beaux of Frederick - and I must add that she seems perfectly indifferent to their attentions -

Our friend Capt. Marbury is now with me - we have been some days together at Arcadia, engaged in the concerns of the estate. As I was not able to go to George Town, he has been kind enough to come to Frederick on this business. He leaves me tomorrow and will forward this letter to you - M.^{rs} Taney and my little girls join me in a great deal of love to you -

May God preserve you. My dear Arthur and restore you in safety to your friends in America - who talk about you continually - and love you dearly - who love you not only for your own sake - but for the sake of our departed friends your excellent father and mother - and forgive me for saying that perhaps I love you even still more for the sake of your uncle whose name you bear - who was long my most intimate and valued friend & whose memory the at Arcadia constantly keep alive -

Farewell my dear Arthur

Affectionately your

friend -

R. B. Taney

1820

George Town

Sad and painful are the tidings my dearest Brother which I have to write you and for which you will be so little prepared - our darling little John Thomas is no more ! he died on Friday the 11.th of August after suffering violent pain for a week, which he bore with the gentleness of a little lamb - how sorry I am that I was not at home, ! I did not get down from Frederick till Monday - Mother says he kiss'd both the children before he died, put his poor little cold arms round their necks and bid them goodbye, was quite concious until the last - a violent dysentary was the complaint of which he died - you can well judge of the distress of Mother and poor Miss Peggy - it is like a dream to me I can scarcely realise it yet - he was buried on Saturday by the side of our dear father - it was a stroke so unexpected that you can well judge how much keener it is felt, poor little darling he was always so harty, so strong, look'd so much more likely to live long than poor Charles, that every body seem'd to think he would not be taken before him, but he's gone, & with him all the little happiness that Miss Peggy or Mother had left to enjoy here - but you may be assured my dearest brother I shall do my utmost to soothe and to comfort both, as much as in me lies - it is a hard struggle a great trial to poor Mother you must be sensible - "the only son of his Mother and she was widow" yet the Almighty hand that inflicted the blow I trust will give strength to support her under it - she says she will write to you as soon as she can - My dear brother you will see by M.^r Taney's letter what he thinks of your returning so, soon our dear Mother begs I will tell you that upon reading your letter she felt pleasure (torn) thoughts of seeing you so soon, but upon (torn) Mr. Taney's letter she thinks all he says is (torn) and proper - that she hopes you will approve of what he has written you and if I have any influence let me intreat you to follow his advise, you will be sorry afterwards should you not follow it be assur'd. What could be the possible advantage of going abroad to be but one

single year at school - excuse me my dearest brother for thus writing, but indeed I love you so much look up to you for so much - that I cannot help urging you all I can - dont think that I do not wish to see you 'tis my constant prayer to heaven and the most fervent and first wish of my heart - Mother hopes you will write soon and tell her how you determine, do think well and decide right and as we all wish & as you have been advised - write to poor mother soon she loves you dearly - Charles is at home now, for a week Mrs & Mr Harvey are here also, and Mary Brogden is expected to-morrow - Dr. W. was as kind & attentive as any one could be during dear little John's illness, we all owe him great gratitude - Mother, Miss Peggy, Ann & Mary send their love with all their hearts to you my brother and receive that of your ever affectionate and fondly attached sister

Miss J S

All your friends asked particularly of you in Frederick and appear to take great interest in you - this letter was sent down (when I came) to see if Mother approved what Mr. T. said relative to your return.

On verso:

Mr. Arthur Sheeff

Care of John Lang Esqr.

Glassgow

Scotland