

Greenville, N.H. June 7, 1886.
Dear Cousin Ed,

Yours of 3^d came in
all right, & in due time, and found
us all alive and feeling about
"middling".

Was very glad to hear from you,
and hardly knew whether it was
my turn to write, or yours.

We have just had a nice rain,
and everything is looking gang.

Hope your crops will be all right
this year, and worth something.

Am sorry you have been having
such an unpleasant time settling
your father's estate, but none do
a "cruel" at such times is the rule
rather than the exception.

I settled my accounts last Tuesday
on an estate of 15 or 16,000, after
two years and a half of fighting
among the heirs, during which they

would neither do anything themselves,
nor let me, when if they had been
feasible it could all have been
settled in six months, as the heirs (8)
are all of age. As to what I put in
for the support of Mrs. Ball's I suppose
it is a permanent investment, as up to
this time the heirs seem to have the
best of it, as they are all united through
necessity, though one of them threatens
to squeal, as his partner has cheated
him out of a large part of his share
of the swag. Old Mattuck would
have paid us at one time, if we
would have abandoned the heirs, but
this we refused to do so long as there
was a ghost of a chance for them.
We have a dear conscience as long
if the experience has cost us \$1500.
and should rather be in our place
than that of the heirs, though of course
we do ^{not} feel very kindly disposed
towards them.

I guess \$4000 was never stolen any
quicker and easier than in this case, but
justice may overtake the rascals yet; if
not there is a screw loose somewhere
in the Divine plan.

There are a lot of spoons at Bennett's,
divided among the nephews and
nieces of Mrs. Baller. It seems to me
if any interest attaches to them it would
be better for one to have the lot, than
to divide them among a dozen ones.

I think there are a dozen tea spoons
and three or four table spoons.

I think it was Mrs. Baller's intention that
Martha should have all these spoons, but
she will not get the Bennett interest
without paying all it is worth.

Tom is at New Britain Court, with her
half brother has been there since the Fall

All well as usual wish to remember
you affly Cousins
Yours affly
James Russell.