

RE WRITEN
BY SUSAN
JICKENMAN 93

Greenville N.H. June 19, 1886

Dear Cousin Ed,

Yours of 3rd came in all right, in due time, and found us alive and feeling about middling.

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

We have just had a nice rain and everything is looking _____. Hope your crops will be all right this year and worth something. Are sorry you have been having such an unpleasant time settling your father Colwell's estate, but now a days a "circus" 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. Where if they had been peaceable 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. Bolles I suppose it is a permanent investment as up to this time the thieves seem to have the best of it, as they are all united through necessity - though one of them threatens to squeal as his partners have cheated him out of a large part of his share of the "swag". Old Shattuck 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 clear conscience anyway if the experience has cost us \$1,500 and should rather be in our place than that of the thieves though of course we do not feel very kindly disposed toward them.

I guess \$40,000 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, which Bennett's wife proposed to have divided among the nephews and nieces of Mrs. Bolles. It seems to me if any

interest attaches to them it would be better for one to have the set than divide them among a dozen or so.

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

I think it was Mrs. Bolles instruction that Martha should have all the spoons but she will not get the Bennett interest without paying all it is worth.

Flora is at New Britain County with her half brother. Has been there since last Fall.

All well as usual and wish to be *****.

Your affec. Cousin,

James Russell

write often