

Jan. 29. Your kind note since arrived - I
is answered by anticipation.

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Hardwick Vicarage, Jan. 28 - 1870 - After Post

My dearest Arthur,

I have been a long time in answering your kind
letter - but not because it was not appreciated - for indeed
I was interested & pleased with the speculation as to the
possibility of a varying law of Gravity - especially as applied,
as you suggest, to Globular Clusters. - What however has
led me to write to you just now is a legal question laid
before me with much concern & annoyance by Thomas
Wood, the parson. The which, if you can favour us with
a little advice upon, both he, and I, shall feel especially
obliged to you. - Tom's father Abraham left a small
property to his wife for life - & then to his son Tom, charge-
able with two sums of £ 50, one payable to his (Abraham's)
daughter Sarah. - After decease of Testator, his widow finds
herself very poor, & borrows £ 100 on this property - on mortgage
Tom said, but I fancy it was only on bond with deposit of
Title Deeds and Will of Testator: - Subsequently the dau.
Sarah intermarries, as I think you gentlemen call it, with
a certain very rascally individual called Bill Hill - which
Bill Hill has saved money. And now it is supposed that
his object is to become Tenant of the property - and that
he will then pay off the so-called Mortgage, get possession
of the writings, and set Tom at defiance. And the said
Tom does not like the prospect of this - and wishes to know
- if it may please your Lordship - whether the said Bill Hill
can do the said rascally wrong to him - and, if he can, whether