

Questions I want to ask you are two. -

1. I saw in a book of law (modern) which was merely shown me, & therefore I can't refer to it - a statement that

If Rabbits become extremely mischievous, Tenant may destroy them, any agreement whatsoever notwithstanding. If this is so, I should think it alone would defeat my antagonist. but my Attorney tells me those "handy-books" are not to be trusted. -

2. I have been forced to proceed against the said Tenant (who left at Cardlemer) for six months' rent due at that time. He in return produces to my Attorney - at least leaves for him in his absence - a bill of upwards of £22. for work done & various allowances. Some of these are just. E.g. such matters as cartage for posts &c. for an enclosure which did not benefit him - & for which I get an increased rent from his successor - the value of some fencing, & wall &c. - In all some £6 or £7. The rest are charged for halting materials &c. for repairs done during his own tenancy - for the benefit no doubt of the property - but in great measure for his advantage - e.g. the repair of a Cow House which had become dangerous; the erection of a Granary at his special request - and even materials for Goose-cots which his wife begged for - all this 2 or 3 years ago. Can he claim these items? and if not, how ought I to resist him? -

I must not add more today, tho' I have something to tell & ask you about "Nature". But, with my wife's kindest love remain your truly affectionate old friend and bore
Perhaps you won't mind replying soon.
J. W. Webb.

Hardwick Vicarage 27 May 1871.

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My dearest Arthur,

I have long been a letter in your debt - but very busy indeed - chiefly with 3 matters pressing all at once - the completion up to a certain point of the naughty old Col. - & bring with me when permitted to come to Town (but at present I have failed to find a locum tenens - & cannot of course move without him -) 2. The opening of the curious ancient tombs at the foot of the Black Mountain - which we went to see together - which I knew nothing about till it was far advanced - but then they (i.e. the Woolhope Naturalists' Club) called me in as "amicus Curiae" - & this has taken a lot of time - and 3. a very stupid law-affair, which has already obliged me to wait a week longer than I intended. 'Tis a long & profoundly dull story. Nevertheless, will you let me retain you for a little advice? I think you can help me materially - and mind - you are not to do so gratuitously. That's a bargain. If for a charity, or poor oppressed person, I should not hesitate to accept your kind advice - but in this case you must hold me your regular debt-er. - I must be brief for post.

I made an agreement for lease with my Tenant - or rather my father did, & there has never been a fresh one.