

I left the speculum, pronounced that it requires a different mode of suspension - I am glad he has found this out, for I have been bitterly & somewhat pleased with it, & thought the fault might be decay in my own eye. It will now be supported on flannel instead of in a zinc ring.

I dare say you will give me leave to ask you two legal questions - provided always the answer may not be inconvenient. - The one is this - I have been threatened by the turnpike-keeper at Hay with a summons for going through Mr. Puroys ground to the Station - that is, along her private drive - she having given her consent, & I having been, a good while ago, informed by 3 magistrates that I had a perfect right to do so - as it was my direct way to the Station - nay, that if my principal business was at the Station I might even go on to Hay without evasion of toll, tho' I could not legally do so if my principal business was in Hay. The gate-keeper is very confident that the J.P.s are wrong. I have since asked another magistrate of much experience; & he thinks the matter doubtful. What say you? -

The other point is this. You know I had the meadow opposite the house from Mr. Puroys at a nominal rent of 1<sup>s</sup>. Her gamekeeper comes & nets fish there & brings my acquaintance he likes, "breaking my close" - damaging my hedge, &c. (The brook is in ~~my~~ <sup>the</sup> meadow I rent, on both sides.) I am told this is wrong - that supposing the fish are hers, as I presume they are, no person, not even the keeper, may come to fish without my permission. In fact, that, if so disposed, I could maintain action of trespass against anybody. Is such the case? -

Pray forgive my bothering you with these enquiries.

I hope very soon to rake Col. Birch & his regiment out of the box where they have lain so long. Next hope, by shell I be to rout them all. We hope your dear Parents are quite well, and with our united very kind regards to them & best love to yourself I remain

My dearest Arthur

Your very affectionate old

