

reading - & laid aside for the time, because I had no opportunity to act upon them. Not till yesterday had I ~~an~~ a chance of going to the Bank (not of England but of Bullen) and reading same second time in the presence of the party concerned - & then I became confronted by a stupid doubt, as to the precise import of ~~the~~ ^{your} expressions. ~~In~~ ^{In} a legal mind, I have no doubt, not a moment's hesitation would have presented itself - but "am I not an Ape?" -

'Tis this -

In the earlier part of your most kind letter - which I enclose - you'll forgive me - to save time & trouble in copying - you say Miss W. cannot act without so & so - & will not be able to deal with his share without admistr. - a statutory declaration must be made & she must take act adm. be. -

But then this is followed by some practical advice ~~of~~ most kind & wise I know - but the connection of which, with the previous legal & indispensable directions, I have somehow missed. The thing may be read two ways. - Either, M.W.

must go through all the recited formalities - and then she can arrange with her niece. -

Or else, she may dispense with the formalities and proceed to the arrangement. - only preserving the will as a protection in the possibility of future disturbance. - I am inclined to believe you meant the latter - but the precise and ~~positive~~ ^{positive} character of the direction as to what she must do in the first part of the letter has made me feel a little uncertain.

Will you pardon the intensity of my dullness, & do me the favour to clean up a nebulosity which no doubt belongs to the misty eye-piece rather than to the object? -

It makes I fancy no difference, but I may add that Fanny Watkins's portion - vide your perfectly correct pedigree - was paid on her marriage (it was £50) - and that Fanny Smith (unmarried) will do anything in the world her aunt likes, only preferring to keep a horse & cow that she has for herself. -

I think that's about all - & too much to bother you about. And remember, to quite a favourite old son of the days I lived in (1648) -