

24 December 1831

My dear Father

I received yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> Instant and am sorry you do not avail yourself of the offer to buy Mr Bridges grant, I had no idea it was for sale until very lately, I heard they had sold it to Pearson, because I have ~~long~~ very often heard young Bridge say that Willis was always trying to get their land then by every means, he could that they would sell it to any body else but him as he wrote some letter to the Government informing them that they would make no improvements there as he had agreed to fence the sidelines and they would not join, they have now waited so long for Pearson to fulfill his conditions that they are determined to receive the first fresh offer as their late expenses make money more desirable to them. I merely mention the exchange of my land for your better judgment, and it would be better for you to have land there than let any body else take, as you told me in one of your former letters, it was like the judgment of Solomon dividing between two which was only of use to one, I certainly must sell my land as it now will be of any use to me when it is, I should be always open to inroads from Blacks & Banditti, and single handed I should stand a very poor chance <sup>in writing as I had wished to have done</sup> I can hardly give you my reasons for the <sup>same</sup> ~~same~~ that I have so eagerly desired to be removed from the Doucens Bank but the reasons are many - but in the first place as gold sweeps labour I will inform you that my salary in the first place has got a decrease say the least  $\frac{1}{2}$  100 per annum

Last June before the meeting of Shareholders Mr Walker  
applied for an increase of Salary the Directors Mr Hamilton  
<sup>Adley</sup> Hamilton lent for me and begged to be informed  
how much notice I received I told them from  
£120 to 100 per Annum, they then informed me  
that as Mr Walker had a certain portion of the  
work to do it was not but fair that he should  
receive part of the emolument, and said at  
the same time that the Bank could not afford to  
increase any of the Officers Salaries as they were  
as such a heavy expense in building the new  
Bank that I could not refuse to give up half  
and I very soon found out that it was not worth  
while running the risk of displeasure when  
notices have frequently not been delivered and  
bills not presented properly by Mr Hamilton's proxy  
that I have thrown it up altogether and how  
could it be expected that I am to run all the  
risk of the Accountants of a public Bank for  
£150 a year my expenses are fully 200 to £200  
and when I settled my accounts last quarter  
£100 would have paid all my debts it will take  
£50 now if I had staid another year in Hobart  
I should have been completely ruined I have  
no wish or Idea of coming back in the country  
to lead an Idle life far from it, although I  
have got much slower I hope to reduce myself  
by labour and I am sure no person would  
have taken greater pains than myself to have  
saved and taken care of every thing that I possessed  
I am sure when I lived in my own lodgings  
nobody could have been more economical  
and have taken greater pains with myself

than I did, but it was that confounded constraint  
of sleeping at the Bank, that completely irritated  
me. I was determined not to be of any further use  
than I was obliged for I never moved when I heard  
any noise nor should I wish they had actually  
kicked me. I was obliged to sell at a great loss give  
away and some of the things have been sent up  
to you. I have got receipts for all my money  
laid out although I have not kept an account  
Hamilton I have no doubt knew my motives well  
for leasing I do not think if he had been in a  
more correct state and have remained in Vtland  
I should have strained a nerve to remain in  
hopes of getting an increase in another year, as  
for Adey he is a complete old rascal, I shall  
never forget his deception if ever I forgive him  
and I shall expect you to be so kind as to send it  
to me before I leave town I was thinking of leaving  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> but know I shall not get away before  
the meeting is over about the 10<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>. Indeed  
I have never had such confidence in my abilities to fulfill  
the situation of an Accountant the books have never  
balanced properly since the first half year, it certainly  
must be from the Inaccuracy of business as the Bills due  
56,000 and the deposits £30,000 at the end of last  
year there was a mistake of £100, but that got found  
out by W Dixon as the error had crept into both  
the Balance Books and the Ledger had got added up  
£10 wrong. I certainly agree with you that that  
not much is to be made by cultivation, but there  
I certainly must have gained a good deal of  
local experience during my residence here it is  
like being at a second school, and all I counted  
was to keep every thing straight and clear, but  
the confinement was most shockingly disagreeable  
one of late, it was owing in a great measure being  
kept in a cold damp room without a fire, and  
then Adey told me to cover a great coat the idea

would have been quite laughable, when he began  
to get well he got quite cross & peevish he is just  
as bad now with his wife, for I do not give him  
not one minute more of my company than I am oblig'd  
for when they are invited as at Government House  
the Stephens &c - he lets her scold the invitations  
and then prevent her going by being taken away  
Adley is the man much as I think he is not popular  
enough, to have been the new Managing Director,  
what was Croanston a Cap of Education has all  
his business to learn a very mean fellow he  
was lodging at Mr. Locks and she was oblig'd to  
send him to seek for fresh lodgings, because after  
having sent for his Bills he sent for in the passage  
and told her he had had imposed upon him -  
I have a great many reasons for leaving it  
would be quite impossible for me to write them  
down on paper indeed I had always fill'd my  
letters with such complaints to you, but I was  
quick bred, and my going away with Robert  
was quite a Rupture de Guerre of mine I knew  
they could say nothing to me it was a bank  
holiday nor did they, but I also expected they  
would complain to you & I know deny every  
thing they have said to you in the letter, I should  
not even mind reading it aloud in the Bank  
for I can justify all my conduct since I have  
been there and I have made as few mistakes  
as could have been made, if I was to be coult  
there as matters whether I did any thing or not  
but I was bound not to let myself be imposed  
upon for it would have come much harder  
upon every body and they set such a very  
good example in doing as little as ever they  
could themselves, I was in hopes to have got  
up the Country to have explain'd all to you  
personally and you would find that I am in the  
right