New Orleans Feb. 19th 1853

To C. Baldwin,

Dear Sir,

Since your leaving, I have examined more carefully the proceedings in the case of the executors of J.H. Petrie, on file in the probate court of this city. I feel satisfied that we can succeed in setting aside the sale of the lands in this state upon two or three irregularities contained therein, one strong point being that the land was sold on a 12 months bond under an order of court that it should be sold for cash. Where the interests of minors are concerned, our law conjures the orders of courts strictly, as any such sale as the one in question is, I think, clearly irregular and void. I omitted to mention to you the receipt of Mr. Dunlap & yourself proving himself in order to commence an attack upon the proceeding in this case. The proof required will be
that Mrs. Dunlap is sister to the deceased and consequently she is an heir at law. I think you are the natural guardian of your minor children whose rights to appear is derived through the deceased Bethie. These facts we will have to prove by a commission from the court here. I therefore desire that you will forward me immediately the names of two or three persons in your neighborhood who can swear to the fact that Mrs. Dunlap is your former wife and sister of J. H. Bethie, together with the names of a competent judge, Justice of the Peace, or Commissioner of your county, and that of Mr. Dunlap, whom the commissioners may be directed to take the testimony of such witnesses as you may name.

I write to Madison Parish to discover in whose name the land now stands as all about it have not yet received a reply. But as soon as it comes to hand I will forward it to you. I only am awaiting the acceptance of intelligence before commencing suit, & the receipt of my very moderate retaining fee, which I am confident Mr. Dunlap will see the propriety of forwarding
Your early attention to the contents of this, will be very much oblige.

Your Obt. Serv.
Henry Clay

T.S.

 Receipt of Box M. 26 N. Orleans
Mr. C. Baldwin
Union
Monroe Co.
Va.