1816, Apr. 30

My Dear Sir,

I feel it my Duty to address You upon a Subject which I approach with infinite Pain and reluctance. But from its Nature, and not knowing who may be interested therein, I feel that I have no right to indulge my own Feelings by a further postponement of this Communication. I fear I have already, perhaps, deferred it too long: But if so, I trust Your own Heart will suggest for me a sufficient Reason and Apology.

Our Dear, departed Elizabeth, previous to Her leaving here for New Port in August last, wrote and executed Her Will. It was sealed up and directed on the back, by Herself, as follows,

"The last Will and Testament of Helen
"Elizabeth Gibbs Bradish - In Case of
"Her Death, to be opened by Her Husband
"and Sole Executor Luther Bradish only."

I know not the Provisions of this Instrument, nor whether She ever communicated them or the fact of its Existence to Yourself or any of the Family. I feel it my painful Duty, therefore,