To Thomas Nelson

My Dear Sir,

When acknowledging the receipt of your Daguerreotype, I had intended to say some thing in regard to the expense of engraving your Plate, but I was then so much pressed for time as to render it inconvenient for me to write at length. Nothing would afford me more pleasure, than to have your likeness executed in that superior style essential to the character of the work, at my own expense, were it possible for me to do so without pecuniary loss. But, from that sound knowledge gained by experience, I can positively assure you, that no matter how well the publication might sell, it could not be issued by any person who should undertake to pay the cost of its numerous Engravings without a considerable
of money. In justice to ourselves, therefore, we cannot avoid adhering to the rule which I suppose you are aware is followed in most cases by those who publish similar books and this is, that the cost of every likeness appearing in the work shall be paid by its original. With but two exceptions, I have never printed an engraving, the expense of which was not borne by the party it represented, and as you are probably aware, published in the Law Magazine, likenesses of some of the highest dignitaries of the Country. To show that it would not be possible for me to bear the expense of this enterprise even were I disposed to do so, we have only to make an estimate of the cost of the plates. The expense of each engraving with 5000 impressions (that being the number of copies we intend to publish) is one hundred and ten dollars, made up of the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steel plate engraving</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing 5000 impressions of same</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plate paper</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total cost of plate with 5000 impressions $110.
This is a small sum, but when multiplied by one
hundred, about the number of witnesses we have
to pay for, it amounts to $11,000, an aggregate
which it is not probable the entire profits of the
publication will cover. Hence, however anxious
we may be to extend the fame and perpetuate
the memory of distinguished American brothers
by giving to the world such a work as we hope
will do honor both to themselves and to us, yet
we feel unwilling to bear an expense, that,
saying nothing of our time and labor, would
leave us greatly the losers; an expense moreover,
which custom, with propriety it seems to me, has
assigned to those who are always most benefited
by such enterprises.

I would say in conclusion, if you shall
forward to me your draft for one hundred
and ten dollars, we will at once institute our
engraver's contract to go on with your plate and have it
finished by an artist, who, as he is renowned as
of the best in this country, will be able to...
the picture in such a manner as to do it original
the discreditt. In consideration of this proposal, we
are willing also to furnish you, for circulation among
acquaintances, with 50 copies of the number
containing your memoir and portrait. You
will be out of pocket for the engraving only
about $150.

I would add, it is my design after
having printed from the plate for the Boy's Book,
also to see it in one of the future numbers of
the Law Magazine; and as the plate will give
40,000 impressions, the same may be of some
value to you after we shall have done with it,
so it will of course be subject to your order.

Should you decline responding to this
request, please say whether we shall return
the daguerreotype or hand it over to your order;
but I sincerely hope your compliance will afford
us the pleasure of giving your likeness not only
to the 25,000 lawyers of this country whose names
you will find enrolled in the law register and
we have sent to your address, but also to those
distinguished jurists "across the water" who so ably expounded the Eternal Principles of the Common Law on its native soil.

It must be apparent this sum could not be appropriated by you to any other purpose that would conduce to so elegant and enduring a testimonial of honor to yourself, or give more lasting gratification to your numerous friends and relations, by furnishing them with a memento by which they may have the melancholy pleasure of belonging to remembrance its original shall long after he have been called to the grave.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

I am very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Livingston