

Atkins  
Apr 12/90

April 12. 1890  
Rock Ferry

Dear Sir William,

I received your letter in due course, but before going from home I had so much to attend to, that I could not find time to think about my answer.

I do not propose to make any marriage settlement in Eva's favour, for several reasons. In the first place, any money I took out of my Father's business could not be invested in any thing more safe at the same rate of interest, & our income would be seriously lessened.

I fear, from the premises you give to your solicitors, that I have not made it clear to you what my position with my Father is. In the eye of the Law I am simply a clerk whose salary depends on the gains of the business, and the money I have invested in the concern ranks me as a creditor of my Father.

On moral grounds I have always  
distrusted marriage settlements; we  
find our worst debtors have generally  
money settled on their wives & thus they  
are less careful when they find that they  
are becoming involved, knowing that  
they themselves are safe. We have had  
great trouble with such men & have  
suffered serious loss, & in fact it is such  
men who have done so much to ruin  
the trade & bring it into discredit.

For this reason I should certainly prefer  
that Eva should only receive anything  
from you under your will.

I consider that Eva & I are partners in  
this matter of income as in every thing  
else: I will make my will entirely  
in Evas favour & appoint Trustees to  
give it effect. My present position  
is not quite what my Father would  
wish, but I have his assurance that  
if I do not make enough to live com-  
fortably on he will help me.

I enclose the letter & draft I have received  
from our solicitor, together with your  
solicitor's letter and a copy of the  
Married Woman's Property Act, Section

3 of which is the one alluded  
to. I have shown this letter to  
my Father, but if you do not  
consider it sufficiently explicit  
I shall be glad if you will write  
me again & I will consult him  
further.

Believe me, dear Sir William

Yours respectfully

Hope J. Atkin

To  
Sir William Dawson