

Mrs Copeland  
Wilmington, N.C.

Pictou 15 April 1857

Dr George & Anna

When Grandpa was a little  
Boy - far titerly and younger  
than any of you, I should think  
not more than 2 or 3 years old  
the following occurrence took place  
which, young though I was made such  
a deep impression on my mind  
that time has not been able to  
efface it. My Mother had a baby  
only some weeks old, now your  
Grand Uncle, Robt Dawson  
and she was in such bad  
Health that it was thought  
advisable not only to give the  
Baby out to nurse, but also  
to remove me from the House  
for some time that she might  
be kept perfectly quiet.

Accordingly the Baby was  
given to a Miss James Copland  
and I was put to a Nanny

wife of the foregoing a Miss Alex<sup>r</sup>  
Capland, to take care of, she had no  
children of her own and was very  
kind to me, but her Husband was  
a Drunkard and a very bad  
man, before he married Miss  
Capland he had been Coachman  
to Sir John Goreton of Park &  
she was a Waiting Maid in  
the same Employ, and it took  
every body by Surprise when  
they married, as they were not  
ed before for this, D's little of  
one another, I was but a very  
short time at this peoples house  
when Capland came home fre-  
quently late at Night, quite  
Drunk, after we were all in  
bed, and turned every thing in  
the House upside down and  
beat his Wife Cruelly till she  
was calling out Murder,  
of course every time he did so

I got a terrible fright & cried  
very much. This went on for  
some time - when one cold frosty  
night in Winter, he came home  
as usual, drunk, & late, and  
after beating his Wife - whom I  
had learned to call Mamma  
he dragged her out of the House  
calling back to me as he shut the  
Door behind him not to buy,  
and said he was going to drown  
my Mamma in the River, after  
they disappeared I cried till I  
was able to buy no more.

It was a long time before any  
person came to me - when they  
did they were strangers, and if  
possible frightened me worse than  
I was before, as they were carrying  
my Mamma all dripping  
wet as they had taken her from  
the River, where her Diabolical  
Husband had thrown her. Some  
neighbours going home from a

Dancing party had providentially  
heard her cries, and came to  
her relief - otherwise she would  
have been drowned. Captain  
fled and was shortly after ap-  
prehended and tried for the crime.  
He was imprisoned for some time  
and in the mean time Mrs C  
sued out a Divorce and ob-  
tained a Separate Maintenance.

People who were at his Trial  
said that he admitted, that he had  
not married Mrs C because he  
loved her, but that by getting her  
in his Power he might thus  
have an opportunity for suspecting  
Rumour for her insulting conduct  
towards him while both were  
residing at Pauls. As a Matter  
of course I was removed from  
this Practice, but have never  
forgot the Frights I got there.  
Do you not think that Captain  
was a very bad Man?