My object in the present writing is to advise [redacted] of the claim set up by the Children & to request out of abundant caution, that payment of the claim may be withheld at least until they may have a hearing and prove their identity heirship &c

I am informed that Messrs Shepard & Searey attys. Austin have been empowered by Mrs. Stephens to receive the State Bonds and give acquittances in satisfaction of Jas. Stephen's claim -

Very Respy
Oliver H. Strallan