

Bridgeport Feby. 19th 1852

Dear Friend

Having learned from a friend that the recent melancholy suicide of Mr. Banks has created considerable excitement of an unpleasant character in your vicinity & that my name has been unfortunately connected with it I wish through you to correct some mis-statements – from what source they emanated I am ignorant – which I understand have been somewhat freely circulated. The one which I wish particularly to notice is that Mr. Banks committed the fatal act in a state of melancholy induced by the expense attendant upon his son's illness & that I charged him \$20 for my services and was consequently indirectly a cause of the suicide. Now this statement is utterly false. I made 6 visits to patient two of which I intended as gratuitous & told the friends so and all the compensation I recd. was the enormous sum of \$6. Out of this I paid \$2 for apparatus as I can prove \$2 for horse-hire and 6 gate fees both ways besides furnishing my own horse & carriage 5 times & giving my time. I do not make this statement because I am dissatisfied with the compensation but that the real state of the case may be known. When Mr. Banks asked me for my Bill I told him I was ignorant of the charges of my brothers for similar visits and desired him to wait until I could see some medical brother who was authority on this point but he insisted that I should set a price, stating his willingness to pay but at the same time saying he was poor and wished me to be as moderate in my charges as possible. In reply I stated that no physician who was doing anything in Bridgeport could afford to to [sic.] attend such cases in Easton & pay their own expenses for less than \$5 per visit & that I was not at all anxious to visit families who were able to pay at a less price. He said he was not able to pay much, assured me of his good will & influence and I told him if he would pay me \$5 for services & \$2 for apparatus I would give him a receipt in full. The result was a Compromise for \$6 I paying all expenses as above stated. The above statement I will make oath to if necessary. I most heartily sympathize with the afflicted family & would most willingly render them any service in my power. All I ask of those who circulate reports about me is truthfulness. I have heard some statements in regard to Doct. Seelys [?] treatment of the case which are untrue and consequently unjust but as they are not sufficiently tangible I shall not refer to them now. If you can use the above facts in counteracting any false reports about me without involving yourself in an unpleasant discussion by so doing you will greatly oblige.

Your friend Classmate

Robert Hubbard