Finally Settled before
(see Mem.a Nos 31 & 42.)
by my letters of 1 July &
1 Sept.r last.

Rec.d 20 Jany 1845

Sydney. 16th August 1844.

My dear Mr Watson

Though the time which I can command is very short I will not forbear writing to you on one or two subjects about which I am anxious.

In first of these is the disposal of the sum of £800 which you placed in my hands last year in part provision for any judicial proceedings hereafter. Upon this point I wrote to you from Port Phillip on the 6th September 1843: and in Despatch No 1 dated 24th Augt 1843 I forwarded to you a Duplicate by the Dublin from Port Phillip of the following month. It will be a great relief and satisfaction to me to learn that what I there did has met with your approval. My whole train of circumstances which has occurred since that time reconciles me more and more to the measure of not allowing the money to go into the custody of others: for there have been such instances of parties supposed to be most solvent proving on a sudden

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sudden to be worth less than nothing that the probability is I should have lost the entire amount if it had been lent out on private security. It is now however in my power to say that I think there is a more trust-worthy mode of investment in the Government Debentures, bearing 6 per cent interest per ann: which have been recently issued. My design therefore is, if I may have your approbation, to purchase one of these from time to time as I can do so conveniently, and so to proceed until the whole of the loan, as I may venture to call it, has been replaced. In the mean time I trust that the measures which I had taken, will afford full security for the principal sum in the event of my death before it is otherwise invested. So far as relates to your most kind intention of serving me personally by it

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it is as fully accomplished as in any way it could be. inasmuch as I am relieved from an encumbrance entailing an annual outlay which is now spared: and my only anxiety is to hear that I have not in these arrangements departed in any degree from that which you desire and approve.

The other subject on which I wish to forward advice (knowing your anxiety concerning it) is the question of General Education; in all the fears and anxieties connected with which I am now once more involved. The Government has declined to place on the Estimates for 1845 any sum whatever towards the support of Schools, leaving it to our newly created Legislative Council to propose a general plan and to provide for the expense. Could I describe to you the constitution and temper of that Council you

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you would need no additional explanation of the cause of that tenacity which I confess almost consumes me. I am no longer a member of the Stanley Government under which it was absolutely impossible that a Irishman should act. So I have attempted it would have been worse than indecorous: it would have been monstrous to be mixed up with the rude and reckless acts of ultra-radicalism. So it is however that I lose my best opportunity of objecting or voting or correcting. They have appointed a committee to examine evidence and report and I have little or no doubt the result will be to recommend the introduction of the Irish System: and it will be established. My views however are not changed: I have plainly told them so: and if God give me grace I shall act up to my principles. God bless you always my dear Mother. I am sincerely & gratefully yours W: E: Gladstone