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just before the settlement of my estate (and the legacies given in Item 2<sup>nd</sup> b.  
Carried out at interest or placed in some safe & sound Bank at interest by  
my v<sup>e</sup> Exr and the annual interest arising therefrom with the annual net  
proceeds of my plantation, the one half of which I give to the support  
and special benefit of my beloved daughter Margaret A. E. Crichton  
& family (and the other half of annual interest (and net proceeds) be expended  
annually on the education of the lawful issues of body of my beloved  
daughter M. A. E. Crichton during her natural life or until the youngest  
lawful issues shall be educated, then (and in that event) it is my wish  
that s<sup>e</sup> interest and proceeds be added to the general deposit  
Item 5. It is further my will and desire that in event of the death of my  
beloved daughter Margaret A. E. Crichton, that all my negro slaves with their  
wives be equally divided between her said lawful issues and furthermore that  
my plantation with all appurtenances thereto of every kind be sold and the  
proceeds arising from said sale with the entire amount at interest to also  
equally divided between said lawful issues, and in the event of the  
death of either of said lawful issues before arriving at lawful age or  
marriage then (and in that case) I give and bequeath his or her part to  
be equally divided between the surviving ones to them (and their heirs  
successors).

Item 6. I appoint Lastly my esteemed friend W<sup>m</sup> B. Westbrook  
the executor to this my last will & testament and further more request  
that the duties of Agent or Curator as the case may be may devolve  
upon him. Given under my hand and seal this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December  
(A.D.) One thousand eight hundred and fifty five.

Witness

W<sup>m</sup> B. Westbrook

James Pittaway

W<sup>m</sup> B. Marks  
Mark

Elijah A. Little  
mark

At a Circuit Court held for the County of Southampton, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1856.  
The last Will and Testament of Elijah A. Little deceased was proved  
according to Law by the oaths of W<sup>m</sup> B. Westbrook and W<sup>m</sup> Marks two of the sub-  
scribing witnesses thereto and is ordered to be recorded. And W<sup>m</sup> B. Westbrook  
the executor named in the said will having appeared in Court and refused to  
take upon himself the burden of the execution thereof. On the motion of James  
E. Crichton who made oath and together with Robert R. Jones, Thomas J. Hicks  
and John S. Harris his securities the said securities severally by Littleton R.  
Edwards their attorney acting under a power of attorney under the hands  
and seals of the said securities entered into and acknowledged a bond in the  
penalty of twenty five thousand Dollars conditioned as the Law directs.  
Certificate is granted the said James E. Crichton for obtaining  
Letters of Administration on the said decedent's estate with his will  
aforementioned annexed in due form.

Teste,

J. R. Edwards, C.C.