

are so drawn as to leave room for doubts and of course for disputes and law-suits, and for family quarrels, the most lamentable, and at the same time the most bitter and inveterate of all quarrels. Persons accustomed to draw conveyances will admit, I am sure, that a will is an instrument which requires more skill and care than any other to be drawn so as to preclude such doubts. There is such an infinite variety of circumstances & contingencies to be provided for, and there are some branches of the law which apply to wills so abstruse, we cannot be surprised to find that there are comparatively few law suits relating to lands, which have not their origin in doubtful and disputed wills.—In too many cases, unfortunately, wills are not made in health, but on a death bed, when skilful assistance cannot be procured, and when the mind is weakened by disease, and distracted and overwhelmed by gloom and terror and anxiety. At such a time it is not likely that the division of property will be judicious, or that the will can be drawn with suitable care and in a proper manner. But where all these difficulties are avoided by care and prudence, and skill, the intention of the testator may be frustrated by other causes. A change in his circumstances, may render his will wholly or partially void. For instance, his marriage and the birth of a child operate as an implied revocation of his will: that is, after these events a will previously made would become void, unless it were published over again. So the death of a child or other relation, or the sale or the purchase of a lot of land, may throw all the arrangements of a will into disorder, and may render a new will necessary in order to adjust the division of the property upon fair and equitable principles. For a man cannot, by any term he may use in his will, dispose of any other real property than what he then owns. If he afterwards purchases real estate, it will descend to his heir-at-law, unless a new will is made, notwithstanding the most extensive and comprehensive terms of devise. A