

Wheatland 5 April 1866

My dear niece,

I did not receive yours of the 23 Instant from Malagas until last night. I rejoice that you have determined to come directly home & have abandoned your circumbendibus trip by way of New Orleans; though I should have been pleased had you come direct to Baltimore in a Baltimore Steamer.

Whilst I should be truly rejoiced to see you on your way to Baltimore; as a matter of sound discretion I think you ought to go directly home with your husband. That house, - its preparation, its furniture & fixings have been the subject of as much talk as if it were in Eastern palace; and I certainly think at the Fifth Act of the drama, if "W.J. will have a good deal to do about arranging the house before it is ready for us to go into," - We ought both to be present assisting & counseling each other in making this arrangement.

The desire of my heart is to see you settled comfortably in your own house as a refined, accomplished and Christian lady. You have chosen the wise part in selecting for your husband a gentleman of education of good manners, & of excellent character both in his private & business relations, and who, I have not the least doubt, will make you a kind & affectionate husband. You must forget "the pride pomp & circumstance" of public life in which you have been raised. In truth it no longer exists: the great men & the refined gentlemen of whom you have been accustomed are no longer on the scene of action. They have been succeeded by the Turners, the Wilsons, the Stevens *et ad omne genus*. You could not have found a suitable public man to marry had the union been before you for a choice. You have chosen wisely. Conform your thoughts, desires & affections to the change & become as distinguished for your social and domestic virtues as you have been in the glitter & the show of public life.

I can offer you no temptations to visit Wheatland at present. We have had a solitary dull time of it since you left us & have scarcely been able to get along at all for want of servants. Indeed, I thought at one time the game of housekeeping would be played out on the 1 April; but we have still a temporary cook & Peter has come to our relief as this morning as a servant until we can get some other person. - very much needed by me. [two lines blacked out] Miss Hetty does her best; but it seems we can neither obtain nor keep servants. I am heartily used to housekeeping. Lizzie has two suitors contending for her hand & is to be married the end of the month. When things come to the worst they usually grow better: and thus is my hope.

Aunt Rebecca & Mrs. Van Dyke are expected here the latter end of this week on a visit. When Miss Hetty proposed it I cheerfully assented not only because I like Aunt Rebecca, but because I desired to have some company in the house to relieve my solitude.

The Nevins are not as frequent visitors as they were before your marriage; but they come over occasionally. The young ladies are not expected home until some time in May.



Mrs. Grubb had a ~~great~~ party on Tuesday evening last and some of her invited guests from Philadelphia came out to visit me on Wednesday morning.[about three lines blacked out] In speaking cautiously I ascertained that none of the Norrises were there. (There must have been a fresh blow out) and that the Misses Lightnes, the daughters of Peter were guests.

Rev: William Speer, now the Secretary of the Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church is to be here on Saturday evening & remain till Monday morning & preach for Mr. Powell, on his invitation no doubt to obtain funds. He comes to an unfavorable place for the purpose.

I most cheerfully contributed to the noble charity of the ladies of Baltimore.

I go this afternoon on a brief visit to Governor Porter; but expect to be home on Saturday evening.

Miss Hetty desires to be kindly remembered to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston. Give my kindest regard to him & believe me to be

Ever yours affectionately
James Buchanan

Mrs. Henry E. Johnston

