

Wheatland 14 October 1865

My Dear Harriet,

I have received yours of the 12th & can communicate no news to you in exchange for that ~~I have received~~ you have sent me. I have not seen any of the Nevin girls since you left. The Doctor and Mrs. Nevin were here on Friday evening. The new maid left this evening. I am becoming heartily tired of housekeeping.

You were probably correct in supposing that Bob's civility to you arose from a desire to visit your fair cousin. I ~~suppose~~ presume that an alliance between the illustrious families of Churchtown and [Stony?] would gratify the family pride of Annie and her father.

You seem to be much gratified with the imposing ceremonial of Bishop Quinlard's consecration. Very different is the spectacle from the form adopted by our blessed savior toward his apostles which consisted in the words: -- "Follow me." I heartily approve of the liberal spirit manifested by the convention on restoring the unity of their church and have no doubt it will greatly increase its numbers in the Southern States.

I should have been glad to see Lily before her departure for Europe as I have always been very much attached to her.

How kind it was in my good friend Miss R. to give me the last little token of her regard. I called to see her at Mrs. Carson's on Saturday, but the bird had flown. She is a pious, good and warm hearted woman.

I see nothing positively improper in your visit to Baltimore; but yet I am not altogether satisfied with such a step. As to keeping it "very quiet" in this spying age, but your will find this to be improbable. You may rest assured your visit will be announced in the public papers. Would it not be better to postpone this until after your marriage? Judge for yourself. As you say nothing in regard to your return, I shall continue to send your letters, until you give me notice.

Is it true that Charles Macalester has become a member of the Union League?

I am glad to learn that Jessie has paid a visit to her father and especially on Maria's account.

This has been a dark and gloomy day throughout, and it is now raining. I presume you have not yet visited your dear sister as you say nothing about it.

It is important, I think, that you should see Willoughby Webb and have arrangements made for the signature of a request by the majority of the heirs to the administrators not



to sell the property below its appraised value. If it should be sacrificed you may have to pay dearly for the purposes you have taken; and I know not how the ladies in Virginia could raise the money. I judge of great by small things: and neither Mr. Riddle nor Cousin Carter has yet paid their small contribution for the Fulton survey.

With my love to all, I remain,

Yours affectionately,
James Buchanan

Miss Harriett R. Lane.

