

[Baltimore] 120 Park Le
May 19 1871

H. B. Swarr Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter asking me to sign an agreement authorizing you to retain an undistributed balance of my Uncle's estate, "as a fund for the preparation & completion of a Biographical work to be prepared & published under the direction of the Executors." I decline allowing you to retain any portion of my estate for any purpose whatsoever, nor will I ever [sic] agree to my Uncle's Biography being prepared & published under your directions. You are well aware that you have no right to appoint a successor to Mr. Reed, you have repeatedly acknowledged this & I have your letters disclaiming both the right & the intention of so doing. But I have no objection to make to Mr. Welling, & I agree to the proposed application of the Reed Biographical Fund.

Mr. Welling may rely upon receiving my pecuniary contribution but all the "aid & comfort" my husband & I can give him.

Yours very respectfully

Harriet Lane Johnston

