

Wheatland 19 November 1851

My dear Harriet,

I have received your letter dated on the 12th & postmarked the 15th & in mercantile phrase “note its contents.”

James was here “at long last,” yesterday, more than two months after I had written to him concerning your business. The interview was of a purely business character; but in this particular it was satisfactory, considering the delay in settling your father’s estate. He paid me \$200.25 for you & lifted the note I had given to brother Edward & the rest of the business will now, I think, proceed satisfactorily. When you return, I shall give you a Bond for \$4000, & lift the old one for \$3800. You will, also, receive the interest on \$1750 due from Jno N Lane & nephews from the 1st of May last on the 1st of May next.

Willoughby Webb has failed & made an assignment. This they say, has affected Mr. Lane’s spirits.

Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins & myself have long been intimate personal friends. Whilst they were in Washington I was almost domesticated in the family. They have ever treated me with the utmost kindness when an opportunity offered, & I have rendered them important services. Although their political partialities would naturally be with Mr. Dallas, yet I cannot believe they have unkind feelings for myself.

Mr. McCandless is an open-hearted, noble & generous man & an enthusiastic friend of mine; but as a politician he suffers his partialities to run away with his judgment. Do not, therefore, rely on his flattering account of my prospects. I continue of the same opinion which I expressed to you, but to no one else; & this to you, because I suffered you were building castles in the air upon the probable result. Although prospects are now somewhat brighter than they then were, I have yet no sufficient cause to express a different opinion.

The address that Frazer signed was issued in 1843. I know of no news that would interest you. Miss Hetty & myself get along as usual. Mary Davis is evidently doing far better & I think has disposition to leave us.

Please to present my best regards to Dr. Spear & the family & believe me to be yours affectionately.

Miss Harriet Lane

James Buchanan

P.S. I intend to go to Philadelphia on Monday & pass the next week there. My correspondence has become severely oppressive & with all my diligence I cannot keep up with it.

Dr. Spear= Buchanan’s cousin Dr. Alexander Speer of Philadelphia (his mother’s side of the family) who was a medical physician
Others are unknown at this time

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