

Wheatland 18 May 1866

My dear niece,

Laus Deo! I am much gratified to learn that you have at length got into your own home. May you enjoy many years of peace, content and domestic happiness therein!

I received your letter from New York; but kept it a profound secret that you had been there. The reason was it might have exposed you to the charge of being a restless "gadabout."

Mrs. Magaw left us yesterday morning and I may truly say I was sorry for it. She is a nice, sprightly, agreeable and well bred woman. She leaves Jessie behind; but how long the latter intends to stay I do not know. When she leaves here she will pay Miss Ramsey a daughter of General Ramsey, with whom she went to school at Georgetown, a visit.

The Misses Pleasontons are still with us; but will leave sometime next week. I like them very much notwithstanding your aversion and we have many interesting talks. But do not get in a passion.

Our new servants are quite satisfactory & I believe Miss Hetty is pleased with them. She has been every thing she ought to be since the arrival of Mrs. Magaw, Jessie and the Pleasontons. Of Mr. Schell I have heard nothing.

I have little local news to communicate. The Misses Nauman gave a party last night; but do not expect to hear any thing about it as Miss Blanche & Patty told me they would not go to it. They say it was not given to the bride (Mrs. Franklin) but on their own [hook?]. She returned to Lancaster a few days ago with her husband.

I called to see Mrs. Lane ten days ago & she was very, very gracious. The boys begin to write compositions and I told her if they would bring them out to me I would correct them. At this she was in raptures & would certainly walk out with them the next day. As I did not much expect this I was not disappointed. I ought to add that she & they had paid me a visit before I called upon her. For the sake of the connection I shall treat her kindly & have no other disposition..

The Brentons will leave next week for New York & Boston and will take their departure early in June for Europe.

Please to tell Mr. Johnston that John P. Reed of Bedford is an honest careful & correct, but not a great lawyer. The Hon. F. M. Kimmell resides in Chambersburg and is a bold able & energetic lawyer who possesses the influence with the Court which such qualities never fail to ensure. Messrs Reed & Kimmell are not partners; but are on terms of intimacy. When I see Mr. Webb I shall point out to him some things which ought to be corrected in the Auditors Report. I was much diverted in hearing from Mr. Johnston that Mr. Webb expected to raise the money on mortgage through the agency of Mr. Carpen!!

The \$100 I paid to Mr. Fulton the Engineer for his report on the lands was divided among the six of you. Your share was \$26.66 & Webb's \$20. These have been paid. Each of the other four owe \$13.33 which will probably never be paid; but no matter.



LancasterHistory

It is a curious fact that Mr. Riddle so managed affairs at Bedford that he & Bainbridge Webb are the only responsible persons on the records; and that if such must be brough[t] it will be against them & them alone.

With my kindest regards to Mr. Johnston, I remain yours very affectionately.

James Buchanan

Mrs. Henry E Johnston

