

Wheatland 22 February 22 1867

My dear niece,

I have received yours of the 20th. The name of Mrs. Jenkins was Mary Field Jenkins. None of her daughters were present with her at the time of her decease except (I believe) Ellen & Pattie. Although she had been quite unwell for a few days yet no immediate danger was anticipated the day before her death. She told Patty on that day to say to me that Harriet & Jane had taken a mean advantage of her. She died calmly & peacefully with a knowledge that death was approaching. I believe that little Kate will live with Mrs. Fordney. Her physician was Dr. Ehler with Dr. Atlee.

Mrs. Lane & myself continue to be on very good terms. She does not, however, send the boys to see me and I no longer desire it. They are exclusively under the control of "Uncle Dick" and I could do nothing for them. I take for granted they do not wish to come. I should have done my duty to them as grand children of your mother; but finding this to be impossible I have ceased to trouble myself in regard to them. I have not heard a word of their intended visit to you & do not choose to ask about it.

The embryo Bishop came home with Cecil & I believe is still here; but he has not honored me with a visit nor have I saw him. The rest of the family are as usual. He was not at the funeral of Mrs. Jenkins.

Mr. Capen was here from Saturday till Monday; but did not say a word about the coal bonds. Though learned & intellectual, and a fine writer you know my opinion of his business qualifications. With this remark I return you Mr. Webb's letter, with the single observation that this is no time, in my opinion, to sell or lease coal bonds.

I should have been extremely sorry if Mr. Cobb had come to see me. I do not wish to meet him now or hereafter. Were I to receive him at my own home kindly I should be exposed to the charge of insincerity & of playing into the hands of the rebel members of my cabinet. However unjust the charge would be such a circumstance as his visit would give it great plausibility. I wish him well & hope he may obtain his pardon; but this is all. I could give other good reasons for not wishing to see him if I thought proper. I truly pity him.

I know not which of the Misses Leaman to whom it is said Mr. Hopkins is engaged.

I believe I have answered all your inquiries demanding an answer & really have no news to communicate unless it may be that Robert Tyler & Mr. Baker were here the other day. I was delighted to see poor Tyler. He says he will visit you in Baltimore.

Yours affectionately

Mrs. Henry E Johnston

James Buchanan

P.S. I have been expecting for some time that Reverdy Johnston would cast a new political somerset & was not astonished at his vote in favor of the very worst measure which the radicals have proposed.

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