

Wheatland 30 March 1865

My dear Harriet,

I have received your favor from Baltimore & am concerned that you have not been pleased with its people or with the prospect of living among them; [a sentence blacked out]. I infer she is the person to whom you allude. But of all this when we meet, which I trust may not long be delayed.

You will perceive by my letter to D. E. Shannon, a copy of which I enclose, that your cousin James, S. Lane, through Mr. Atlee has precipitated the business respecting the Coal Lands: & in a most slovenly & unlawyer like manner. This we could not prevent. If all the lands could be appraised & offered for sale in one body this would be the best course now open. Please to consult Mr. Jenkins on the subject & show him my letter to Mr. Shannon.

Among the letters I enclose you will perceive one from Mrs. Hunter which I opened. This I did because I supposed it to be from one of the Virginia heirs & might require immediate attention. I answered it on yesterday, before the receipt of your letter, sent them a copy of the notice of Inquisitor cut from the Bedford Gazette & advised them strongly to appoint a competent man of business as their agent who by coming here might readily be made acquainted with the whole affair. The notice of Inquisition has been published in the North American & I presume has attracted the notice of Mr. Jenkins for whose wards I feel a deep interest.

You will perceive from Mr. Capens letter also enclosed that James S Lane has offered to sell out for \$10,000.

Your note for \$5,900 will become due on the 10<sup>th</sup> April & the balance of your share in your uncle John's estate will be \$1940.72. I have examined the account of the administrators & find nothing objectionable. Unless you should return before the 10<sup>th</sup> April, & I hear nothing from you to the contrary I shall apply \$1900 of this balance toward the payment of your note & discharge the remainder \$4000. I send Mr. Swarr's statement.

I really have no local news of the least importance to communicate. Eliza has gone & our only stand by for the present is Mary.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

Miss Harriet R Lane

P.S. Please to preserve the enclosed papers & return the copy of the letter to Mrs. Shannon.

The Inquest is to be held on Monday the 24 April, so that there is little time to lose in determining what is proper to be done.

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