

Wheatland 16 April 1867

My dear niece,

You request [sic] me to write soon so I answer yours of yesterday on the day of its receipt. In regard to your arrangements for the summer I speak once for all. Whilst I do not desire to interfere with your arrangements I wish you to make this house your home whenever you please and as long as you please; and there is certainly no healthier spot for your child in the Country. And just for so long as Mr. Johnston may think proper to stay with you, he shall have a cordial welcome. If you think the first of July too early to go to Bedford, and prefer this to the Sea Shore, why come here and go to Bedford from this place. I wish emphatically to say that your company will be a great comfort to me at all times & under all circumstances, when Mr. Johnston & yourself may deem it expedient that you should leave home.

In regard to myself I make no arrangements for the future. In a few days, should God spare me, I shall be 76 years of age and like all old men I feel a growing disinclination to leave home. I have not the least idea at this time whether I shall go to Bedford or not; but this ought not to infer with you any respect.

Mrs. Lane & myself now get along extremely well together; and I think we shall so continue. I have no doubt my advice has been beneficial to her. She walked out here with Jim last Sunday & in her presence I told him to be sure to tell his Aunt that he and his brother had not come to see me for six months. She was embarrassed & made many explanations in her way. I feel quite confident this for the last two months & more has not been her fault.

Boys at their age ought to be talked to seriously by some person for whom they have an affection and in whom they have confidence, their proper line of life ought to be pointed out to them and their determination for the future ought to be fixed upon it. John is now past fifteen: and it is too late for me now to gain their affection and confidence and exercise a controlling influence on them. They do not seem to have any fixed ideas as to the future and are just floating about. Whether they possess abilities or not I do not know; but I believe they are good boys & very dutiful & kind to their mother. Say nothing & intimate no thing [sic] to them of what I have written concerning them.

Mr. Schull is to be here on my birth day [sic] at least so he requested James Henry to write me.

We have got neither waiter or cook; but we get along very comfortably. Lizzie one of our two excellent girls cooks very well. It is easy to get a Waiter; but the Cook is the difficulty. Still I have a good prospect of getting one before long.

Peter my stand by has run off to escape arrest. Of all things to think that Peter was engaged in a Negro riot at the door of the Negro church on the occasion of some exhibition there. The valiant Peter! The desperate Peter! He is now in parts unknown; but is desperately anxious to come to me. He is very much alarmed.



Dr. Carpenter was very little hurt & is now busily engaged in prosecuting his suit to be made Collector of Internal Revenue. He is already Doctor, Cotton Manufacturer, Banker, unsuccessful speculator in oil; and if to these we add Collector; he will then be a perfect Caleb Quatem. Miss Hetty is doing well & expects to be on a crutch in a short time by the advice of Dr. Carpenter.

I am quite as well satisfied that you did not see Mr. Davis.

I learn from the Swarrs that Emily Baker will not be married till Fall. Mr. Baker though he opens his whole heart to me about everything else has never breathed this subject. He has put Mr. Griffith in business as a partner in a respectable mercantile firm in Philadelphia & I believe his conduct is above reproach.

Captain Magaw who appeared so meanly before you is a very good officer & now has a respectable command. With me kindest regards to Mr. Johnston I remain yours affectionately,

Mrs. Henry E Johnston

James Buchanan

P.S. I forgot to say that my news from Oxford is not favorable. I have but little doubt, indeed I am morally certain, that Willie has the consumption. Annie being his special nurse, as Harriet is that of her mother, I consider the visit of the former indefinitely postponed. Wilberforce Nevin has gone to Philadelphia to play second fiddle to Forney in the Press. After Harriet's marriage which I consider a fixed fact, Annie could not be spared to be permanently with me even if I should so desire. I saw Mrs. Forney at Mrs. Porter's funeral figuring about; but had not heard that the Nevins had called on her. This will surely be expected.

