

Wheatland 10 May 1867

My dear niece,

I should have answered yours of the fourth sooner, as there seems to be a wedding on the [?], but it was several days on the way and Wednesday was such an awful day that I could not go to town to make the necessary inquiries. Mr. Christian B. Herr is a highly respectable man and nothing can be alleged against his "pecuniary, moral & social character". He is a farmer in good & easy circumstances, is honest and socially he is just is what you suppose him to be. His election as President of the Lancaster Bank is a high testimonial to his character. Still, if the "lady faire" expects to live in the style of a wife of the President of a Baltimore Bank she may be disappointed.

The news which I receive from Oxford is not at all favorable especially as regards Willie who doubtless has the consumption. I have, therefore, no expectation that Annie can pay me a visit for sometime. I think of writing for Maria Weaver.

I have been to see Mrs. Lane since the return of the Boys and met them accidentally but for a few moments. They were intent upon escaping as soon as possible. They expressed great satisfaction with their visit and your kindness. John, from his mother's statement is determined to be a Banker, and she told me Dr. Carpenter has promised to reserve a place for him in the firm of Evans, M'Evoy, Carpenter & Samuel Reynolds! I intimated to her that I thought he might make a better selection. The boys have not come to see me.

Mrs. Lane & myself continue to get along very well together. I gave Mr. Schull a dinner of gentlemen and she came out and not only presided but manifested much interest in having it go up properly. She rattled away at the dinner table and they were all evidently much pleased with her. I don't believe she ever had the least intention of marrying M'Evoy and she is now acting in such a manner as to put down the report. In fact, we hear no more of it.

Miss Hetty is now able to limp about on crutches. Miss Eliza Guest, however, well supplies her space. She is a good housekeeper. We yet have no cook or waiter; but Lizzie is a good cook & Mary quite a tolerable waiter. Lizzie is too young to be a cook; but she tells me she will continue to cook until I can get another.

May you enjoy many happy & prosperous returns of your birth day! And may you grow old gracefully with Christian feelings and not follow the example of Mrs. R & Mrs. M. I do not now see much of the Nevins; but they always inquire kindly after you and send their love.

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

Mrs. Henry E. Johnston

P.S. I ought to inform you that I now have a tolerably severe twinge of Rheumatism in the left ankle which impedes my locomotion. I drank a bottle of green seal with Mr. Baker on Wednesday which may account for it. He & Mrs. Baker were here on that horrible day.

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