

Sunday_19 May 1867

My dear niece,

I hasten to answer yours of the 17th. I shall be rejoiced to see you at all times; but whether it will be prudent to bring your child out on Wednesday unless the weather should change is questionable. And for what object? To see me. Now it is not a matter of the least possible interest to me whether I shall see him now or 6 weeks hence, and to him it can make no possible difference whether he ever sees me or not.

I have felt, I think, the extremest [sic] pain which human nature could endure. The suffering I experienced from the Rheumatic Gout on my return from Washington was severe; but not at all equal to my last attack. I was able to hobble down stairs yesterday; but it will be some days before I can walk about. We have neither cook nor waiter & only one horse & are altogether in a forlorn condition.

Annie Buchanan arrived here last evening. I fear her visit will be anything but agreeable.

Mrs. Lane & Blanche were devoted to me during the few days of my extreme illness.

Annie says that both the Oxford patients are decidedly better; but she does not speak hopefully of the final recovery of Willie.

I shall have the best hack in Lancaster at the Depot on Wednesday at 3 P.M. for Mr. Johnston and yourself unless I should hear from you to the contrary in the meantime.

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

Mrs. Henry E. Johnston

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