

Wheatland 9 October 1867

My dear niece,

I was glad to receive your favor of the 5th yesterday evening and to learn that you had got home pleasantly. I conclude that the baby is well otherwise you would have mentioned it.

We get along quietly & comfortably. Miss Eliza made her appearance soon after you left; and Aunt Rebecca who is quite an agreeable lady arrived on yesterday morning. Her visit is chiefly to Harriet Parker & I am sorry she will remain with us but a few days. She desires to be very kindly remembered to you.

Barbara Zook did not come; but Mary, Charles' wife, does very well. Miss Hetty is still looking out for a cook & has some expectation of getting a good one from Columbia through the agency of Mrs. Shaeffer.

James Smith is a very simple Irishman. He is willing & good natured and will I think do very well after a while. His first performance was certainly extraordinary and afforded me a hardy laugh. I told him on the evening you left to bring me up the next morning a foot bath of milk warm water. When he came in with it I was dosing and did not observe him. When I sat up in bed, lo & behold! I observed Baby['s] Bath tub in front of the stand where I wash my face & hands. The water was spread out over such a large surface that it was not an inch deep and cold at that. I fairly roared. It reminded me of an incident which Charles J. Ingersole used to relate of a raw Irish servant of his whom he found upon awakening blowing with all his might to kindle anthracite coal fire. I sent James to church last Sunday with a note to father Keenan & gave him particular directions how he might find the place. But he could not succeed and wandered off to the German Catholic Church. I took him this morning to father Keenan's & hope all will be well hereafter. Notwithstanding, I think he will do.

Mr. Reed came here on Thursday last to dinner; but went off on Friday evening. Mr. Baker dined with us on Friday and brought along with him a sample of whiskey of which he bought a barrel in Lebanon County at \$4.00 per gallon for him & myself. I consider it better than the J.B. The Eichelberger whiskey is so bad as to amount to an imposition. I would not set it down to any friend.

I really have no news to tell you. Mrs. Lane & John walked out on Sunday afternoon to see me and I called there to day for a few minutes and found Nellie Potter with her, who is handsome and agreeable but not very wise.

Mrs. Lane told me that when Mr. Cummings returned from Europe he wrote to his wife that he was in Reading & she might now come to him: to which Judge Hayes replied that if he wanted her he might come for her. He did come & now the happy couple are I suppose billing & cooking [sic] together in Reading. James Shunk does not appear to have the slightest regard for his solemn promises; and I know not how to get the papers out of his possession except by a writ of replevin.

With my kind regard to Mr. Johnston I remain yours very affectionately

James Buchanan

Mrs. Johnston

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