

Wheatland 4 March 1868

My dear Sir,

Yours of the 28 ultimo and the news brought by Miss Hetty relieved me from great anxiety on account of your little boy. I trust in Heaven that he is now convalescent.

We are getting along here as usual and as comfortably as could be expected considering the cold and inclement weather. Henrietta and Maria are cheerful companions and both are very good readers. I could not desire a better cook and waiter than Rosana and Thomas; and should the latter continue to refrain from liquor, they are all I could reasonably desire. Under the administration of Henrietta, I gave a very good dinner to Doctor Carpenter and his Lady.

I cannot doubt but that President Johnson, however, unjustly will be convicted by the Senate. Unless the Radicals should accomplish this inequity they are lost. They have ventured their all upon this hazard, and they are desperate enough to play out the game. I cannot, however, avoid thinking that Mr. Johnson committed a political blunder in bringing about this fearful issue at this critical moment. He stood well, impeachment had been abandoned and he ought to have waited or at least first consulted his prudent friends before precipitating the contest. But he is as he is. Besides, the law is not clearly in his favor. That the Tenure of Office Act is clearly unconstitutional I have not a doubt. But who is to decide this question? If the Executive then he can decide what law he will execute and what he will refuse to execute. Ought he not to obey until the question of constitutionality shall be decided by the Supreme Court. [sic] But whether or not there is no reasonable ground for impeachment under the circumstances of the case. In fact it is an outrage.

Give my kindest love to Harriet and say to her how much rejoiced I am at the recovery of her little boy and how deeply I sympathized with her during his illness.

Give my love, also, to Lois & believe me ever to be sincerely your friend

James Buchanan

Henry E. Johnston E

