

Wheatland 12 November 1864

My dear Miss Harriet,

Annie arrived in good time to day & I brought her here without delay. I was right glad to see her. She is now in the parlor with Blanche & Cecil. Alice has gone on a visit to Pittsburg.

Mr. Jenkins did not call to see me. His speech, they say, was creditable to (?) but not distinguished. I dined (this) week at Mr. McEvoy's; & he behaved without "swell" & with much propriety. I had little or no conversation with him, but was pleased with his deportment.

I received the enclosed letter from Judge Black on the evening before the election which will best answer your inquiry respecting him.

I answered that part of it respecting your visit by stating your intention & desire to pay them a visit after your return from the Bedford Springs, but not hearing from Mary you did not know whether you were expected.

Professor Falk, as I learn, brought home his bride this morning, a widow with two children from Hagerstown. Her name was Charles.

I returned on Friday morning from Mr. Baker's after a very pleasant visit. He had a very agreeable dinner party of about a dozen on Thursday. Several of the gentlemen were intelligent and talked well particularly the lawyers from West Chester. Among these I would distinguish Mr. Brenton who is eminent in his profession. Mrs. Hopkins was absent with her daughter in Philadelphia & Miss Emily only returned on Wednesday evening having been at the Christening of her namesake.

I hope you have answered the cards to Miss Dougherty's reception.

In regard to your visit to Washington;--I do not see how you can well avoid it without giving offence to Lily, & possibly Mr. Macalester.

This is all the news I can remember (or as your would say these are the news)

I have not seen Dr. Carpenter since the Wednesday before the election. He is now attending Mr. Heaster who has been quite unwell for some time.

As I never had the most remote hope of McClellan's election & but very little expectation that he would carry Pennsylvania or New York I was not disappointed at the result. Although anxious for his success, perhaps it is all for the best that he did not succeed. The Democratic party have every where manifested great vigor & power. From what Blanche says her father entertains the same opinion. I have not seen him since the election, though he accompanied Alice to Wheatland to bid me farewell a short time before my return from Mr. Baker's.

Miss Harriet & Miss Blanche send their love & Cecil his best regards.

Miss Hetty desired to be kindly remembered to you.

With my love to all, I remain

Yours affectionately

James Buchanan

Miss Harriet R Lane

P.S. You need not return Judge Black's letter

Murray says.—"the word news is now almost universally considered as belonging to the singular number." & I say it is now universally so considered.

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