

Wheatland 21 March 1867

My dear niece,

I have received your kind invitation to pay you a visit, though without this I know I should be always welcome. It has now been rendered impossible for me to do this even if I otherwise would for sometime to come. Miss Hetty fell on the pavement last night & sprained her ankle badly, so that she will be laid up for sometime. Thomas & Rosana leave on the 1 April so that I shall most probably be left without assistance except the two girls; because we have no certainty of obtaining either cook or waiter. Necessity will now compel me to set for myself; and I shall get along with the assistance of Providence as I have always done.

I do next expect Annie. Brother Edward wrote me on the 12<sup>th</sup> that Mrs. Buchanan was quite ill & William was also sick and she could not be spared. He considered the return of Harriet very opportune. I have not repeated my invitation to Annie. As I have heard nothing from Oxford since the 12<sup>th</sup>, I trust & hope Aunt Annie has recovered.

Mr. Shank is a man of fine talents & of extensive reading. His style of writing is excellent & his friendship for one undoubted. He wants energy & perseverance to pursue any great work to the end. I know nothing for which he is fit except to write daily articles for a Daily Newspaper associated with a good business Partner who would take care of concern. Becky deserved a great match; but I presume ~~that~~ the son & grandson of a Governor was irresistible. She appears however, to be & I have no doubt is devotedly attached to her husband. I fear he will never please her in a condition of independence, so far as this world wealth is concerned.

I trust that 'ere this Baby is flourishing.

I am happy to inform you that Governor Porter is better & there are now hopes entertained of his recovery.

I was confined to bed on Monday last & am yet not quite well. How long the struggle can continue between old age & a good natural construction God only knows & his will be done.

Mrs. Lane does not doubt that the little Doctor will marry Miss Millie. Should this be the case I fear he will feel himself self degraded & get into unfortunate habits for which I should be very very sorry.

With my kind regards to Mr Johnston I remain your affectionate Uncle,

James Buchanan

Mrs. Henry E. Johnston

My love to Henrietta June. (vertically on left side of last page)

