

Wheatland 26 March 1868

My dear niece /

It is some time since I received your favor of the 9th and I have omitted to write simply because I had nothing of the least importance to communicate. I felt very anxious when the little boy was ill; but now thank God! my fears have been dissipated.

I asked Maria Weaver this morning if she intended to pay you a visit on her return to Washington. She said she had just received a letter for her father refusing her permission to do so. He says he had invited you to his wedding and received no answer; and whilst inviting Maria to your wedding you had not invited him, and he considered that you had slighted him. I am sorry for all this because I know you would be pleased with Maria. She is greatly improved as well informed, spirited and agreeable. Besides, I think she is a very good girl and has sense enough to be content with her condition if life. It would be very hard to condemn her for her devotion to her father however unworthy he may be. Were it not for him I should like to have her always with me as the companion of Henrietta. They get along charmingly with each other and Miss Hetty is devoted to them both.

Mr. Hager still lingers and it is still doubtful whether he will recover.

Mr. Reed has not been here for a long time and the work progresses slowly; if it progresses at all.

It is impossible that Rosane & Thomas could do better than they have done since their return.

Two days ago the House was surrounded by singing birds, the harbingers of Spring. I was then happy in the feeling that it would not be long until you should pay me your annual visit and am still happy in the anticipation.

Although I feel that age is gradually advancing; yet thank God, my health is still comparatively good.

With my love to Lois & Blanche & my kindest regards to Mr. Johnston, I remain

Yours very affectionately,
James Buchanan

Mrs. Johnston

