

Wheatland 2 April 1868

My dear niece /

After yours of the 31 Ultimo I feel it my duty to say a word to you about Maria Weaver. I think you judge her harshly. I have no doubt she was both mortified & disappointed at her father's command. She always speaks of you in very warm terms of affection & gratitude and had anticipated great pleasure in her visit to you. She is a girl of standing by her father; the more so because she must know there are but few who can esteem him. This is natural for a child.

Considering her opportunities she is a remarkable girl. She has read much & has fine powers of of [sic] conversation. She is stylish & her manners are very good & attractive. Indeed, she would pass well in any society. She has been much admired here & Henrietta & her seem to be & I have no doubt are warmly attached to each other. I think she is a good girl, [sic] indeed I have no doubt of it. I have told her that I thought her father was very selfish in cutting her off from the society of her mother['s] relatives. – This much, in justice to her; for you have no worse opinion of him than I have myself. She will leave here on Monday next; but her father has provided a friend to meet her in Baltimore & accompany her to the Washington train.

Your uncle Edward left here this morning. He had been preaching to his old parishioners at Paradise who are now without a rector. Ann Eliza continues very unwell & is exceedingly weak. William continually grows better.

We have no news of the least consequence. Mrs. Lane gave a party on Tuesday evening to the young folks. Maria was alone at it for Henrietta had not returned from meeting her father on time to attend it.

I have written solely because I did not wish you to impute the sins of the father to the child. Give my kind regards to Mr. Johnston.

Yours very affectionately

James Buchanan

Mrs. Johnston

P.S. I have been informed by a note from Miss Sallie Kennedy that her sister Annie will be married on the 15 April to General Bedwell of California. I do not know who he is but her parents are much pleased with the match. – They expect Lois at home in the first part of this month.

