

Washington 16 October 1845

My dear Sir /

I have received yours of the 14th Instant & hasten to give it an answer. For the present, I have no idea of selling any part of my furniture in the house at Lancaster, simply because it is uncertain whether I may not choose to leave my present position for another. Should I remain in the City, it is now certain that I cannot continue in the furnished house I occupy as I had supposed & therefore I shall want my furniture, or at least as much of it as is portable. A good deal of the beds & bedding, etc. I would not dispose of on any account, having belonged to my mother & Sister Harriett. When I offered you the house, it was my meaning that you should go into it & use the furniture as if it were your own. I do not intend to charge you any rent either for the house or furniture for the present year. The latter I may want before the first of April, if I should not go upon the Bench. I am sorry Miss (Hetty?) packed up or brought away any of the articles, my wish been (?) for the present all things should remain as I left them. I would have communicated all this to you in Lancaster; but for many reasons I desire for the present you will please to consider confidential. It is my purpose to go upon the Bench, if I can get there with the free consent of the President & if the condition of our Foreign relations should be such as I can retire from the Department with honor. I know he will part from me with very great reluctance & the aspect of things abroad may be such as to compel me to remain. The fate of my future life must be decided in the beginning of December & until then I shall make no permanent arrangements of any kind. In the mean time, go into the house & use every thing there as if it were your own; and if any of the furniture needs painting or repairing as you suggest I will pay the expense.

I would lend \$2000 to a good man on a good mortgage. This you may say to Mr. (?).

Please to give my love to Patty & Mary & believe me to be yours affectionately.

James Buchanan

Mr. James B. Lane

P.S. Please to consider this letter as strictly confidential.

