

U. S. Legation

London 26 May 1854

My dear Eskridge /

It is painful for me to write to you in the language of complaint; but the circumstances render this imperatively necessary. By every Steamer which has arrived since that of the 5th April from New York I have been anxiously expecting a letter from you but in vain. When Harriet arrived by the Steamer of the 15th April, she informed me you would certainly write by the next steamer & gave me an account of my business at Lancaster on the first of that month. My interests at home & by far the greater part of my fortune have been entrusted to Mr. Reynolds & yourself; when I write this it seems to me almost incredible, that I have received no information from my agents since the first of April. I begin seriously to apprehend that something has gone wrong – that the Bonds in New York have miscarried or that some other misfortune has befallen my affairs: & then again, I reflect that if this had been the case, you would not have omitted to mention it. What a noble & necessary quality is punctuality & doing every thing at the appointed time to a man of business! Without it, it is almost impossible for any person to succeed in this world. I shall wait another week, & if in the mean time, no letter should arrive, I shall write to some mutual friend to inquire what is the matter. I confess I feel very much worried & perplexed. I am the more so, inasmuch as I had reason to expect from your letter of the 6th March, you would write immediately after the 1st of April. It has been my disappointment from Steamer to Steamer since that day which has prevented me from writing to you sooner.

Harriet seems to enjoy herself very much here & gets along very well. Whether I shall be able to stand it, going out with her so often as I am obliged to do, until the end of “the Season,” is uncertain. This will end about the 20th July, & then the fashionables will all disperse to their places in the Country or so on the Continent, & London will be dull enough until about the next Easter. I am heartily tired of my position & sincerely wish I were at Wheatland; but still I shall endeavor to make the best of it. This life of labor & dissipation & late hours combined does not suit a man of my age.

I have great anxiety about Harriet & would feel that a mountain had been removed from my shoulders, were she well & respectably married. I often think of what would be her situation, should any thing befall me. She seems to be rather favorably inclined towards Mr. Tyson; but I do not & shall not urge her. Mrs. Ptell speaks of him in the most favorable terms & Harriet hints that he may be here in the course of the Summer. He is certainly a man of high character; though I am but little acquainted with him. Do you know any thing of him? My expenses are now great & will be much greater until the end of the Season. Harriet informs me she had in vain appealed to her Uncle John for a contribution towards her European expenses.

Please to remember me in the kindest terms, to Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Swarr, Alderman Kantz, & all inquiring friends.

In the expectation of receiving a letter from you by the next Steamer, I remain
yours affectionately

James Buchanan



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Col: Eskridge Lane

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