

Legation of the United States
London 29 February 1856

My dear Eskridge /

I was truly rejoiced to receive & peruse your letter of the 31st ultimo. The circumstances which you relate relieve Harriet in a great degree from the responsibility of receiving the money, notwithstanding the understanding between her & myself.

~~The~~ ^{My} letter, I think, was quite plain. The mistake of Mr. Reynolds arose from ot marking the last clause of the sentence, “were I to charge her for the money I have actually advanced to her & expended on her account (etc?). He confined himself to the £200 merely. But let this all pass. I was grateful to expend considerable sums to give her that position in society which she so well deserved. –The money you paid her I don’t regard a (shaw?).

Well! I learn that James has got the whole estate of his uncle into his own hands. Should any dispute arise between James B Lane as surviving partner & James B. Lane as administrator, it is to be hoped that the parties will settle it amicably & will not quarrel with each other.

I shall want deposited to my credit with Riggs & Company, Washington, the sum of \$3400, on or before the 15th of April. I hope Mr. Reynolds & yourself will be able to accomplish this without difficulty. If necessary, however, to borrow part of it, I presume you can obtain it for 60 days. Do not fail. Riggs & Co ^{or Mr. Corcoran} would advance me the amount without hesitation; but I do not like to ask them.

I am yet uncertain as to the time of the arrival of Mr. Dallas; but I am expecting him by every Steamer. I have given up my house & am now living at Fentons Hotel. I expect to be at home some time in April; but I cannot form any definite plan until after Mr. Dallas’ arrival.

I am not little astonished at my own apparent popularity in England. It is certainly not because I have not been frank & free with them in taking the part of my own Country. I have of late become quite a lion. Every body, even Lord Palmorston, expresses regret at my departure. I send you the London Daily News, giving an account of a dinner of the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, in which I am honorably mentioned.

The change in public opinion in this Country in favor of the United States, since the meeting of Parliament on the 31st. January is truly remarkable. They no longer think of war with “their cousins on the other side of the Atlantic.” They consider this impossible. Their war with Russia was highly popular with the masses in England: & they very much resented the sympathy manifested by a free people ^{as they said} in favor of a Barbarian & a Despot. That is now over since the certainty of peace.

Mr. Dallas will have a time of it here with ^{his Lady} three unmarried daughters & an unmarried sister in Law. It is reported that his son will be Secretary of Legation, - contrary to all former precedent. If this be true he must have become & this very suddenly a great favorite at head quarters. The Legation will be a family party.

Remember me kindly to Mr. Reynolds & all our other friends. If they are half as anxious to meet me as I am to meet them it will be a joyful meeting.

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

Col: Eskridge Lane

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