

Lancaster 10th December 1819

My dearest Sir /

You have lost a child, a dear dear child. I have lost the only earthly object of my affections without whom life now presents to me a dreary blank. My prospects are all cut off & I feel that my happiness will be buried with her in the grave. It is now no time for explanation but the time will come when you will discover that she as well as I have been much much abused. God forgive the authors of it. My feelings of the resentment against them whoever they may be are buried in the dirt.

I have now one request to make & for the love of God & of your dear departed daughter whom I loved infinitely more than any human being could love, deny me not. Afford me the melancholy pleasure of seeing her body before its internment. I would not for the world be denied this request.

I might make another but from the misrepresentations which must have been made to you I am almost afraid. I would like to follow her remains to the grave as a mourner. I would like to convince the world & I hope yet to convince you that she was infinitely dearer to me than life. I may sustain the shock of her death but I feel that happiness has fled from me forever. The prayer which I make to God without ceasing is that I may be able to shew (sic) my veneration for the memory of my dear departed saint by my love respect & attachment for her surviving friends.

My Heaven bless you & enable you to bear the shock with the fortitude of a christian. I am forever your sincere & grateful friend

James Buchanan

Robert Coleman Esq

