

Washington
May 16, 1861

Dear Miss Lane,

I have your note of the 8th enclosing a letter for Mrs. S. S. Lee, you are right as to letters reaching me free where addressed to me, as "in charge S. office." - I should not have allowed you to remain a day uncertain as to your letters having reached Mrs. Lee in safety, but tho I have been unwell 3 days, today is the first that I have left my room - I forwarded your letter to her the same evening that I received it.

She was at our house two evenings since, not in good spirits of course, and she went today, or at least said she should go today to "Ravensworth," this is the home of Mrs. Fitzhugh by whom Capt. Lee was brought up, I believe, or his early boyhood was passed there - it is only 12 or 13 miles from Alexandria, probably Mrs. Lee has sent you her address, but if she has not done so, pray enclose any letter to me. I will send it to her with much pleasure. You know well that I will do anything I can for either of you two ladies.

Lord Lyons asked me about you last Sunday. I made my distinguished neighbour a seasonal visit and he almost immediately asked after you. I said "Mrs. Palmer had received a little note from you the day before, (her receiving or my doing so being the same you know,) and you were at Wheatland, quite well" which he seemed glad to learn - but the truth is if he had not asked after you, & if he had not been glad to hear of you he would have been unlike anyone else here for you have truly as I believe a large number of sincere friends at Washington. I know of no lady with more. Washington is much changed. Capt. Magruder my next door neighbour has resigned; in doing this he made a sad mistake in my judgment - he is certainly now in depressed spirits as his Daughters are also - they leave here in a week, at first spoke of going to Europe, but now they will go North perchance to Niagara falls for 2 or 3 months so they say just now.

The Ledyards are here but leave for New York in a week - they do not go to Detroit until October I think - Your friends the Wilsons are well, & I think all here. I saw Mrs. [?] two days since - Miss Woodbury is flourishing - but I fear I may be tiring you.

Mrs. Harris told Mrs. Palmer she had rec'd 3 days since, a sad letter from Mrs. Buchanan. She says she fears her husband has been hasty in resigning, others state he is endeavouring to be re-instated, but without success. I feel much sympathy for his interesting family. Col. Emory too has resigned. - but you will think I'll never stop.

With Mrs. Palmer's love to you, & our respectful & kindest regards to your uncle.

Believe me Dear Miss Lane

truly your friend

W. R. Palmer

Miss Lane

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