

Lancaster Sept 17th 1870

Mrs Harriet Lane Johnston,

Dear Madam,

The Executors of your late distinguished Uncle, Ex President Buchanan, instruct me to request you to deliver his papers to them. They cannot entertain a doubt of their right to the possession of these papers: and the First Codicil to the will made it their duty to place the papers therein described in the hands of the chosen biographer.

This biographer, having declined the task and returned the papers entrusted to him, the Executors consider it their plain duty to preserve these papers and place them in the hands of the successor of that biographer, when chosen.

The Executors inform me that such papers of the illustrious deceased as have already come into their possession have been arranged, endorsed and deposited for safe keeping with the Fidelity Security Deposit Company of Philadelphia, where the remainder of the papers when received – after having been arranged and endorsed in like manner – will also be deposited. The papers will then be properly secured for the use of the future biographer, when he may commence his work.

The Executors therefore respectfully request you to prepare these papers for delivery to them, and advise when it will suit you to hand them over.

It is almost needless to add that this communication is not designed to apply to any books, &c, which may have been distributed under the third clause of the will.

The Executors respectfully solicit an early answer through

Very Respectfully & Truly Yours

Isaac E. Hiester

