

Post Office Address Box 2,911
Office of Shipman, Barlow, Larocque & Choate
No. 35 William Street
New York, Oct. 17th 1881
Wm. D. Shipman
S. L. M. Barlow
Jos. Larocque
Wm. G. Choate
~
Sol. Hanford

My Dear Mr. Curtis:

I have read the Buchanan [dep?] with much care and I am clearly of opinion that you should not print any considerable portion of what you have written on the subject of his engagement to Miss Coleman.

Mr. Buchanans action with reference to the bulk of the Coleman papers, shows conclusively how he desired the subject to be treated.

He never spoke of this matter, in so far as I have heard, except in the most vague way and then he never gave Miss Colemans name.

In a long confidential talk (in) London, he said to me "I never intended to engage in politics, but meant to follow my profession strictly. But my prospects and plans were all changed by a most sad event, which happened at Lancaster when I was a young man. I found the most wealthy and influential family in that part of the State, hostile and desirous of breaking me down. There was no cause for this, but I saw I must leave my home or fight my way - as a distraction from my great grief and because I saw that through a political following I could secure the friends I then needed. I accepted a nomination."

I would mention the fact of this attachment: that it was finally broken by the death of the lady: that to this great grief is to be attributed his change of plans and his political career: that he was true to this, his first and only love, during life: that he carefully measured and guarded the correspondence with this lady, while he lived and in dying [ordered?] the package to be burned, unopened: and [?] end as you have already done, that his grief ended with the grave and with the [?] and fitting tribute to Miss Lane, that was, which you have written.

And this is all. In their view Mrs. Barlow agrees fully - Such a statement would be creditable to Mr. Buchanan: it would harm no one: it would leave the lovers quarrel and the Fathers injustice unnoticed and it would prove that the president was after all human and filled with sentiment and heart, of which in public, he exhibited none too much, for his own reputation.



How well I remember Miss Lane in London! A model Gentlewoman, the peer in grace, beauty and manner, of any lady in England and afterwards, in the White House, truly, the first lady in the land.

[?]

Samuel L. M. Barlow

Geo. Ticknor Curtis, Esq

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Lancaster**History**