

Wheatland Lancaster
Feb 12. 1862.

Dear Mr. Macalester

I enclose a letter for Lily, & have endeavored to put it in as small a space as possible – as I neglected to ask you how you sent her letters whether through the Belgian Legation free, or by post -- & whether prepared or not – but I hope you will tell me all this for future application: -- for I do not intend Lily shall forget me – her friendship is to [sic] dear to me for that. I thought I would not make her unhappy by repeating the rumors that are afloat – nor describe to her the coy way in which you received my congratulations upon your promised happiness. I have generously left all this for you to say -- & also, to account to her for your numerous trips to Baltimore – sometimes alone, but latterly in very fair company. Thanks for your posting me on Korty's financial prospects I am sorry they are not more certain – but with economy he may get something. I hear the old lady has unlimited control over her half of the income which fact Korty can no doubt turn to his own advantage.

How kind of you to be ascribing to James B Jr. the difficulties that surround yourself. “Your fair one” needs looking after. – I saw her flirting in New York, to a fearful extent – but you no doubt feel so secure, that jealousy cannot reach you. I found Uncle looking quite robust again – all his ruddy complexion back. Miss Hetty has been quite ill – she is now much better, but looks thin & pale. We have plenty of snow but no sleighing - & no ice for skating.

Annie Buchanan joins with me in kind regards & congratulations - & believe me, dear Mr Macalester,

Yours very truly
H Lane.

I was sadly shocked to hear of the sudden death of poor Murray Rush, who was a friend & great favourite of mine. I feel for his poor children & sisters – what sorrows they have had!

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