

Clearfield Pa
April 11th 1861

My dear Sir

Your welcome favor of the 6th reached me by due course of mail & I have to say in reply that I am not only gratified with its contents but I am very proud of them. To have retained the confidence of friendship of a gentleman of your experience and sound judgement [sic] is the end of such a service as that we have just closed is to me a just source of pride and gratification. I need only say on my [?] that your expressions of friendship & gratitude are heartily reciprocated.

Mrs. B and myself had intended to visit you and Miss Lane at Wheatland on our way to Clearfield but unhappily we were so long detained in the City that it became necessary to continue our route directly to the place in order to meet a business engagement which I had made soon after the adjournment of Congress. We were too well assured of your friendship to await a formal invitation. I doubt not, however, that I shall avail myself of your kind invitation within a brief period as I am in the habit of visiting Phila frequently with Mrs. Bigler it may be otherwise as she seems quite disposed to remain at home.

As for the 1000\$ due you from Col. MDowell & Co the note for which is in my possession I shall treat [upon aid] as I shall my own claim and with even greater solicitude. I have not insisted on formal security because I know that Col MC has gone on paying off the other debts. Yours & mine are all that remain against the establishment. Mr. Haldeman has been paid in full. When our notes fall due next fall, if not paid or partially paid I shall endeavor to have the money secured. Mean while [sic] I shall keep an eye to the matter. My portion, as I told you before, has been carried along on a note for I had not the money on hand.

National affairs are truly startling. In a time I hoped for peace. Now it is far otherwise. War seems to be inevitable. What a misfortune it is that no programme of adjustment was submitted to the people or the States during the last Session of Congress. It is now obvious that the Masses of the North would accept any measure acceptable to the Border Slave States and thus all could in the end be saved. But it is now too late. I have no special news but I am convinced Mr. Lincoln is about to initiate civil war. In my humble judgment he should convene Congress for the avowed purpose of presenting a programme of peace & reunion accompanied with a declaration that the whole power of the Executive Dept. would be wielded against any other action. But God only knows what is in the future for once happy Country. I believe however that time will indicate the policy of your administration & my prayers that you may live to see the Confederacy reconstructed on the principles you so nobly maintained. With special regards to Miss Lane. I remain, with the highest esteem.

Your friend
Wm Bigler

Hon Jas Buchanan

