

Lancaster Pa.
April 12th 1870

Henry E. Johnston Esq

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 29th ult [sic] would have received an earlier reply, but for continuing difficulty with my eyes sight and the pressure of April business.

I shall be pleased to have the promised delivery of the estate papers at Wheatland at Mrs. Johnston's earliest convenience. You seem to have entirely misapprehended the spirit and purpose of my letter of the 24th ult [sic]. There certainly was no spirit of dictation intended, or any questioning of your character as a gentleman. A proper construction of my letter would certainly imply that I did address you as a gentleman of character and spirit, in so much as I only defended Mr Buchanan as my co-executor - an act which you under similar circumstances would unquestionably have found yourself honor bound to do.

I was careful in confining myself to a defense of his conduct in relation to me as co-executor and his management of the estate business proper. As to your or Mrs [sic] Johnstons [sic] personal or private difficulties I made no defence [sic]. They do not concern me, as I presume all of you are capable of attending to such matters yourselves. As to any opinions heretofore expressed by me they were predicated upon your statement of the difficulties.

Regarding what you are pleased to term my "labored panegyric" it so happens that the language employed was used by one of the most tried and trusty friends of the Ex President [sic], in speaking to me quite recently of his brother, and a gentleman whom I have reason to believe fully enjoys the confidence and respect of Mrs[sic] Johnston and yourself.

In suggesting that Mrs [sic] Johnston should prepare a paper - naming some one to write a Biography of her uncle, I had no motive except to hasten, if possible, its accomplishment. In the discharge of this or any other executive duty I know no "sides" in any personal difficulties; and if in so discharging my duties offense is taken where none is intended, I can only say I sincerely regret it. I have conscientiously endeavored to perform my duty to the estate and legatees of the deceased as well as maintain kindly relations with all, and if I have in a single instance failed it has been by no omission of duty or courtesy [sic] on my part.

Yours Truly
H. B. Swarr

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