

Lancaster, Pa Feby 25th, 1874

My Dear Sir,

Your kind favors of the 29th ult [sic] & 21st inst received, my delay in answering the former, was to enable me to ascertain and report to you the views of my co-Executor & of Mrs [sic] Johnston, on the subject of your resuming the biographical work, assigned to you by the late President Buchanan, and for that purpose (much against my inclinations owing to the conduct of Mrs [sic] Johnston towards me I addressed her on the subject, but she has failed to ~~respond~~ answer. Concerning the views of the Rev [sic] Mr [sic] Buchanan I know nothing ~~beyond the fact~~ definite that he is anxiously awaiting to learn Mrs [sic] Johnstons [sic] wishes. They both know ~~mine which?~~ that I am now and have been ever since Mr [sic] Welling relinquished the task, favorable to your resuming the ~~long-delayed~~ great work of vindicating ~~of the memory~~ fame & honor of our friend.

You perceive that owing to the unfriendly relations existing between the relations of the late President, I am in not a position to take any very decided part in the matter of the biography & question growing out of the same. ~~I more nearly concerns be immediate kindness~~—but if you can suggest ^{my doing} anything which ~~would~~ will serve you in the matter, I will with great pleasure ~~perform~~ carry out the suggestion.

I should be very glad to furnish you with copies of all our correspondence on the subject of the biography, but all ^{nearly} ~~of the most~~ of your letters to me on that subject to me are in the hands of Mr [sic] Buchanan [?].

Truly Yours H B Swarr

[To William B. Reed - Recipient deduced from context]

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