

Philadelphia 19 Sep 1877

Dear Sirs,

The following is an Extract from a letter which I addressed to Mrs. H. E. Johnson [sic] on the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant.

“I was embarrassed by your question as to the probable time of completion of the biography. There is but a short time left for me on this side of the grave: and my health is not as strong as when I last had the pleasure of seeing you. The progress of the work cannot be hurried, but will not be unnecessarily delayed; and I hope to live long enough to finish it satisfactorily. I regret that I cannot reply more explicitly as to the manner of time, by months or by years. Literary composition is not laborious to me; and if this alone were in question, I could readily be as definite as you might naturally desire. But the labor is of a different kind. It is that of investigation, which must be uncertain duration, and must be patient, I find under many heads expected and unexpected difficulties in attaining precise accuracy when it is an indispensable requirement; and such difficulties are constantly recurring. Sometimes from scarcity of authentic materials, but oftener from a redundancy [sic] of much as ought to be authentic, but are in fact more or less loose and contradictory. They are more over variously scattered; and any public duties preclude frequent locomotion. I have in the last three years, bestowed more time and thought, and have read more in print and manuscript, upon the biography and subjects immediately connected with, than I have at any other equal period of my life in study of the profession of which I have been a very industrious member for more than half a century [sic]. The honorable task was not assumed, and will will [sic] not be contrived, as a burden, or obligation, but as an agreeable occupation of my old age and one congenial to my tastes.”

I expect the pleasure of seeing one of you on Monday next when I will make a suggestion which has occurred to my mind.

Yours Very Truly  
John Cadwalader

Rev Dr Buchanan

Exrs [sic] &c

H. B. Swarr

