

[letterhead]

Office of Johnston Brothers & Co.

Stocks and Bonds bought  
and sold on Commission  
Money loaned on Collaterals

Bankers & Brokers  
Baltimore Jan 26, 1869

Mr. H. B. Swarr  
Dear Sir

I have your favor without date, enclosing drafts as stated for which you will please find receipts herewith.

The payment of the U. I tax on Wheatland is approved, while I regret & am surprised that the assessor should have valued it so highly; as a general thing the assessor's valuation is much below the real value.

I enclose according to your request, the opinions of Judge Black, & Messrs Marshall & Fisher, regarding the canes &c. Has Mr. Buchanan reached any conclusion regarding them?

Charles Macalester was in Balto. a few days since & says that the indignation of the Ex. Presdt's Philadelphia friends at the way in which Messrs. Henry & Buchanan have treated Mrs. Johnston is very plainly expressed in that city.

The dismantling of Wheatland & of the library & their forcing the purchase of the Prince of Wales picture naturally would produce much comment, although we do not know how they became acquainted with their facts, yet they seem thoroughly posted.

How does the Estate progress? Have you sold many of the securities? Did you hold the New York Central which has advanced so much?

When do you expect to render an a/c & will it be a final a/c? Did you sell the Md. property? What do you expect the next value of the Estate to be, for division among the heirs, independent of taxes & commissions?

Have you decided upon any auditors, & if so upon whom?

What are the commissions in Pa for administering upon an Estate of this magnitude?

Should you wish my advice or views, regarding any matters connected with the Estate, do not hesitate to call upon me at any time.

Mrs. Johnston informs me that she is administratrix on the Estate of her brother Eskridge. How does the matter stand? Does the sale of the lots close everything? if so, should you not prepare her final a/c [account] when the lots are paid for?

Is my "Estate book" in course of preparation. I wish it to contain copies of all the proceedings connected with the Estate, commencing with the "will & inventory", & closing with the "final a/c [account]".

The city has been full of Grant's visit & I am glad to say his treatment formed a marked contrast to that of Phil<sup>a</sup> towards Johnson. He was handsomely entertained by our friends & neighbors Mrs. Eaton & [?] although, of course, Mrs. Johnston's recent bereavement prevented our accepting any invitations to meet him.

I have written a long letter & will close by saying that I will be very glad if you will keep me posted at any time in whatever may transpire of interest to the Estate.



*mss1995.513, 1869, Henry E Johnston to H B Swarr.doc*

Has the foundation for Mr. Buchanan's tomb been laid? Has anything been suggested regarding the railing ?

Mrs. Johnston unites with me in kind regards to Mrs. Swarr & your family.

I am very sincerely

your friend

Henry E Johnston

I hope to be in Lancaster within ten days.

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Lancaster**History**