

Baltimore 19th March 1869

H. B. Swarr Esq

Dear Sir

I have yours 18th. I have been prevented by the illness of Mrs. Johnston from answering your previous letter, which I expected to do in person; (with the deeds).

If Mrs. Johnston is able to see the notary, before Miss Hetty leaves, I will send them by her.

In regard to Francis, I have some recollection of his inquiring "if I did not think a sober man deserved as much as a drunken one," referring to Thomas, to which I presume that I replied affirmatively. He doubtless feels his position, in being the only one, omitted, but his claim must be decided, by Mr. Buchanan & yourself -- I have no doubt that any suggestion made by me, would meet with objection on the part of Mr. Buchanan.

I return Nahum Capen's letter a copy of which I have taken, to be submitted to Mrs. Johnston as soon as it is prudent to do so; her illness has been so serious that I cannot allow her mind to be disturbed by any business matters at present.

Have Mr. Henry & Mr. Buchanan agreed to pay Mr. Reed the additional \$5000?

The letters of Mr. Reed, for which you inquire, I presume to be in the possession of Rev'd. E Y Buchanan, as Mrs. Johnston found, upon returning to Wheatland, after a short absence, last summer, that all private letters of interest had been removed to Oxford or removed out of their place, so that she could not find them. In answer to your previous letter, I cannot agree with your views, as, in my judgment, they are opposed to Mrs. Johnston's interests, in the premises though unintentionally on your own part, I have no doubt.

I cannot see why Mrs. Johnston's interests should be made subordinate to imaginary & unfounded grievances on the part of the other heirs -- for instance, if 200 shares of N.Y. Central are divided. Mrs. Johnston receives 50 shares, Mr. Buchanan 50 & Mr. Henry 40 -- the other heirs 60 -- now, if Mrs. Johnston retains her 50 sh's & the stock advances, in value, the other heirs do not receive less because Mrs. Johnston receives more. --

again if the stock declines, after its division, Mrs. Johnston will not receive less because the other heirs get more.

I cite this instance, only to show to you, what is clearly apparent to me, but I propose to argue the subject no further -- but submit to your views, without further discussion, my object being to have the estate close, without trouble or delay on my part.

It was this desire that prompted my advice to Mrs. Johnston, to submit the wrongs that were perpetrated last summer, in the division of the Wheatland effects, & only some glaring injustice which I do not now anticipate, & rely upon you to prevent, will cause me to change.

I expect to protect Mr. Johnston from loss, by repurchasing such of the securities I may wish, at the time of your selling them, in that way, losing only the commissions so that I particularly desire to be advised by you of the sale in advance, & in season to effect

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my purchase. Has Mr. Buchanan decided through what agency to sell the securities? – much depends upon having a reliable & skillful Broker – if I recollect aright, the arrangement made by you & approved by him, with our[leave ?], was subsequently cancelled, by him, for the most absurd reasons, although I was at the time unable to see why your authority was not equal to his own, at least so far as to control the [dispensation ?] of half the securities?

This is unimportant, however, provided the estate's interest do not suffer by his course.

Mrs. Shunk & Miss Hetty have been with us, some days, & we expect Judge Black next week.

With my very kind regards to Mrs. Swarr, & your family, in which Mrs. Johnston would cordially unite, if she knew of my writing, I am very truly yours

Henry E Johnston

P.S. Sunday morning

Mrs. Johnston says that if Mr. Buchanan has not the letters asked for, they must be in the library on the shelves or in the box – if not there, they are among the mass of papers in the garrett [sic].

