

Oxford Ch [Church] Parsonage,  
July 18 '70

My Dear Mr Swarr,

I am very much indebted to you for your full & interesting resumé of your correspondence with Mr & Mrs Johnston, wh came to hand on Saturday. It appears from it that Mrs J now avows her intention that the papers shall not be removed. I am not very much surprised at this; although it is surprising that she still is apparently ignorant of her powerlessness to prevent their removal, whenever we choose to enforce it. As you suggest, Judge Black's opinion alone ought to have convinced her of this. The truth is however, it is hard to convince her of any thing, however right & proper, if it be in opposition to her interests or will.

As to the legal steps wh it will now be necessary for us to take to effect the removal of the papers, you are the best judge. I will be very glad however to confer with you on the subject; & for this purpose I will come up to Lancaster, as soon as there is a slight change in the temperature, unless informed that you expect to be in Phil<sup>a</sup> within a week or two; in wh case I will meet you at any place & hour you may name. I am clear, that the papers ought to be, & must be, removed. Perhaps, it would be well to advise with Mr Heister [sic] on the subject of the best plan to pursue.

In reference to what both Mr & Mrs Johnston say as to my, & my daughter' connexion [sic] with my brother' papers, ~~I do not hesitate to say~~, viz, that they were left by us in "great confusion", I do not hesitate to say that it is a pure & simple falshood [sic].

Almost, the only papers we examined particularly, [sic] were those in the under part of the north-east corner book-case; these being, as we soon discovered, those wh it wd be most important for Mr Reed to have. We tied them up again however carefully, in packages, & left them there for Mr Reed. He came, while we [were] there, & took a portion of them. The rest were left just as he left them. After Annie & I came home, he returned a portion of what he had taken, & got others. Indeed, I believe, he returned in person for some. So that, if the papers left were in confusion, ~~the~~ my daughter & I, are innocent of the confusion. The charge against us is as groundless as is the insinuation, wh appears again in Mrs J' late letter to you, that we brought home with us papers wh we ought not to have brought. The papers, I judge from what we saw when we went out to Wheatland together, are certainly now in most extraordinary confusion: for they seem just to have been heaped ~~them~~ up indiscriminately in the garret corner.

As to the wise proposition that Mr H & myself shd unite with Mrs J, in making the biographical fund \$20000 - & wh seems to have been made with the absurd idea that all that is necessary to get a suitable biographer at once is to offer more money. I can only say that neither Mr H nor myself will fail in due season to do our full parts toward the ample compensation of a biographer. I say this however only to you; for I wd rather, no reply shd be made as from me, to a proposition so unseasonable, & made from no good motive. The great object now is to hear of a suitable person to do the work. When such a person is found, there will be no difficulty about the compensation, at least as far as Mr Henry & myself are concerned.

When I see you, I will mention a curious fact, wh will show you that it has not been the intention of the Johnstons that even you should have access to the papers at Wheatland, at least during their absence.

Sincerely sympathetic with you under what must be a great annoyance to you, that of corresponding with two such unreasonable, unwise & trying persons as the J's, I am very sincerely,

E Y Buchanan

H B Swarr Esq.

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