

Oxford Church, Phil<sup>a</sup>  
Feb. 9 '74

My Dear Sir,

Yr [sic] favor of Saturday, enclosing yr sic] check for \$23, my share of commissions on Mrs [sic] Johnston's Trust till this time, has just been rec<sup>d</sup> [sic]. Please accept my thanks for it.

You were right in supposing that I had rec<sup>d</sup> [sic] a communicat<sup>n</sup> [sic] from Mr [sic] Reed in reference to his resuming the work of writing the biography. I suppose, I rec<sup>d</sup> [sic] a duplicate of the one sent to you. Soon after rec<sup>y</sup> [sic] mine, I rec<sup>d</sup> [sic] a letter from Mr [sic] Henry informing me, that he had already thought of doing; viz, to take get the opinion of able counsel as to whether in case we refused to re-appoint Mr [sic] Reed, his wife's [sic] children wd [sic] have any legal claim on us for the \$5000 bequeathed to their mother; that my inquiries in reference to the desirableness of Mr [sic] Dawson as the biographer of my brother, in case he wd [sic] accept an appointment, have not been as encouraging as I had hoped they wd [sic] be. And as to Mr [sic] Preston, his very slight personal knowledge of my brother, & his limited acquaintance with the public men & public affairs of Pennsylvania, together with the remoteness of his residence from us all, seemed to ~~render his appointment~~ Mr [sic] Henry as well as myself, to render his appointment inexpedient. ~~Mr O'Connor~~ The application to Mr [sic] O'Connor as to a suitable person, resulted in nothing important. So that, we are now completely at sea again. There must however now be a decision in reference to Mr Reed's [sic] offer, before anything further is, or need be, done, he having formally offered to do the work ~~for wh he~~ ~~w~~-on acc<sup>t</sup> [sic] of wh [sic] it was bequeathed to her. I accordingly went to town & submitted the whole case to P McCall Esq, & expect to receive a written opinion from him, perhaps tomorrow. He seemed to think it a question abt [sic] wh [sic], both investigation & reflection were necessary. When I hear from him I will let you know what he says.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> [sic] releases from all the parties whom I paid, & herewith send them to you for recording. They are all duly signed & acknowledged.

The sleighing here just now, is very good. There are abt [sic] 12 inches of snow on the ground.

Yrs, Very Sincerely,  
Edw Y. Buchanan

H B Swarr Esq.

I am sorry to have to say, that my inquiries in reference to the desirableness of Mr [sic] Dawson as the biographer of my brother, in case he wd [sic] accept an appointment, have not been as encouraging as I had hoped they wd [sic] be. And as to Mr [sic] Preston, his very slight personal knowledge of my brother, & his limited acquaintance with the public men & public affairs of Pennsylvania, together with the remoteness of his residence from us all, seemed to ~~render his appointment~~ Mr [sic] Henry as well as myself, to render his appointment inexpedient. ~~Mr O'Connor~~ The application to Mr [sic] O'Connor as to a suitable person, resulted in nothing important. So that, we are now completely at sea again. There must however now be a decision in reference to Mr [sic] Reed's [sic] offer, before anything further is, or need be done.

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