

Lancaster 8th June 1854

My dear Friend.

At length, thank God, my long and disagreeable cruise is at an end. On the 2nd Ultimo we arrived at Phila (our ship leaking all the way home) and on the 11th I was detached from my late abominable commander, who I will endeavour [sic] to forget, but who I can only think of as a human monster.

On my arrival in Lancaster I received the money \$1709 placed by you, on deposit to my credit at the Savings institution; & also \$100 remaining undrawn at the Navy agents in Phila.

I have given Mr. James Reynolds a receipt in full for all demands, as your attorney- and now permit me to thank you most cordially & sincerely for your kind services in these business matters; which were more than I should have expected from the multiplicity & importance of your public & private engagements.

For your kind letter & wishes for my future happiness, in the approaching changes of my life; please accept my grateful acknowledgements, & I will proudly treasure them with your numerous acts of kindness & friendship.

I delayed writing to you, to enable me to enclose to your card of invitation to our wedding, which takes place this day a week; and as you were the first to know of the engagement, so the first card directed an sent, is to yourself; who indeed I must ever look upon as my truest & finest friend.

I have now been here a month, & notwithstanding my peculiar engagements, you cannot know how much I miss you.

All these subjects upon which we would converse upon at Wheatland, are now to me a sealed book, as there is no one here interesting in them, & with the local topics & news, I feel I shall never become familiar.

Miss Rebecca & myself will take our vows of wedlock on Thursday next; at 10 o'clock, with only the nearest relations present. From 11 until 2 we will receive all our friends; at 3 o'clock we leave for Phila, & from thence we go to Washington, where we shall remain until about the 1st of July, & then seek for a month, some quiet watering place, perhaps Bedford or Sharon.

My return has been at a favorable season for such an excursion. & three years at sea prepares me fully to enjoy it. I will not go to the sea shore!---

Three years of constant correspondence has been a test to our attachment, & has made me know my "promise" well. I know I will get a pure & pious wife. We know all about each other- here is no deception, & consequently there can be no future reproach and trust the future will prove that our choice has been wisely, discreetly, reverently – and to me, it is no small source of gratification that my choice meets with your approbation; as it is not only in affairs of state that I value your opinions and sound judgement [sic].

I have been to Wheatland and it is in more perfect order than I have ever before seen it. Miss Hetty was in Washington at the time. I found her sister in charge. I walked over all the grounds & garden & stables; where I found lots of shanghies & a hores [horse] well groomed – the walks are clean, and the brick freshly painted! Your library is just as you left it- I sat in it for some time, & the scene rose up, when I "pitched into your veins" abstracted near a quart of blood, & the extreme prostration which followed it: & in a waking reverie, I expected to see your body, like Hamlets Father, rise through the floor.



I have not yet been to W- and I desire on this occasion to avoid politics. Do not raise your finger against the Presidency, as I will know you will not raise it for it. Parties are in great confusion owing to the "Know nothings" i.e. natives.

The best wishes of your friends will be realized and will "come of itself", but do not write "declining" letters. "Alls well that ends well".

Since my arrival here I have been cordially greeted & welcomed by all classes, ages, sexes and colors; one half of whom I do not remember & to this, in all the county, there was but one exception and that was the whelp, Frazer, and he passes me in the street with his head & tail down; skulking, like a dog caught stealing a piece of meat from a butchers stall. I always feel like kicking him in the gutter, & would do so if I would not be taking advantage of his size!

We have just seen the notice of Miss Harriett Lanes presentation; in the mossrosebuds & lilies of the valley she must have looked quite like "a bride" – but she will say, this is only expressing my one idea for the moment-I can only add, I wish with all my heart; yourself & Miss H- could be present to see our union, to hear our marital vows & pledges & to give us your benediction. I hope I will hear from you – you certainly shall hear from me – With my best respects to you both. I remain truly & as ever Your old fd [friend]

J. M. Foltz

Hon: James Buchanan

American Minister London

