

Oxford Church, Phil<sup>a</sup>  
Sep. 18,m 1872.

My Dear Sir,

Yr [sic] telegram of yesterday, informing me that Judge Black was in town, & desired to see Mr [sic] Henry & myself to-day, arrived at the Parsonage last evening. I did not see it however till late eve in the even<sup>g</sup>, being from home when it arrived.

I have concluded that it is most proper for me not to go to town to meet Judge Black as desired; & that, principally for two reasons. One is, that Mr [sic] Henry is not here hav<sup>g</sup> [sic] left this on Monday morn<sup>g</sup> [sic]; & I did not consider it well to go alone. Indeed, this probably wd [sic] not have been what Judge B [sic] desired. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and principal reason is, that, after mature consideration & uninfluenced, if I know myself, by the wrongs done me in his answer to our Bill, I had come to the conclusion that I could not conscientiously agree to his appointment as my brother' [sic] biographer; & therefore that it wd [sic] be useless to go to meet him.

My chief reason for coming to the latter conclusion – and the conclusion is my own, has been arrived at since Mr [sic] Henry left – is the character of Judge B [sic]'s communication to the New York Herald in Jan<sup>y</sup> [sic] 1870.

This communication I have carefully re-examined, & I cannot persuade myself that the writer of it is the best person, (notwithstanding his admitted great abilities,) to whom to commit the work of writing my brother'[sic] life, including the vindication of his character & course. A vindication of these, from the pen wh [sic] wrote the communication, might be a very questionable one. You will yourself remember how the letter referred to, was at the time, rec<sup>d</sup> [sic] by my brother' friends. You will recollect, that it had the same effect in & on them, wh [sic] Judge Black stated by brother's answers to the S Carolina Commissioners had had on the members of the Cabinet; that it filled them with "consternation & grief." It much have occasioned surprise also, to any of them who had seen my brother's answer; from wh it [sic] wd appear, that any changes wh [sic] took place in his views & proceedings, were occasioned simply by the acts of the secessionists at Charleston; & not by the influence of the "one" person alluded to in the communication.

Regretting very much that I cannot, at least for the present & with my present light, agree to an appointment of who you appear to be disposed to think favorable, & wh, [sic] I readily admit, on some accounts wd [sic] be a desirable one, I remain,

Very Truly,

Yrs, etc,

Edw Y Buchanan

H B Swarr Esq

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