

Oxford Church Parsonage
Feb. 8 '70

My Dear Sir,

I suppose when you saw what kind of weather it was this morning, that you hardly expected to see me in town. It was quite a disappointment to me not to get in, for, in addition to wishing to see you again, I was anxious to be present at the obsequies of so good & great a man as Mr Wharton.

I hope you were able to get the matter of our Mortgage satisfactorily arranged with Mr. McMurtree & the purchaser.

I send herewith acknowledgments of the \$200 rec^d for John Weaver' [sic] use, 7 of the \$19.50 for commissions. I also return Mr. Johnston's letter. As you kindly asked me for suggestions as to what shd be written in reply to the last part of it, I take the liberty of offering some. I think it would be well & proper to write to him, that, as you have the fullest confidence, (as I am glad to believe you have) in my integrity & honesty, & have no idea, that, either I or any of my family are capable, as he supposes we are, of thieving; that it is your decision that the papers now in my possession are to remain in it, for the present, & that, ~~they are~~ in your opinion, they are safe it it. He might also be informed, that should we determine on removing them to the Safety Deposit Co., that even then they would still be ~~more~~ immediately under my custody. He may & should also be reminded, that, if they are here in an ordinary stone (& not as he says, "frame") country house, they are just in the same kind of a house as to situations & fireproof & burgler-proof qualities on wh they have been for years & in wh the great mass of my brother's papers are now at Wheatland. If you think it worth while to allude at all to Judge Black's alledged [sic] opinion as to the pecuniary value of the papers here, I would characterise it as ~~absu~~ simply absurd. At all events, the papers in my possession are scarcely a tithe of the valuable ones still at Wheatland. Mr. Reed having failed to bring away one half, even of those wh had been selected for him. However, as to what ~~has~~ my brother's papers would bring in money, is something wh probably only Mr. J would think of.

I think, if I were you, I would at present pass over entirely the questions put to you in the close of his letter. I wd not even name any persons as persons who, you think, wd be suitable to write my brother's biography. The two I named to you, ~~wd~~ I hardly think, wd suit, & it is scarcely worth while to mention them. At all events, if it were known that I had spoken of them, they wd, for that reason alone, be objected to. The truth is, that notwithstanding Mr J' [sic] talk about "a kind & conciliatory spirit" at the close of his insolent letter, I almost despair that we shall ever be able to unite on any one. We could perhaps if he wd cease to meddle in things wh do not concern him. But this, I suppose, he will never do.

mss1996_064_1870_EYB_to_HB_Swarr



LancasterHistory

In view of his continual intimations of legal proceedings for this & that, it might not be amiss to intimate to him, some time, that, as a matter of prudence, the Executors might feel it to be their duty to withhold a considerable amount of the funds of the Estate from distribution till they see what is coming.

The more I reflect on the subject, the more I feel it to be right & a duty to myself, & the Estate that the papers that are now at Wheatland should be removed to some place where I can have access to them. I propose therefore, the next time I am in Lancaster, that, if you are willing we shall go out with a sufficient force & with enough of vehicles, & have them removed to your house, if there is any corner of it where we can stow them, & where they can be examined at our leisure.

Please use your judgment as to the suggestions of what might be written to Mr J. Only, I should be glad if you ~~would see it proper to make the first~~ could accept & act on the first 2 or 3 suggestions, or those preceding what I say about Judge Black. Nothing however shd be written as coming from me. Otherwise you wd immediately find yourself pestered again with communications for & about me.

In relation to the authorship of the book it might be well to say that you have reason to know that Mr. Shunk wd not be acceptable to some of the heirs, particularly now after Judge Black's most remarkable letter. Mr Shunk however no doubt inferred this whence his absolute withdrawal.

Truly yrs.,
Edw Y. Buchanan

H B Swarr, Esq.

