

Lancaster June 29th 1870

Dear Mrs. Johnston,

Under date of the 16th inst. Mr [sic] Johnston writing on your behalf, made certain references and renewed certain suggestions relative to the Biographical work contemplated by the will of your late uncle Ex Pres. Buchanan.

With my views as to my duty and responsibility in this matter, which have already been fully expressed to you, through Mr [sic]. Johnston, I have nothing to add, except to say that while I sincerely regret that the chosen Biographer selected by the deceased failed to complete the sacred task entrusted to him and that the relatives most interested have thus far failed in their efforts to select a suitable successor. I would ~~add~~ also state that upon consultations here and elsewhere with true and intelligent friends they think that the delay may in the end be no loss.

The views expressed, and in which I fully concur, are, that if no good selection can now be made their [sic] would be no harm done; for the fund provided by your Uncle will increase and in time reach an amount as to stimulate the competition of the best talent of the country for the work, which ought to be a lasting monument to his greatness and goodness, and not an ephemeral production of little merit soon to be used as waster paper.

The larger part of your Uncles [sic] History is already written by himself in his public acts and writings and cannot now be lost. What is wanted is a powerful and logical view of his career by a man of first class mind and talent as a writer and competent to use the facts in justification of his closing public acts. If we have to wait for such a biographer his true friends can afford to wait.

There was also some reference ~~to Mr~~ in one of Mr [sic] Johnstons [sic] ~~late~~ letters to the importance of ~~keeping~~ making the fund to be biographer equal in amount to that provided in the will. Knowing the interest you feel in the work and the willingness of at least two other relatives of the deceased each to duplicate that amount if necessary, there can be no difficulty on that subject.

Mr [sic] Johnston advised me that you desired the purchase of \$4000 Penn^a State loan for your Trust estate if it could be obtained ~~as-a~~ within a limited ~~fr~~ time and at a certain price, ~~This I was~~ which I was unable to purchase within the limits, and have therefore ~~purchased~~ reinvested, as you desired in U. S. Currency Coupon Series and as you ~~desired~~ wished a close investment to be made increased the purchase to \$6000, which I have obtained and \$114, ~~amounting~~ costing with commissions \$6847.50. My reasons for stating in my letter of the 15th inst. that I would make no further payments on



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your absolute interest, nor invest beyond the \$4000, on account of your Trust until after the confirmation of the Auditors [sic] report, was on account of the Foltz bill of \$1000. and the interest claimed thereon legacy duty &etc, and the expressed wish of all the other legatees consulted that they would prefer the retention of a large per centage [sic] of their several shares until the ~~several~~ auditors report in the second account was finally confirmed, but it affords me pleasure to be able to comply with your wished by paying over and investing ~~on your account~~ \$10340. [sic] on account of your interest in the second distribution. The balance of course will be promptly paid and invested after ~~having been~~ it is legally ascertained. I was also influenced to this course by the fact that [was ?] having made our trust investments on the first account before the actual amount had been ascertained, there was \$4000. investing in excess, which had subsequently to be changed.

~~Mr Johnston~~ In one of my letters to Mr [sic] Johnston some mothers ago I informed him that owing to the Foltz claim and other matters it was important that I should have all the estate papers at Wheatland under my immediate control for [?] and requested him to have you indicate at what time it would be agreeable and convenient for you to have them ready of delivery; to which he replied [sic] in substance it would be some time after your arrival at Wheatland when they would be delivered to my order. Will you please inform me upon what day, and at time of day it will suit your convenience to deliver these for removal, as I do not wish to interfere with your household arrangements or give you or Mr. [paragraph from here to the beginning emphasized with a dark wavy line up the left margin]Johnston any unnecessary trouble about in their delivery which must be by apology in asking you to be specific as to time.

Very Respf.

P. S. June 30th 1870

P. S. Dear Mrs [sic] Johnston,

Since closing the forgoing I found on my table a note from Mr [sic] Johnston calling my attention to an attack on ~~the Ex~~ your Uncle by the infamous Col Jacques to which I only have to say in reply he is unworthy of notice and that his statement so far as Ex Pres. Buchanan is concerned are falsehoods from beginning to end in the aggregate and in detail, and so pronounced in the New York World of the 24th inst and the true character of Jacques given in our Intelligencer of the 23rd inst.

I address you because I am in doubt as to whether Mr [sic] Johnson [sic] is in Baltimore or at Wheatland.

Very Respectfully
H. B. Swarr

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