

Lancaster Jany 5th 1870

Dear Mrs. Johnston,

In answer to your favor relative to the books and papers, placed in the hands of Mr Reed under the provisions of Ex President Buchanans will, would beg leave to state that immediately on receipt of the intelligence that Mr Reed was in great pecuniary embarressment and that his personal property would soon be under execution, formal arrangements were made to have them removed to a place of safety. They were so removed, soon after which a personal interview was had with Mr. Reed, in which he was informed that under the circumstances we preferred having the papers under our direct control, to which no objection was made, & adding that he was also willing to surrender the prosecution of the biography, when we informed him, that we should prefer having his declination in writing, which was promptly given, therewith please find copy of same, we have not since heard from him, but from all the information we can obtain of his affairs, are satisfied that if even deemed expedient to have him proceed with the work, he would not have time to devote to it, as he will have to employ all his time to obtain a support for himself and children.

Respectfully yours,
H. B. Swarr

