

Wheatland 18 Jun 1866

My dear niece,

In answer to the kind invitation from Mr. Johnston & yourself to pay you a visit, I regret to say I cannot speak positively. Although my health is good yet I find daily that I can endure less & less fatigue & hot weather is quite oppressive. A visit to a Southern city in summer when I would necessarily be obliged to see & converse with much company would not conduce much to my health or pleasure except that of seeing you. You must recollect that I am now in the 76th year of my age.

I was much shocked & pained at the death of Robert Magraw. I am often afflicted at the death of valued friends much younger than myself. Indeed I have survived several generations.

I have had a good deal of company of different character during the last & present months. Judge Black & Lady, Judge Fisher & Lady and Horatio King left here this morning. The two Judges & their ladies are on their way to Wilkes barre [sic] where the Supreme Court of our State is to be held this week to try a rail road case of great importance. The Judge is as agreeable & full of anecdotes as ever & his lady is [slete?] a beauty. The whole party was well assorted & I derived much pleasure from their visit.

"The young ones" are all very great favorites of Miss Hetty & they get along as smoothly & happily as I could desire. Thomas after having been on the "rampage" for eight days returned here on Wednesday last & has since behaved himself very well. I would not have taken him back but from the fear that if I did not I might lose the services of his wife. From an intonation in your letter I repeat that Miss Hetty throughout this affair has acted as well as possible. Indeed she likes Rosana [sic] very much & the liking is mutual. I should much rather have Rosana alone than have her with her husband.

I have literally no news to communicate., Mrs. Lane has never been to see the young ones, nor has she sent her sons. Henrietta & Lois have visited her, because their father so advised; but I would not permit Jessie to accompany them. Indeed she did not want to go herself. The Nevins are kind & good as usual: and Blanche looks very well after her sickness. James Henry & myself had a full & satisfactory settlement of our affairs whilst he was here. In conversing with him I extracted from him ~~the utter want of~~ how much Mr. Schell could have done for him in a business point of view without injuring himself in the slightest degree; and that he had never done any thing. Still he has been a warm personal friend & James is very much attached to him. James' business in on the increase & he is in good spirits. He would now have been very comfortable but for the Quick Silver speculation.

With my love to Annie & my kindest regards to Mr. Johnston, I remain
very affectionately,
James Buchanan

Mrs. Henry E. Johnston

mss1996_481a_1866_JB_to_HLJ



LancasterHistory