

Lancaster Nov. 23. 1868

Mrs. Henry E. Johnston

Dear Madam

In your letter to Mr. Swarr you appear to be fearful that the weight of Tomb will press heavily upon the earth covering the remains of your uncle. I deem it proper to explain ~~so as~~ that your mind may be relieved. Over the coffin is built a brick arch: the sides and ends of foundation are built up to top of arch, over which long pieces of stone are laid so that no weight is upon the arch, and thus the foundation is carried up to surface of ground. ~~I forward you copy of~~ Enclosed you will find design for Tomb. This design was approved of by Mr. Swarr, after which it was ~~sent~~ forwarded to Rev. Mr. Buchanan who also approved of it. I have contracted with Mr. Swarr, with whom I have had most to do in the matter, for its erection. I beleive it will when finished give entire satisfaction. Its make I consider in accordanc with the wishes of Mr. Buchanan excepting that it is a solid, instead of a panel tomb. I presume Mr. Buchand had in this mind the old fashioned panel tomb. They are never durable or permanent and if this had been explained to him I have no doubt he would have desired the Tomb to be built in solid pieces. I return the draft which Mr. Johnston left with me. It is very ~~good~~ pretty, but considered too much of a departure from the wishes of Mr. Buchanan.

Very respectfully,

Chas. M. Howell

