Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

Documents Online

Title: Letter from Samuel Barlow to George Curtis

Date: October 17, 1881

Location: I-Original-1881-1

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

No 35 William et Hur yrsk Oct 17. 1881 My Gras An Cartis: Than read the Buchanan All with much can I am clearly of Minion pretin of what you have written in the lubidof his lugagement to mits Chanan. The Enchange action with reference to the bulk of the Esternan papers, there conclusively how he desired the Europict to the treated He give apoke of this matter in es far as I have heard except in the most vague way of there he sever gave this Ellemalio name. Su a long cristautial talk in Loudin he eaid to me " I neva literedia to lugage in printes but meant to Irllow my profession etrictly. But my perspects + plans whe all changed by a most had event which Makkeund at Lancachi When I was a yrung drau. I family in that part of the State bretch of desistous of breaking one down. There was no Cause In this bilt I have I must leave my how, or fight my way - as a distraction from any great grief & because I have that the fliends I there sheded, Pacaplia a

noumation. I would mention the fact of this attachment: that it was finally broken by the death of the lady: that to this great grif is to be attributed like change of plane, I his prairied caren: that he was him to this, his first + only love, during life: that he carefully treasured + quarded the crossporteduce with this lady while be lived, of in dying rodered the package to ke burned un pained: + then end as you have already dru that his grif luded with the grave of with was which you have written. aux tuis is all . In this view Mis Barlow agrees fully Such a statement would be creditable to Mr. Buchanan: it- would have moone it-Wirds Clare the lovers quarrel & the Father's minetice hunticia + it- will perm that the Philid with Quitinent & wast of which in purtice, bu exhibited now to bouch for his row references. a condit gentlewou an the first of and training in the manner of any Lady in England + afternoon in the Mile House, they, the first Lady in tu land. bes Fichen Curtis in Kuly Sumuel I.M. Barbon

My Dear Mr Curtis:

I have read the Buchanan Mss with much care & I am clearly of opinion that you should not print any considerable portion of what you have written, on the subject of his engagement to Miss Coleman.

Mr Buchanan's action with reference to the bulk of the Coleman papers, show conclusively how he desired the subject to be treated. He never spoke of this matter, in so far as I have heard, except in the most vague way & then he never gave Miss Coleman's name. In a long confidential talk in London, he said to me "I never intended to engage in politics, but meant to follow my profession strictly. But my prospects & plans were all changed by a most sad event, which happened at Lancaster when I was a young man. I found the most wealthy & influential family in that part of the State, hostile & desirous of breaking me down. There was no cause for this, but I saw I must leave my home, or fight my way - As a distraction from my great grief & because I saw that through a political following I could secure the friends I there needed, I accepted a nomination."

I would mention the fact of this attachment: that it was finally broken by the death of the lady: that to this great grief is to be attributed his change of plans, & his political career: that he was true to this, his first & only love, during life: that he carefully treasured & guarded the correspondence with this lady, while he lived, & in dying ordered the package to be burned, unopened: & then end, as you have already done, that his grief ended with the grave, & with the just & fitting tribute to Miss Lane, that was, which you have written.

And this is all. In this view Mrs Barlow agrees fully - Such a statement

would be creditable to Mr Buchanan: it would harm no one: it would leave the lovers' quarrel & the Father's injustice unnoticed, & it would prove that the President was, after all human & filled with sentiment & heart, of which in public, he exhibited none too much, for his own reputation. How well I remember Miss Lane in London! - A model gentlewoman, the peer in grace, beauty & manner of any Lady in England, & afterwards in the White House, truly, the <u>first</u> Lady in the land.

Yrs truly

Geo: Ticknor Curtis Esq.

Samuel L. M. Barlow