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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to Jessie Magaw

Date: 1862-1866

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Contact:

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3005 Wheatland, near Lancaster 28 November 1862. ely dear defsee , your kind letter has afforded me sincere pleasure. I une rejoiced that Inovidence has afforded you the opportunity of receiving an excellent education. For this you ought to be very charlifue to your Heavenly Jacker & industreously improve your liste. Should you neglect your education now, you coule repent this ale your lefo. * I hust you will be so docale t respectful to your leachers I so kind of gentle to your companions, that ale, as you kap along will vay; - There goes dear lette Sepre. How kappy this would make me!

Had I known your mother was at Meadvelle, I should have prefed her to visit me on her return to washington. I should be delighted to see you; but do sur intend to visit Washington during the approaching winter. Should we both live I hope to see you at Wheatland during your Summer Nacation, I am now in my seventy second year I cannot expect to leve much longa; but should we never much, may the blefring a God rest upon you I make you a were, vertuous of happy woman. Your Cousins, the low Harriels of elles Helly send you then kindert lives yours affectionally Muchaning Suchaning

Wheatland, near Lancaster 28 November 1862.

My dear Jessie,

Your kind letter has afforded me sincere pleasure. I am rejoiced that Providence has afforded you the opportunity of receiving an excellent education. For this you ought to be very thankful to your Heavenly Father & industriously improve your time. Should you neglect your education now, you will repent this all your life.

I trust you will be so docile & respectful to your teachers & so kind & gentle to your companions, that all, as you pass along will say: - "There goes dear little Jessie". How happy this would make me!

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Had I known your mother was at Meadville, I should have pressed her to visit me on her return to Washington.

I should be delighted to see you; but do not intend to visit Washington during the approaching winter. Should we both live I hope to see you at Wheatland during your summer vacation. I am not in my seventy second year & cannot expect to live much longer; but should we never meet, may the blessing of God rest upon you & make you a wise, virtuous & happy woman!

Your cousins – the two Harriets & Miss Helty send you their kindest love.

Yours affectionately, James Buchanan

Miss Jessie Magaw

to her and be careful never to do any they I she does not approve. I am pleased to fuscione you write so good a hand which is a valuable accompleshment, and but you may greatly naprove by reading the English works recommended by your mother. Read them carefully & slowly not as a task : and endeavor to recollect who you read . To skim our books without implanting There contents no your memory is of but letter auvantage. I am rejoiced to learn that your mother and yourself intend to fing me a vous in the spring. I hope then to find you, should we live, an accomplished give with high christian principles for your quidance. There here was a wiser mayon both for thes life & thus which is to come than, "Remember

your Creator in the days of your youth" your Cousen Harriet was married - lo Henry E. Johnston of Ballemore on the 11 January. The left on the day of the wedding and I have not seen her since. I believe she is happing married. The would have sent lands to your father and mother & to your seef; but the not know where to direct them. I now enclose them. You apply for particulars of the wedding to à person lettle skelled in such mallers. Il was comparations prevate. The guests were confined to Mup Lanes & Mr. Tomstons relatives and a few of her oldest & mist intimate fecends. The number present little exceeded forty. They were married at I O'Clock in the day I there was a handsome interloser = ment at two. I think no widding party ever enjoyed themsolves more. The bride & groom left as 5 from for New york and are now in Ballimore.

I believe they intend soon to visit Cuta. Maria paia us a long west staring the last summer & alelann; and made herself so agreeable that we were song to pare from her. The es, I cliente a vez fine gire I often lashed of you affectionately. Myses Annie & Harriet Buckanan have not yet returned home since the wedaing. Both with ellip Hellie desire to be affectionalis remembered to you. I first to mention that the marriage ceremony was performed by their father. My own hereit is good considering my advanced age being now in my 75 year. Please to present my warm & affectionale regards to your morher & remember me very kinds to your father & believe me to be ever your Effectionate unale Mes defre Mazaw - James Buchanan

Wheatland, near Lancaster 9 February 1866

My dear Jessie/

It afforded me great pleasure to receive, on yesterday, your favor of the 2d Inst. I was much attached to your mother whose name you bear and this attachment has descended on yourself. She was gentle & mild & amiable and died the death of a Christian. She had not a very happy lot in this world; but I humbly trust her spirit is now with her father in Heaven. Always cherish her memory. You ought to be thankful to a kind Providence for the excellent mother he has provided to take her place. I hope you may ever be affectionate & dutiful

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to her and be careful never to do any thing she does not approve. I am pleased to percieve you write so good a hand which is a valuable accomplishment, and trust you may greatly improve by reading the English works recommended by your mother. Read them carefully & slowly not as a task: and endeavor to recollect what you read. To skim over books without implanting their contents in your memory is of but little advantage. I am rejoiced to learn that your mother and yourself intend to pay me a visit in the Spring. I hope then to find you, should we live, an accomplished girl with high Christian principles for your guidance. There never was a wiser maxim, both for this life & that which is to come than, "Remember

[Page Break]

your creator in the days of your youth."

Your Cousin Harriet was married to Henry E. Johnston of Baltimore on the 11 January. She left on the day of the wedding and I have not seen her since. I believe she is happily married. She would have sent cards to your father and mother & to yourself; but did not know where to direct them. I now enclose them.

You apply for particulars of the wedding to a person little skilled in such matters. It was comparatively private. The guests were confined to Miss Lane's & Mr. Johnston's relatives and a few of her oldest & most intimate friends. The number present little exceeded forty. They were married at 1 O'clock in the day & there was a handsome entertainment at two. I think no wedding party ever enjoyed themselves more. The bride & groom left at 5 from for New York and are now in Baltimore.

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I believe they intend soon to visit Cuba.

Maria paid us a long visit during the last summer & autumn; and made herself so agreeable that we were sorry to part from her. She is, I think a very fine girl & often talked of you affectionately.

Misses Annie & Harriet Buchanan have not yet returned home since the wedding. Both with Miss Hettie desire to be affectionately remembered to you. I forgot to mention that the marriage ceremony was performed by their father.

My own health is good considering my advanced age being now in my 75th year.

Please to present my warm & affectionate regards to your mother & remember me kindley to your father & believe me to be ever your

affectionate uncle James Buchanan

Miss Jessie Magaw