My dear father.

A happy New Year to you & Martin! Is there any truth in the statement that we may expect you here? Mrs Duer (with whom I spent a day some time ago at Monistown) & the Lodge both expressed a great desire to have you pass a few days with them. Between them Hambleton, & Hunter you might pass the cold weather very comfortably, if you are still set against New York - think of it. I visited Washington last month & remained some ten days. I was at the President's House the evening of Mrs Polk's reception. ~~Thinking~~ as Mrs P. had complained to Bradford Wood's wife last year of my not calling, & I did not know when I might have another chance. She was very gracious - and Polk told me as I was coming away that he was glad to see me!

Ever Your Bu[illegible]

Van Buren, J[ohn] to MVB

Pennsylvania State University
Alexander Duer Harvey Collection

January 2, 1849

5 pages (total 6)

Buchanan asked me to dinner but I told him I was engaged to dine with Blair as I was, which rather put me out of his books. Walker I saw a good deal of - he is going to remain at Washington & practise in the Sup. Court. Ritchie looks old - he passes me without speaking, & I presume really does not know me as I am grown so large.

I got a pretty good argument into the Court in my case sideways - the argument was decided to be closed but as Webster in arguing the Mostly case talked all the while about mine, I claimed a right to make some statements & suggestions in reply & in this way altho' pltff. in Error got the last word - I am in momentary expectation of hearing the result by telegraph, & presume the Court are deciding it while I write - Taney, Woodbury, Nelson & Daniel are with us - all the others but Mr. Kinley rather against us, & he when I left about 2/3 day with us, & the balance in doubt.

Van Buren, J[ohn] to MVB

January 2, 1849

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It is an amazing weak Court. I trust to my good luck to win, but it is doubtful - a decision against us would be a more serious inroad on State rights than Marshall ever made and yet with a Court & Dems. to 1 Fed. the result is doubtful - so does old Federalism break out in Wayne, McKinley &c. years after they were 'discharged cured'!!

Webster asked me to dinner & put me on his right, in a company of two. Rev. Johnson, Clarke of R. Is. Coxe, Pres. Hall. &c. At dinner he told me an amusing story of the manner in which Calhoun used to walk him around the Capitol. & say "We must unite, Sir! combine - our course lies together! there are two points of danger which we must combat & prostrate - Albany! Sir! Albany & Richmond!" Now Wh. C." Edmund Davis also dined me with his mess. Badger, Miller N.J. &c. I spent a day & night with Blair - his wife & daughter were a little complaining as was he.

Van Buren, J[ohn] to MVB
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he is the happiest man at the overthrow of the rotten, as he says I ever saw. The tone of the administration is very subdued. tho' their malignity, of course, seven times heated. Nannagan's fate causes Bright, Bruce, Douglass, Vickinson &c. to tremble. It is like a sudden stroke of death in a wound, & warns them "Be ye also ready"!

Coming home I passed a night at Batt. & Newman gave me a grand supper. Last Sunday week I came from Washn. & passed the day & night delightfully at Dr. W. Anlays about 3 miles from Batt. he is very anxious you should visit him & has a superb place. I mention these dinners &c, as they illustrate the state of feeling as well as anything. In Batt. I met many fur. soldiers. Tancy was very friendly. I called

Van Buren, J[ohn] to MVB

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in his family, all of whom asked for you. I am satisfied Slavery received its death blow in the last campaign - tho' it may linger for years in some of the Southern States.

Yr hasty Tly yrs

J. Van Buren

New York Jan. 2nd 1849

P. S. Benton is well disposed & will doubtless take strong ground on the Proviso - it is curious how all our friends Cambreling yourself, myself & others without concert, turn to him - but he is not the man he was & never had tact, or judgment - he begged me to say to you that the Buffalo Convn. was the greatest stumbling block he ever met. Blair showed him your letter, & I showed him some articles of Cambrelings & talked freely with him - he is reserved & cautious - don't write him.

Van Buren, J[ohn] to MVB

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Jan 2 1849

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Van Buren, J[ohn] to MVB

January 2, 1849

5 pages (total 6)

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Silver Spring Jan 6. 1849

My Dear Sir

This cold weather has frozen me up at home and but for a flying visit of my wife & myself to hear McCready read Hamlet, I should not have looked upon a city face this frost. I was surrounded at the reading by Judge & Mrs Lewis Corwin and others of the guardian Selection School. The Judge was very sorry & thought you were very badly treated in the late election and surprized when I told him you had done very well — carried your point — vindicated your state — made your principle triumphant over all opponents who were obliged to figure a homage to them while prostrating themselves before other interests — I asked Corwin whether he was not a freesoiler? "O yes he said — he voted for Taylor, he told the people to get Fillmore's casting vote in the Senate that being the main point as Taylor would vote nothing — But your free soil candidate (said he) has put us unglutely out of joint in Ohio — In the Western Reserve

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 6, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages

I find Clay gives great trouble to his old friends — they expect him back in the senate — In that case said I to Corwin you will all be in ward under his guardianship — He turned up his eyes with a very imploring look as much as to say "lord deliver us" — Corwin would have made a capital actor — He turned instantly from me and in a very serious way told Judge McLean that he was the only man who could save them — that he was the only man they could carry as senator in the Ohio legislature as the freesoilers held the balance & that he was bound to serve his country in such a threatening exigency, however he might prefer his pleasant place of repose — McLean shrugged his shoulders as if he felt Clays task on his back —

Morehead of Kentucky who is on Cal homes Sub-Committee of the Multiplying Canons proposed a conversation with me as a Kentuckian to know what I would advise him to do — I laughed him off telling him I could not be an accessory in such a case — that Benton said it was already treason

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 6, 1849

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in going his rounds, he found his influence, which was greatest there at one time, utterly lost — why, ~~that had a~~ would you believe it, they had a great meeting & appointed a Deputation of Sachems to remonstrate with me, who concluded their council, by advising me very solemnly to go home & not make a fool of myself" Well, said I, but Corwin how do you mean to satisfy these people? "We must maintain freedom in California, he replied — as for New Mexico, you know they hemmerly insisted it was a part of Texas & made the war to establish that claim so we must give it up." And this I take it is one of the schemes to get the General out of his hotel —

I have not seen Benton for almost a week — Frank writes me from St Louis, that his legislature will instruct him against the Wilmot proviso — in which case Frank insists he ought to resign or vote according to the instructions he has received from California & make an appeal to the people of Missouri against the decision of their representatives.

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 6, 1849

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"Treason mimes Sir, the overt act" I saw him talking very
lazily with Burton & doubtless on the same subject
I infer that Calhoun will have trouble with
committee men — Morehead is very ambitious
would if his courage hold like to break a
lance with those Southern gentlemen. Ethan
Bayly & King of Alabama will I
prehend go with Calhoun — The first Calhoun
the latter is playing for a return to the Senate
& hence I suppose Calhoun had been appointed
for it is pulling an old opponent
hands tied with a rope —

You see how merger any politics
have become — I hide to make you a
letter of very bald chat — If I lived more
in the atmosphere of the city I could be more of a
weather — watch in politics — [illegible] you get
more signs in the newspapers than I although
a near neighbor to Congress —

The [illegible] opens on my farm
prospects finely — my wheat is so buried in
snow that I look forward to a great crop — all
my farm will be down in grass next year
so that I know not what I shall do for a corn
the best of all crops — [illegible] all will [illegible]
love to Martin & to you. Yours [illegible] F. P. Blair

Mr Blair

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB — January 6, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers — 4 pages

White house Jan. 7th 1849

My dear Sir

We have been at home nearly two months; but I found the plantation affairs so much in arrears that they have occupied all my time. With a heavy crop of grain in the barn yard my threshing mill had been suffered to get out of order and I have only lately been able to send the rice to a falling market. I have had the curiosity to thresh out each field separately and so far have found the inferior land yielding 45 bushels to the acre and the best ~~[illegible]~~ 55 bushels which is certainly a great yield of grain. It is probable that the whole will average 50 bushels round. While my poor upland has with manure and great care given only 27 bushels of corn. I wished to try the poudrette as you advised and bought seven barrels from Mr Dey; but although he promised fairly and I paid him, the manure has not yet come to hand, and is not yet shipped.

13128 I brought with me a quantity of bone dust

Poinsett, J[oel] R[oberts] to MVB January 8, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages

which I have already tried with great success upon winter grain. It is the cheapest & best manure I have used and I advise you to try it. The cost is a cent a pound, mine was bought from the Union Chemical Company H.N. Fryatt Pt.

I say nothing about the election for I believe it terminated as you foresaw & desired. I am sincerely glad that Cass was defeated. What sort of a President Taylor will make good knows. He will probably be a tool in the hands of the Whigs especially if Mr. Clay returns to the Senate; and I have no doubt many of the ultra Whigs desire this, that he may sway the Councils of one General as he did those of the other.

What do you think now of the chances of the duration of the republic in France? I fear a President Napoleon will be as uneasy near the throne as was the first Consul and adopt the same means to mount one. Indeed he has only to let matters take their natural course and they will float him into that station. There are very very few real republicans in France; for the real Republicans are butchers & disorganisers; and except in Paris there is no desire to see such a form of Government established; it is inconsistent with the

Poinsett, J[oel] R[oberts] to MVB January 8, 1849

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national character, which is not much improved since the time of the Grand Monarque. The French cherish the memory of the Emperor because he ministered to their ruling passion, the love of glory, and they never can have sober thoughts first or last. "Nous verrons as Ritchie says."

We left New York on the evening of the 11th Nov. and were at home here on the morning of the 18th after passing three days in Charleston. So you see we are improving in our communications. We have two good Steamers plying between Georgetown & Charleston and the packets between the latter & New York come & go with the utmost regularity in about 60 hours.

Julius Pringle had Mr. & Mrs. Maitland with him - his wife's sister; but they go home tomorrow - The heat has been too great for them and they have determined to take advantage of this cool spell of weather to seek a more bracing climate. When it is so warm it always reminds us of your visit and makes us wish you could see how much the old place is improved. The house has expanded its wings and the shrubs have grown into trees. By the way they all mistook

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Poinsett, J[oel] R[oberts] to MVB January 8, 1849

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the warm weather in December for the first burst of Spring and began accordingly to bud & blossom and are only now finding out their mistake. It will make the real spring very backward.

What do you think of the California mania. It is fortunate for me that postage is low or I should be ruined by letters from adventurers. Because I have been in Mexico it is supposed I must know all about California and I am tormented for information about the gold region. No country was ever much benefited by possessing mines of the precious metals. Coal & iron are far better than gold & silver. I question whether the possession of San Francisco will counterbalance this evil acquisition.

Mrs Poinsett still limps about. She thinks herself no better, but it appears to me she has been benefited by her northern summer. She joins me in kind & affectionate regards to you and yours who are beneath your roof and

I remain my dear Sir
very faithfully & truly
Yours
J. R. Poinsett

Hon'ble Martin VanBuren
Lindenwald N.Y.

Poinsett, J[oel] R[oberts] to MVB January 8, 1849
Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages

George Town D.C 10th Jany 1849

Hond Martin Van Buren

My Dear Sir

It has now been nearly two years since I was at your house and you subscribed one Hundred dollars towards the Jackson monument and you requested me to not call on you for the money untill it was wanting and I only do so now because it is to my intrest to collect if I can five hundred dollars to put up the foundation and lay the Corner Stone at an early day for the reason that I am laying out of my percentage untill that is done I have a large subscription in your state who have written at the end of their name down on me at sight when the corner stone is laied. The committee have just got money enough to pay the artist who has the Horse now done, and they have pligid all the money in hand for Materials and his labour in making the Statue and the money is now wanting for the pedestal which will cost 16 thousand dollars. I obligated myself to the committee to raise the necessary money to to lay the corner Stone & put up the foundation as high as the surface which will enable me to collect my subscriptions in your State. the cost of which will be about Seven Hundred dollars I made it relying on you and a few others in your state I am now trying to make up as much here as I can I have raised since the first of this month 180$ of it. Those that have seen the horse now do not hesitate as they did when I solicated them before

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Shekell, Richard R. to MVB — January 10, 1849

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[Enclosure: RRS receipt to MVB, January 10, 1849]

for the reason now they have confidence that it will be done

When my friend John van Buren was in washington I invited him and your Attorney General Mr Gordon and a Mr Stivers to go with me to see the progress of it they went and were all gratified and well pleased Mr Gordon said when I came to Albany to call on him and he would subscribe but was not prepared to do so here You will ~~[illegible]~~ enclose to me the money if convenient for its faithfull application you may rest assured of I will enclose to you a receipt such a one as the Committee have drafted for me to give to any one who subscribes: It does me a great deal of good to see how the present administration fear you sir and to contrast your calm resignation to the late contest and the fear that is lurking in the countinancy of the powers that be in Washington. They had made arrangements to turn out of office every man who even was suspicioned of being either for Free Soil or for van Buren if Cass had been elected but now they dare not do it for fear of loosing some of their friends at the Hands of the incoming administration.

The late glorious results of 300 thousand votes upon a new party of only 90 days growth only shows what may be expected in four years time we will not give up our organization in this district and will start forward in a week or ten days and address to the people of the United States written by our old friends John A. Dix & F. P. Blair Mr Blair does not wish to be known in the matter at present. but of this I

Shekell, Richard R. to MVB — January 10, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers — 3 pages (total 5)
[Enclosure: RRS receipt to MVB, January 10, 1849]

ned not speak to you as you are aware of his position the southren Caucaus at the Capitol are plotting a dissolution of the Union. but they will have a glorious failure in that is my candid opinion I hope the whole north will stand by us in opposing secession or else we will go in at once for the removal of the seat of government. There can be no doubt now that there ever will be a nother Slave stated added to this union. as the peoples minds are made up upon that score. I have made this letter longer than I entended but must congratulate you before I close upon the noble stand you have taken there is not another man in the Union that could of got the vote you did upon that question alone. I hope you will pardon me for ~~this~~ trespasing upon your valuable time for I assure you this comes from one of your truest friends. though an humble Mechanic. hoping you may enjoy a a long and happy life is the sincere wish of

Your most Obt Servt.

Richard. R. Shekell

Shekell, Richard R. to MVB — January 10, 1849

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[Enclosure: RRS receipt to MVB, January 10, 1849]

Shekell, Richard R. to MVB January 10, 1849

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[Enclosure: RRS receipt to MVB, January 10, 1849]

Recvd of Martin Van Buren the sum of one
Hundred dollars. for the use of the Jackson Monument
committee. to whom I acknowledge myself accoun
= table therefor George Town D.C. 10 Janry 1849

Richard. R. Shekell
Collector Jackson Mon Comm

1892.

Shekell, Richard R. to MVB January 10, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 3 pages (total 5)
[Enclosure: RRS receipt to MVB, January 10, 1849]

Akron Ohio. Jan. 13. 1849

Hon Martin Van Buren.

Sir.

I have the honor herewith to transmit the copy of a resolution adopted by the Free Democracy of Ohio at their State Convention held at Columbus on the 28th ult. And in communicating this resolution ~~as~~ organ of the Convention I beg to avail myself of the occasion to express my own cordial approval of the sentiments embraced in it.

The association of your distinguished name with the great cause we have struggled to uphold, has contributed, in the estimation of the Free Democracy of this State, largely to the success which has thus far attended it; and as a friend of this cause I cannot forego an expression of my sense of profound obligation to you for consenting, at a sacrifice of so many personal considerations to become the candidate of this new organization for the presidency. I feel persuaded you could have been induced to make such sacrifice from no other cause, than a disposition to the best interests of the American people.

I am with Great Respect
Your Obt. Humble Sert.
Dan. R. Tilden

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Tilden, Dan[iel] R[ose] to MVB January 13, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 1 page (total 2)
[Enclosure: Resolution adopted by the Free Democracy of Ohio at State Convention, December 28, 1848; in hand of DRT]

"Resolved. That the thanks of the Democracy of the Union, and the friends of freedom everywhere, are pre-eminently due to Martin Van Buren of New York, who almost alone, among the Elder Statesmen of the country, fully identified himself in the political struggle of 1848 with the consistent opponents of slavery extension, and bore this standard with calm courage, and unshrinking consistency until the conflict closed in a nominal defeat, but in real victory."

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Tilden, Dan[iel] R[ose] to MVB January 13, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 1 page (total 2)
[Enclosure: Resolution adopted by the Free Democracy of Ohio at State Convention, December 28, 1848; in hand of DRT]

Silver Spring Jan 17 1849

My Dear Sir:

As I made my weekly visit to the City to day I will give you the Journal of it that you may at least know as much of the Metropolis as a Maryland farmer.

In the House the discourse was about our Calhoun's new crisis. His paper was in the hands of Lumpkin of Georgia who was reading it on the Sent outside the Hall by himself. Houston of Alta Mayself approached him and opening the conversation about the difficulties of the South. Houston was extremely molested by the attitude of the Democracy on that quarter. Calhoun was now able to force himself upon them as a Leader. He proposed himself & there was no getting rid of him. If Benton pass Bonin Calhoun & Clay who kept the affairs of the Country on a See Saw were called to their long home where they would be quiet, the party would have no difficulty nor the Country. With this remark Lump Pin chimed in & rolling up his paper, said they must do something with it, but what he did not

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 17, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages (total 5)
[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

[illegible] — It would have a powerful effect on the people & might go out in lieu of a speech. He & Houston concurred on the opinion that it must be published & circulated with what backing it could get which would help the Author who was too much insulated to have much influence without help. I gathered from this colloquy that Cathcart's Concussed production had reinvested, as the progeny of the Southern Representation and now it was to be considered how to get rid of it without shame — I observed to them that the Free Soilers seemed to cast them some travail, and was sorry that they had not listened to the true Democracy of New York which had opposed their Butler (a southern name) & that in their refusing him you had very nearly elected Cass for them (without intending it however) & that as things were they must be content with your giving them Polk!! That for my part I thought that was sufficient to square your account of obligations with them. Well said Houston you have played the dance well in — Cathcart is to be the leader of our Democracy & we have nothing to expect in this quarter. I left their administration Walters — and in enquiry from Allen with whom I walked from the

[illegible]

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 17, 1849

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[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

capitol I had this account of the fate of Calhoun's bombing which had been so well nursed by the Committee of five for the sectional caucus. He said to use a western phrase it was a complete fizzle — that the Southern whigs after stating their objections to the whole project withdrew in a body — that two friends of the Southern Democrats took exception to the proceeding and that by way of getting rid of it altogether ~~[illegible]~~ had it that is, had delivered it back into Calhoun's hands; and the result is it goes the rounds of the House of Representatives to beg backers & publishers, as you have seen a speech subscribed for, only of courtesy to the Orator! He sends Modification no 2. the scrap I enclose is the best face Calhoun's folks can put on. The result will be to increase somewhat Calhoun's tail in the South & just in that proportion diminish that of other Southern aspirants & northern Dough faces, who make a traffic of their ~~[illegible]~~ position —

Allow titles me that in all likelihood there will be no election of Senator in Ohio by the existing legislature — His friends who were com=mened so far make it a point that they shall take him or nobody —

The Gossip goes that Clay is on his way to Washington — I suppose the Cholera at New Orleans has turned his route

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Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 17, 1849

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[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 17, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages (total 5)
[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1849.

The meeting of Southern members of Congress, held last evening in the Senate chamber, was attended by some eighty or ninety members. The meeting refused to admit the press, by a vote of about 54 to 27. The address, prepared by Mr. Calhoun, was read, and was substantially as has been heretofore stated.

The debate, on various motions, was continued until after 12 o'clock, in which Messrs. Clayton, Berrien, Toombs, Jefferson Davis, McLane, Stephens, Rusk, Thompson, of Miss., Houston and others participated.

It will be most unfortunate for the south that this meeting was ever held if unanimity should not be finally effected. That of last night was not as harmonious as was expected. In truth, there were some from northern slave States, whose feelings might with propriety have kept them from the meeting. They feel not the same identity of interest as those from more southern State.

On the introduction of the report, a motion was made by Mr. Clayton to lay it on the table and take no further action. It was made to test the feeling of the meeting—the vote stood for it about 53, against it about 30. Those in favor of laying on the table were nearly all whigs.

The powerful objection to the report was made by Mr. Toombs, of Georgia. He thought congressional legislation was necessary to authorize slavery in the new territories. The doctrine of the report was that Congress could neither extend nor restrict slavery.

Mr. Toombs proposed no amendment, and it was evident that he was opposed to any action by the meeting. He made no reply to a question propounded by Mr. Thompson, in reference to the action he would take if Congress refused to pass the necessary laws, or should enact the proviso.

In reply to Mr. Toomb's objection, Mr. Calhoun went into a short argument, to show that the South could take their slaves into California and New Mexico, and that Congress was bound, by the usual acts of legislation, to protect this property and to put it on the same footing with other property. It required no law of Congress to authorize slavery there.

Mr. Calhoun was calm and dispassionate, and in his earnest appeals to the South for unanimity, he is represented as using language replete with eloquence and pathos.

The course taken by the Texas delegation, was unexpected. Mr. Rusk read some resolutions, as a substitute for the report, but they contained nothing decisive. Gen. Houston seems lukewarm in the cause, and Mr. Stephens is unquestionably opposed to any action.

Members from the South, supposed to be ambitious of Northern popularity and future promotion, may be regarded as averse to taking any action. There is one exception. Mr. Calhoun, always ambitious, has ever been true to his own people.

Mr. Berrien, of Georgia, made some eloquent remarks, and exorted the South to be united. He suggested that the address should be made to the whole Union.

He has been placed on the committee in place of Mr. Stephens, who begged to be excused from serving.

Mr. Stephens was one of the eight Southern members who was opposed to Mr. Clayton's compromise of last session, as yielding too much. Having defeated the chances of a favorable decision by the Supreme Court, some seem to think it incumbent on him to insist on a better remedy.

The report was recommitted to the same committee, with all the amendments and resolutions suggested in the meeting, and the meeting finally adjourned to Monday next. A motion, made by Mr. Stephens to adjourn *sine die*, having been voted down by a very decided majority.

H.

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB — January 17, 1849

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[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

V[an] B[uren], J[ohn] to MVB

January 18, 1849

Pennsylvania State University
Alexander Duer Harvey Collection

4 pages

yours is intolerable - that neither of us ~~are~~ is disposed to raise any captious objections to the latter if you have any property that you desire to convey to us! Miss Johnson who opened Vanderpool that she would marry no man in the world (& he believed her) is engaged to Mr. John Bard who is remarkable for nothing except that he is quite a man - I passed the evening there might before last with the happy couple - he is a son of Mr. William Bard - Vanderpool did not pursue the matter as well in my absence as when I was present - It is said Mr. & Mrs. J. are opposed - I sat an hour in the old mans room with himself & Wife, leaving the young people below: as neither of them spoke of the engagement I did not. but it is publicly announced, & Miss J. told me of it -

Your views of matrimony are remarkably sound, like your views generally: tho' I should be very much surprized if I ever married again - Thomson's suit was a great feather

V[an] B[uren], J[ohn] to MVB January 18, 1849

Pennsylvania State University 4 pages
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in my cap. It is I believe the largest verdict ever rendered in a libel suit in the N. S. Gerard summed it up badly. I opened it. Oakley gave us a splendid charge which carried the verdict. but Bennett's paper gave me all the credit. & the public with their usual justice on the start follow suit. I have just now an important case for Isaac Pruyn. Catskill, & on the whole my position here socially & professionally is everything I could wish, with the single exception that I cannot have my child with me. There is a great controversy going between N. Y. & Brooklyn about the ferry. The Mayor recommends additional counsel & the matter has been refined to the finance committees of the two boards each composed of 2 Whigs & 1 hawkhouser = 6. Wettis Hall recommended their employing me. One of the Whigs named Webster. Some discussion was had & as I am told a decided majority were for me! * Is not this complimentary from the enemy? They have not yet however retained me and I

* Name I written you this before? Good say I blow my own horn well; but I try not to blow the same note twice. If I wine the Washington case

V[an] B[uren], J[ohn] to MVB January 18, 1849

Pennsylvania State University 4 pages
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P.S. Coldren's case was tried at Kinderhook & the jury disagreed. He will be tried again in Columbia Co. in March. Expenses paid by Van Buren.

suppose the Hunkers and Whigs will strive for this fat office of the Canal Corporation. They have the Governor now in their power - I have been employed on both sides - by Frank Sissin. was by Pres. Hall Sharp & Blatchford - was by Sherman & Mather. was by Blunt - was by Melville - was by E. Sanford - was by Scott, Wood - was by Hosts & Davies &c &c was by Hale Whigs or Hunkers / under Kirkpatrick & Sherman / I shall get considerable business from Cutting - They all know to discard any tendency to be of trouble kind -

When I was at Kinderhook, Van Buren told me the anti-renters intended to make up a long list to complain me in the Spectator with hit by Sudam. This was one of the undertakings on which I defended the Pinkneys - I see Conrad has been employed by the Governor, & this makes it more proper that the private Counsel should be a Democrat - I write to Van Buren to say about it - Please ask Dr. Beekman to speak to him about it when he goes to Kinderhook - I hope Saty. Evening & part of Monday at Lindenwald.

V[an] B[uren], J[ohn] to MVB — January 18, 1849

Pennsylvania State University
Alexander Duer Harvey Collection — 4 pages

Mss
fA 939p
RFM

My dear Miss Silvester,

Upon a re-survey of my old Malvern I find myself much wiser than I suppose. I therefore venture to send your good mother a bottle, notwithstanding her positive interdict. The sediment has been carefully drawn off by Mouton.

Silvester, [Margaret] from MVB January 23, 1849

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MVB

Silvester, [Margaret] from MVB January 23, 1849

From the collections of The Cincinnati Historical Society
Cincinnati, Ohio 3 pages (total 2)

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB

January 27, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers

4 pages

I think it fortunate too that our old Catalina should be continued at the head of this new conspiracy. Borrion is odious enough, but is not so identified with attempts against the Union, as to blast the new building treason by his name —

My son Montgomery, writes me from St. Louis that there are great contrivings going on against Benton in Missouri. Jackson who was the rival of Atchison for the Senate, gave way to the latter with an understanding that he was to be helped in turn to put down Benton at the next election — Atchison is one of the officers of California's Cameras Lall the softs will go with them in this plot against Benton — Bowlen is aware of these designs & will go through the State on horseback next summer to visit the Sachems Montgomery thinks of B stands up for the rights of California & the Union that he will be able to maintain himself against all his enemies, whigs as well as softs —

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 27, 1849

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Dear Sir

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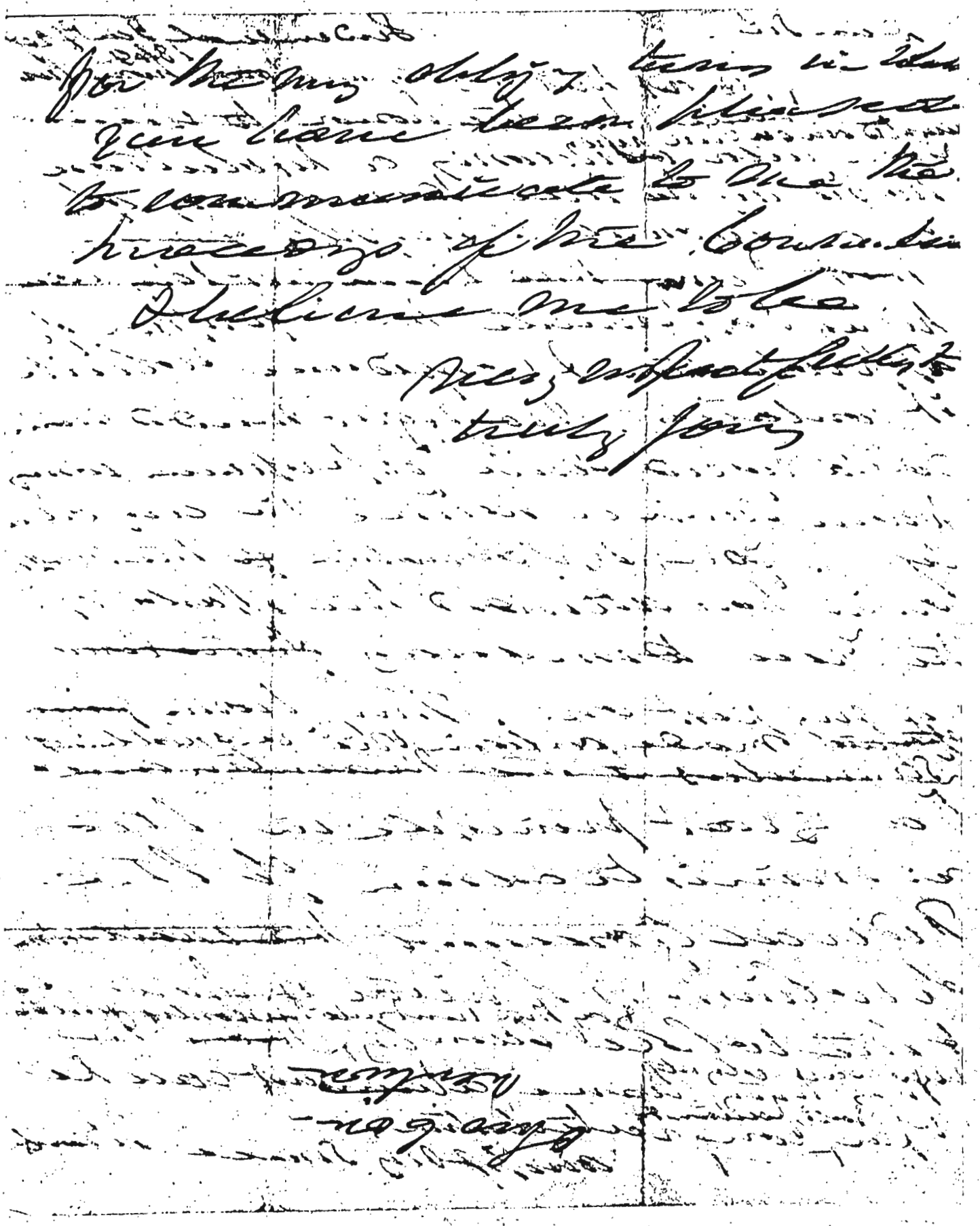
[Tilden, Daniel Rose] from MVB

Library of Congress, MVB Papers

January 29, 1849

2 pages



[Tilden, Daniel Rose] from MVB

Library of Congress, MVB Papers

January 29, 1849

2 pages

Silver Spring Jan 17 1849

My Dear Sir:

As I made my weekly visit to the City to day I will give you the Journal of it that you may at least know as much of the Metropolis as a Maryland farmer.

In the House the discourse was about our Calhoun's new crisis. His paper was in the hands of Lumpkin of Georgia who was reading it on the Seat outside the Hall by himself — Houston of Alta Mayself approached him and opening the conversation about the difficulties of the South — Houston was extremely molested by the attitude of the Democracy on that quarter — Calhoun was now able to force himself upon them as a Leader. He proposed himself & there was no getting rid of him — If Benton pass Bonus Calhoun & Clay who kept the affairs of the Country on a See Saw were called to their long home where they would be quiet, the party would have no difficulty for the Country — with this remark Lump Pin chined in & rolling up his paper, said they must do something with it, but what he did not

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 17, 1849

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[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

now — It would have a powerful effect on the people & might go out in lieu of a speech — He & Houston concurred on the opinion that it must be published & circulated with what backing it could get which would help the Author who was too much insulated to have much influence without help. I gathered from this colloquy that Calhoun's Concussed production had misaccused as the progeny of the Southern Representation and now it was to be considered how to get rid of it without shame — I observed to them that the Free Soilers seemed to cast them some travail, and was sorry that they had not listened to the true Democracy of New York which had opposed them Butler (a southern man) & that on their refusing him you had very nearly elected Cass for them (without intending it however) — But as things were they must be content with your giving them Polk!! That for my part I thought that was sufficient to square your account of obligations with them — Well said Houston you have played the dance well in — Calhoun is to be the leader of our Democracy & we have nothing to expect in this quarter. I left their administration Walters — and in enquiry from Allen with whom I walked from the

[illegible]

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 17, 1849

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[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

capital I had this account of the fate of Calhoun's bombing which had been so well nursed by the Committee of five for the sectional caucus — He said to use a western phrase it was a complete fizzle — that the Southern Whigs after stating their objections to the whole project withdrew in a body — that two friends of the Southern Democrats took exception to the proceeding and that by way of getting rid of it altogether ~~[illegible]~~ had it that is, had delivered it back into Calhoun's hands; and the result is it goes the rounds of the House of Representatives to feed backers & publishers, as you have seen a speech subscribed for, out of courtesy to the Orator! He sends the Ratification no 2. the scrap I enclose is the best face Calhoun's folks can put on. The result will be to increase somewhat Calhoun's tail in the South & just in that proportion diminish that of other Southern aspirants & northern Dough faces who make a traffic of their ~~[illegible]~~ position —

Allow this one that in all likelihood there will be no election of Senator in Ohio by the existing Legislature — His friends who were com=mitted so far make it a point that they shall take him or nobody —

The Gossip goes that Clay is on his way to Washington — I suppose the Cholera at New Orleans has turned his route

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Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 17, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages (total 5)
[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

We had read your letter three times [illegible] you sent it. [illegible] came across it, in one of her [illegible] readings & pronounced it the best you ever wrote and thus it seemed you were still on the rise in point of [illegible]. Then Betty [illegible] as few days [illegible] had [illegible] reading [illegible] & lastly I [illegible] in a voice from the [illegible] it in pursuit, and it is now on its way from [illegible] Spring to St Louis — So you see that your [illegible] still a prophet with some of your old [illegible] you improved the idea of the [illegible] by claiming exemption from paid duties as [illegible] countrymen. All those who acquit themselves well in a [illegible] hard service are not apt to be retained at the usual [illegible] of difficult duty —

I have never seen Congress so late [illegible] so [illegible] it really is a sign of the decline of the body [illegible] public men to witness such [illegible] Debates [illegible]. This is literally [illegible] the day of small things" though we have had [illegible] great doings — and the [illegible] I don't know this [illegible] may be [illegible] to raise the mental standard during the [illegible]. I wish you would remember me to [illegible] of [illegible] Sincerely yours F. P. Blair

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB January 17, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages (total 5)
[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1849.

The meeting of Southern members of Congress, held last evening in the Senate chamber, was attended by some eighty or ninety members. The meeting refused to admit the press, by a vote of about 64 to 37. The address, prepared by Mr. Calhoun, was read, and was substantially as has been heretofore stated.

The debate, on various motions, was continued until after 12 o'clock, in which Messrs. Clayton, Berrien, Toombs, Jefferson Davis, McLane, Stephens, Rusk, Thompson, of Miss., Houston and others participated.

It will be most unfortunate for the south that this meeting was ever held if unanimity should not be finally effected. That of last night was not as harmonious as was expected. In truth, there were some from northern slave States, whose feelings might with propriety have kept them from the meeting. They feel not the same identity of interest as those from more southern State.

On the introduction of the report, a motion was made by Mr. Clayton to lay it on the table and take no further action. It was made to test the feeling of the meeting—the vote stood for it about 53, against it about 30. Those in favor of laying on the table were nearly all whigs.

The powerful objection to the report was made by Mr. Toombs, of Georgia. He thought congressional legislation was necessary to authorize slavery in the new territories. The doctrine of the report was that Congress could neither extend nor restrict slavery.

Mr. Toombs proposed no amendment, and it was evident that he was opposed to any action by the meeting. He made no reply to a question propounded by Mr. Thompson, in reference to the action he would take if Congress refused to pass the necessary laws, or should enact the proviso.

In reply to Mr. Toomb's objection, Mr. Calhoun went into a short argument, to show that the South could take their slaves into California and New Mexico, and that Congress was bound, by the usual acts of legislation, to protect this property and to put it on the same footing with other property. It required no law of Congress to authorize slavery there.

Mr. Calhoun was calm and dispassionate, and in his earnest appeals to the South for unanimity, he is represented as using language replete with eloquence and pathos.

The course taken by the Texas delegation, was unexpected. Mr. Rusk read some resolutions, as a substitute for the report, but they contained nothing decisive. Gen. Houston seems lukewarm in the cause, and Mr. Stephens is unquestionably opposed to any action.

Members from the South, supposed to be ambitious of Northern popularity and future promotion, may be regarded as averse to taking any action. There is one exception. Mr. Calhoun, always ambitious, has ever been true to his own people.

Mr. Berrien, of Georgia, made some eloquent remarks, and exorted the South to be united. He suggested that the address should be made to the whole Union.

He has been placed on the committee in place of Mr. Stephens, who begged to be excused from serving.

Mr. Stephens was one of the eight Southern members who was opposed to Mr. Clayton's compromise of last session, as yielding too much. Having defeated the chances of a favorable decision by the Supreme Court, some seem to think it incumbent on him to insist on a better remedy.

The report was recommitted to the same committee, with all the amendments and resolutions suggested in the meeting, and the meeting finally adjourned to Monday next. A motion, made by Mr. Stephens to adjourn *sine die*, having been voted down by a very decided majority.

H.

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB — January 17, 1849

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[Enclosure: Clipping from unidentified newspaper]

Jany. 18th 1849

My dear father

"What I think of the endorsed" as you ask is that you have saved the interest on your $100 some 8 months - I subscribed $50 & sent my check to Blair for the amount with a request that he would not use it 'till it was wanted & it presented itself in the bank back six months or a year ago! So send on your money & bless your luck.

Your Washington letter did not reach me 'till some ten days after I got home. Had you not better write Edward Coles about it? It was Mr. Lurman I supped with in Baltimore. He that was a long time engaged to Miss Harper, & married one of the Donnelly. The Major who happens to be here at this moment agrees with me that my handwriting is good & he particularly agrees with me that

Mr. Lurman

He has a fine rate cook & a comfortable house & I am very happy. He laughs your proposal about the second - on the ground 1st that his oysters are worth the money. 2nd that it degrades his oysters to be reggid 3rd that he can't get up [illegible]

P.S. I send you the Herald of today. I think its opposition to Taylor as the Taylor is exempt the hunky chow the Herald / time will come. J.V.B.

yours is intolerable - that neither of us ~~are~~ is disposed to raise any captious objections to the latter if you have any property that you desire to convey to us!
Miss Johnson who assured Vanderpool that she would marry no man in the world (& he believed her) is engaged to Mr. John Bard who is remarkable for nothing except that he is quite a man - I passed the evening there night before last with the happy couple - he is a son of Mr. William Bard - Vanderpool did not pursue the matter as well in my absence as when I was present - It is said Mr. & Mrs. J. are opposed - I sat an hour in the old mans room with himself & Wife, leaving the young people below: as neither of them spoke of the engagement I did not. but it is publicly announced, & Miss J. told me of it -
Your views of matrimony are remarkably sound, like your views generally: tho' I should be very much surprized if I ever married again - Thomson's suit was a great feather

V[an] B[uren], J[ohn] to MVB
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in my cap. It is I believe the largest verdict ever rendered in a libel suit in the U.S. Gerard summed it up badly. I opened it. Oakley gave us a splendid charge which carried the verdict. but Bennett's paper gave me all the credit. & the public with their usual justice on the start follow suit. I have just now an important case for Isaac Pruyn. Catskill, & on the whole my position here socially & professionally is everything I could wish, with the single exception that I cannot have my child with me. There is a great controversy going between N.Y. & Brooklyn about the ferry. The Mayor recommends additional counsel & the matter has been referred to the finance committees of the two boards each composed of 2 Whigs & 1 hawkhouser = 6. Within Hall recommended their employing me. One of the Whigs named Webster. Some discussion was had & as I am told a decided majority were for me! * Is not this complimentary from the enemy? They have not yet however retained me and I

* Name I written you this before? You say I blow my own horn well, but I try not to blow the same note. If I wind the Washington case

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suppose all Hunkindon & Whiggery will strive for this fat slice out of the ~~[illegible]~~ Corporation's ribs. The Lawyers here all treat me well — I have been employed on by Frank Griffin — once by Pres. Hall Nayes & Blatchford — once by Sherman & Mather — once by Mr. Blunt — once by Melville — once by E. Sanford — once by George Wood — once by Foote & Davies &c &c all Whigs or Hunkers (unless perhaps Shonnard) & shall get considerable business from Cutting — they all seem to discard any jealousy, & to be extremely kind —

When I was at Hudson, Solon Arable told me the Anti-renters intended to make up a large fee & employ me in the ejectment suit hit by ~~Seward~~ Judson — this was one of the conditions on which I defended the Finkley — I see Seward has been employed by the Governor, & this makes it more proper that the private Counsel should be a Democrat — I write to Arable today about it — Please ask Dr. Beekman to speak to him about it when he goes to Hudson — I passed Saty Sunday & part of Monday at Cambridge —

P.S. Colhoun's cameras handle flatted out. he must be [illegible] mortified — [illegible] 9 P.M. 9 P.M.

Jan. 18th 49

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