Silver Spring March 4/49

My Dear Sir

As I visited the City to day to
cast an eye in the things brought by anxiety &
greed to the new "Washington's" inauguration, I may
as well give you the gossip, although you will get it
in all the papers — the birth of the Cabinet is the
Street talk — Clayton, premier — Abbot Lawrence Sec.
Treas. (if he does not prefer the Navy) Crawford of
Georgia Sec. at War. Meredith (attorney of Phila.) to
be in the Treas. or Navy as Lawrence may decide
Jesse Ewing (Salt boiler) P.M. Genl. — Ballard
Porter (red headed cousin of mine) to be attorney
Genl. about Pennsylvania appointed as usual
there has been a most bitter civil war in
the party — Cooper now senator in Cameron's
place) & Johnson (the new Govr. of the State) are
the leaders of the two factions — Johnson him
self was to have been in the Cabinet but
Cooper this side declared war against any
administration that contained him — Meredith is
the peace offering to these rivals, if they say in the
House of Reps. that the whole Pa. Delegation
have marched in mass to the Resdt. quarters
to protest against him — I fell in with Bally
behind the Speakers Chair, who told me that if
I would walk with him to his room he would
show me Clay's letter in which he says he
13155 wished to "consign to oblivion all the differences
between us" — I want

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB March 4, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages

of course, and on the way he was lavish of his
criticism on the new Elect's — Ewing he said was
disgraced by the desperation in the which he stuck to
place under Tyler — requiring to be chocked off —
Preston was utterly unknown having had no
part in politics beyond the backwoods in Virga.
Abbot Lawrence was a weak, purse-proud
manufacturer, who knew nothing out of the counting
house, but vain enough to believe he knew everything.
That even in Manufacturing he was nothing out of
Boston, and that there Webster, who hated him
& despised him, would soon make him nothing,
as he would now stand in his way. That of
the rest nobody, were heard any thing but
that they were Tyler men against Clay,
and that the whole Cabinet was chosen upon the
principle of hostility to Clay. Those who were
once his friends among them being now embued
with the bitterness of Apostates to him —
I told him that I thought if he (Clay) remained quiet
that multitudes of his old friends would rally
around him again — "Ah," said Botts, "it was to
be out of the present strifes that we they stood
away from the approaching session of the Senate.
I then gave him the hint that if he had no
hand in breeding discontents they would when they
came, rally all the discontented of his party around
him — Botts said the Tyler men had called a meeting
at Richmond to start a convention candidate against

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB March 4, 1849

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[illegible] for Congress. That he had written home to [illegible]
for himself not for Taylor & would not be bound to
any discussion &c. That [illegible] would come, he
[illegible] on that subject the country but
he add'd I have a sufficient body of my own
friends to take Taylor & carry him thro'
[illegible] they did vote them down, but
the Chairman pronounced them carried because
he would count none but Taylor men &
would not call a division. Both sides [illegible]
[illegible] (unfinished) corruption &c
and the last Legislature passed it - but the things he
said they had sacrificed the
[illegible] as they had sacrificed the
[illegible] to build them up for an [illegible] that
for his part he would [illegible] [illegible]
objects - He said Calhoun showed his disaffection and
coming into the Convention - That Mr Webster being said,
he was opposed to [illegible] they [illegible] see they
you, Mr Clay to [illegible] you over [illegible]
[illegible] the Democratic [illegible] [illegible]
Sunday and the Whig Caucus on Friday (that)
[illegible] of Saturday evening 50 had a meeting of
[illegible] & Whigs - Despite [illegible] the
Resolutions give him a plain hint - [illegible] to him
[illegible] and personal support) He had used the
party - but not any thing (except the Removal of
the Administration) to [illegible] the Principles of the Party,
it had been overthrown by the old people and the spirit it had
[illegible] by the [illegible] the spirit it found

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Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB — March 4, 1849

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March '49

that the administration had had its way during its [illegible]
as to the organ, & now the party would have its turn —
that the personal unpopularity he had contracted &
the odium attached to his paper had determined the
party to have a new month-piece — that they
were willing to treat him kindly & they [illegible]
they would raise a subscription for that purpose
and if he refused they would employ it to [illegible]
[illegible] a new press. Hitchie remonstrated — [illegible]
[illegible] defied — said he would stand no matter [illegible] happened
that he meant not only to maintain his press here [illegible]
his life — but would have it to his son as a successor
The Senator contrasted his course in defying the party
& mine, in resigning my place to the presidency [illegible]
head of the party, although the party [illegible] was satisfied & [illegible]
triumphed with the Globe as its organ [illegible] Hitchie [illegible]
it was a very different case, & argued to show that
I should, & that he should not quit — & pronounced his
determination not to quit — I had this at second
hand from one who knew, but who would not [illegible]
the Senator's name — I strongly suspect it was
Allen who has from the beginning of the [illegible]
him working to get up an organization to [illegible]
[illegible] the Representative of the party
here — He spoke to me to induce Blair to be the
Publisher of a paper for Madam as Editor [illegible] I would not [illegible]
a party paper — & thing he would not wish me
to do under present tendencies — Hitchie's [illegible]
is now as sickening to A as his Southern —
the Goodnight — You are happier far at [illegible]
[illegible] place [illegible] man — He is a fish [illegible]
of water, you would be it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB March 4, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages

My dear Sir

Lindenwald
March 5th 49

Yrs. your last with much pleasure, & the greatest was derived from the closing assurance that you would laugh & grow fat, or at least try to do the latter (to you) very difficult thing. It is against all reason that a man of sense, who has a clear conscience, (for you can't begin without that) every member of whose family deserves to be regarded by their parents as the source of gratification & pride, & who is blessed with as much wealth as can contribute to his enjoyments

Blair, Francis P[reston] from MVB March 5, 1849

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should, for a moment, allow himself to be even vexed by what a parcel of ~~pots~~ worn out political tracks may do, or can it to do. Let me express in this connexion my admiration of Franks department. It was neither more nor less than I would have expected, and will give him peace for a long time if not forever.

Dont think me decay when I say to you that my quiet & as was generally supposed my perfect ~~or~~ at least comfortable establishment is to be turned topsy turvey, & the music of its feathered visitors drowned in the harsh sound

Blair, Francis P[reston] from MVB March 5, 1849

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of the ax, the saw, & the trowel. There
is poetry for you. Still such is
the prospect of things. I have for years
been trying to stir up Smith to an
exertion of his talents, which are
of a very high order, but which
have unhappily been smothered
by too much wealth. He has
at last become disgusted with
the vices of idleness & city life &
a short time since my unexpectedly
announced to me that if it comported
with my views to constitute him
the heir apparent of Lindenwald
(the possibility of which I had once intimated
to him) he would come at
once, dabble enough in the pro-
fession to ~~make it a~~ afford opportu-
nities for public speaking and
so at once & permanently into
the rough & tumble of

Blair, Francis P[reston] from MVB March 5, 1849

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of life. My Sons all cordially concur in the arrangement & it is so concluded. His Wife has seconded all my efforts & is as my perfect little body. For the first time they both feel as if they really loved us in all interests in the course of public affairs. Smith made it an indispensable condition that he would be permitted to add sufficient to my House to make as many rooms as he may want without enhancing upon what I now have. I at first rejected this as impracticable without detriment to the appearance of the old House. But he & his Wife have been to New York to consult the great architectural oracle (Mr Upjohn) and as I anticipate the response (which I have not rec'd) will be that to accomplish the object satisfactorily

Blair, Francis P[reston] from MVB March 5, 1849

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radical changes will become necessary - such as taking down the present stable wings & erecting towers in their places - the addition of Dormant Windows & God knows all what. So you see we are to have a bustling summer of it, but be assured that we shall always have room enough for you & Mrs Blair & Mr & Mrs Lee - Martin is in better health than usual - thanks to his last Winters & Sojourn under your hospitable roof & desires his regards to be presented to you all my truly

Your friend

J. M. Van Buren

If Crittenden object is the Presidency he does wisely in keeping out of the Cabinet & Clay acts equally so in staying away from Washington for the present. He

Blair, Francis P[reston] from MVB March 5, 1849

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would now be a scarecrow to all who have aspirations dependent upon the administration. By Decr. the disappointed will be in the majority and be their leader of course. What is in the wind or the moor, that two men who have through life been rivals in indiscretions I ~~[illegible]~~ recklessly ~~[illegible]~~ all at once become as circumspect as any Buckingham.

Blair, Francis P[reston] from MVB March 5, 1849

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Free
Martin Buren

Francis P. Blair Esqr
Silver Spring
near
Washington

Blair, Francis P[reston] from MVB

March 5, 1849

Library of Congress
The Francis P. Blair Family Papers

6 pages (total 7)

Fear of Young March 5. 1849

My Dear Sir,

Blue lights, you see, are fairly installed. Taylor the impression is goes quietly into the tools of Clayton — Ewing & Co. It is thought he will no more mutiny against the authority of his colonel than he would against the order of the Govt. while he was at the head of his troops — He tells the office seekers, he has no office but that of President-Nolens — having appointed heads of the Departments who are responsible for their management he leaves to them the choice of subordinates — This with the manner of making his Cabinet in which he left every thing to Clayton & the Cliques around him, manifests that Genl. Taylor has surrendered — There is no settled fear & hatred of Clay among them and this guided in the Relations — The free Discovery of the House behaved admirably in frustrating the plot of the out-going Sinecuring administrations. Another the expression of the public will and the rights of California. The Southern tactics of hitching them contrivance to the Steam Engine of the great appropriation Bill to drag it through, affected by the Taylor Cabinet & the Bill Cabinet and all hangers on & had well nigh prevented.

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Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB March 5, 1849

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

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March 5, 1849

4 pages

for himself and the Cobourgs. Indeed as the efforts of both
[illegible] were so [illegible] in the California [illegible]
[illegible] and as the old [illegible] hangs on so lovingly for the
[illegible] to take out political existence [illegible] for a few days it
is not impossible that the poor outcasts may be
found in the train of the victors throughout the
present time. Ritchie the organ is altogether
with them in the great issue I can't see how
the hunkers may whose [illegible] keep themselves
out of the [illegible] — The Spirit-hunters must necessarily
follow the Camp — We have no Camp among
the free Soilers — and if we had the hunker office
seekers would not expect to find a welcome in
it. They will it is [illegible] get encouragement &
some think that Hennigan got his place
under some collusion with the new Camp,
to feed the hopes of the dough faced party —
Bob Clay is a stretch to which I cannot
bring my credulity — Webster wanted the
place Hennigan got. He said the other day
in a conversation on the Senate, which Judge
Niles heard repeated to end that this was
the only place, he would like to have, if he
were not too poor to take any. That he
believed he could do much good in Germany in
explaining [illegible] our system of
Govt. That they had translated & published

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Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB March 5, 1849

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

March 5, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers

4 pages

My dear Sir

Lindenwald
March 5th 49

I need not say how deeply I sympathise with you & your excellent wife in the afflictions which death & disease have brought upon you. None can be more sensible than we both of you that there are the taxes we pay for our existence, which must be borne with equanimity, & perfection as soon as the demands of life will allow. Your poor brothers death took place under the most painful circumstances but there was certainly much in his previous career to console you for his loss. Henceforth

Dix, [John Adams] from MVB

March 5, 1849

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Dix Papers

4 pages (total 3)

... difference and ... friends might have given [illegible] Mr Dix & [illegible] left your home for a season a place, & a position which we [illegible] honest man cannot occupy without constant pain & mortification & you come to [illegible] who esteem you and who will be most happy to see you here. The trickery and duplicity which have for the last eight years been practised at Washington must in the nature of things have rendered this change agreeable to you. Would not, we have reason to hope, be always so. Leaving the next four years to speak for themselves, my confidence in the integrity & intelligence of the people is such as to [illegible] a doubt that the time will in good season return when a man's pride may be gratified & his honor advanced by holding [illegible] in our nation [illegible] if you have found it so, for the last four years we at a distance have formed very erroneous estimates of the true state of things in our midst.

I need not say how happy I shall always be to receive Mrs Dix, & yourself at Kinderhook & am with very kind

Dix, [John Adams] from MVB
March 5, 1849
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Dix Papers
4 pages (total 3)

...respond to the
Pleasant friend
Van Buren

P.S. I presume there can be no doubt of the Cabinet's hostility to the incoming administration. His staying away at home is the worst, if not the first discourtesy he has shown many Democrats. If he were at Washington there would be avoided by all who have expectations from the powers that be & their name is now more comprehensive than Legion. By direct the discontinuance will be exactly in the proportion of the number of Candidates

Yours Dix

New York July 1/49

P. Ripley Esq.
Church St.
Utica

Dix, [John Adams] from MVB — March 5, 1849

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Dix Papers — 4 pages (total 3)

Hon M. VanBuren.

Dear Sir

Several years ago I received from you (through the agency of Col Stevenson) a lot of Fruit-Trees Pears and Plumbs.- I am still anxious to transplant into N. Caro: some of the fruits of Kinderhook not only because they are good but because I have always felt pride & pleasure in being regarded as your friend &c.

So I make bold to say that I will be greatly obliged to you if you can send me a few more such Trees. Those I got before have all died (in consequence of their long delay in the transportation) and the failure of my first attempt to rear something of the kind as a living Memento of the Giver has only increased my wish to renew it.

Should you find it convenient to gratify me I would suggest a direction to the Gardener. "To bind a little free soil about the roots with canvass, and send to the Care of Messrs Peebles White & Davis of Petersburg".- I have no part

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Haywood, Will[iam] H[enry], Jr. to MVB March 11, [1849]

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 2 pages (total 3)

or let in politics now a days . and it is well I do not care for such things at present as the region in which I live would promise but little of success .. believing as I do that it is neither right nor Constitutional to plant Slavery in a free soil by the sanction of a Govern't like ours :. Of one thing however I feel cer = tain & that is that No: Carolina can never be brought to go for disunion because Congress does not consent to let her Slavery go to California & the Slavery still. The politicians who may take that experiment upon our People will be woefully disappointed in the end.

I am with high respect yours ever

Your friend

Wm. H. Haywood Jr.

Raleigh N. C.

Haywood, Will[iam] H[enry], Jr. to MVB

Library of Congress, MVB Papers

March 11, [1849]

2 pages (total 3)

FAYETTEVILLE N.C.
MAR
11
10

Hon: Martin VanBuren

Kinderhook

N. Y.

Haywood, Will[iam] H[enry], Jr. to MVB
Library of Congress, MVB Papers

March 11, [1849]
2 pages (total 3)

Dear Sir,

You will see in the enclosed address some evidence that you the principles to which you have given a new impulse lately are advancing. Many more names could have been procured to the address if that had been an object — but we wanted the paper out during the canvass of our Spring elections so as to get it read & therefore put it out without waiting to get more names.

I have no doubt but that we can sustain Col. Benton in the doctrines here ascribed to him — and at this moment the doctrine will not more need

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Blair, M[ontgomery] to MVB March 12, 1849

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his help, than he does the help of the doctrine for his enemies are in the ascendant now in this State & it requires something potent to physic them with. Fortunately, for him I think, they have taken the Slavery chute, imagining that the safe channel. Whilst this course of his old associates & his own vote on the Oregon bill would they supposed effectually destroy him. But I think now that they have no longer the fostering care of Mr. Polk at Washington if Col. Benton will carry out his determination to visit the whole State he can annihilate them with this question which only needs to be exploited to be as strong with the people as the Bank question ever was. It must be confessed however that as yet the work remains to be done. But I am strong in the faith that it will be accomplished.

Yrs very truly.

M Blair

St Louis March 12. 1849.

Hon. M. Van Buren.

Lindenwald

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Blair, M[ontgomery] to MVB

Library of Congress, MVB Papers

March 12, 1849

3 pages

M Blair

Blair, M[ontgomery] to MVB

Library of Congress, MVB Papers

March 12, 1849

3 pages

Dear Sir

Lindenwald
March 14th 49

I have written to Mr Bra-
son, & after I hear from him will
if necessary avail myself of
your polite offer, for which please
to accept my thanks -

Very respectfully
yours
M. Van Buren

T. W. Olcott Esq

Olcott, T[homas] W[orth] from MVB March 14, 1849

Columbia University Libraries, N.Y., N.Y. 1 page
Olcott Papers

[4]

noble proof of the high character I have so often attributed to its author. The confidential character of its closing sentences will not fail to attract your notice. You may return it to me when I have the pleasure of

[1]

My dear Miss Silvester

I trust you will excuse me for having added a Cactus to the Orange. Tree you so kindly promised to accept. The latter is small but having budded it ensures me can speak with confidence

Silvester, [Margaret] from MVB

March 24, 1849

Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
Andre de Coppet Collection

5 pages (total 3)

[2] [3]

of its qualities. The sea-fuel culture
truth is that Professor these will soon
Cooney's plants have flourish, & fulfil the
all supposed the part office for which they
winter through his are assigned - that
sinking & his devotion of constant, through
to the much bed when silent witnesses of
cattle. For the latter my thorough respect,
cause I am myself & enduring regard
responsible I am quite for their future
sure however, that Professor. Does not
under your generous the enclosed afford

Silvester, [Margaret] from MVB March 24, 1849

Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. 5 pages (total 3)
Andre de Coppet Collection

[5]

leaving your next
Week.
With very kind
regards to your
mother
very truly
yours
M. Van Buren

Lindenwald
March 24th 49.

Silvester, [Margaret] from MVB

March 24, 1849

Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
Andre de Coppet Collection

5 pages (total 3)

Philadelphia 28 March 1849

My dearest

Ever since my return from Washington — about two weeks since — I have designed to write you, but the many matters occupying me, that arose during my absence, have put it out of my power until now. I have not a great deal to tell you, but it may amuse you to hear something of my observations on the new order of things; and as we are not, I fear, to have the pleasure of chatting over them in person this spring as we did this time last year it will be some compensation to me to do so by a letter. We have watched the newspapers and made inquiries, wherever we had a chance, in the hope that you would have wandered this winter as far as New York and thinking that we could then induce you to come and make us a visit; but all we could hear was that your time was divided between Lindenwald and Albany. How happy we should be if you could again come and see us this year; I need not tell you. Your room is always ready and even Smith in Albany or the Mayor in New York cannot welcome you with more real happiness than Mrs. Gilpin and myself would do, at any time, when you will let us know that you can come to us. We have our household increased and made more lively by our daughter in law from Louisiana and her little boy who engages our thoughts and cares as much as Singleton or Thatcher does, yours and who from his cheerfulness, good temper and intelligence promises us

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Gilpin, H[enry] D[ilworth] to MVB March 28, 1849

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a short time of domestic happiness.

I have been in Washington, with occasional intervals, a great deal of the time during which the Supreme Court has been sitting, though its progress has so very slow as to advance me but little with the business I had before it. I saw nothing of the late President or the members of his administration except Mr. Walker and the Attorney General (Mr. Mason) in court; indeed nothing has come remarkable than the very little personal consideration they had attained after their four years residence, and the striking public event that had occurred during it. I found almost no exhibition of violent party spirit — a contrast indeed that was most remarkable to the corresponding season of 1841 and even to that of 1845. General Taylor's complaisance as to his opinions on public questions and his preferences for men made all the politicians seek to exhibit any very strong determinations themselves about me or the others, and the universal and really incredible anxiety for office, from which it seemed to me that there was scarcely a thing in Washington, high or low, who was free pervaded every thing like cordial political and party association among them. The General himself at first sight very unprepossessing in appearance quite short and awkward and stiff in his dress with scarcely the slightest military bearing; but he is cordial and frank in his manner, gives at once the idea of candour and frankness. There is no indication of much intellectual ability, nor, I should think, of great self confidence; but evident honesty of purpose; diligence at first in the information and views of others whom he may

Gilpin, H[enry] D[ilworth] to MVB — March 28, 1849

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hose to possess better means of knowledge than himself, but when his own opinion is thus made up resolute enough in adhering to it. It seemed to me that his views of public policy and his choice of men was very much hap-hazzard; and that he has commenced his administration almost entirely without any plan. I never saw any thing like the disappointment and consternation among the prominent expectants at Washington when the cabinet was announced and there were a thousand stories about the influences that such each member was brought forward; all showing that in reality the great aim of the whig leaders has been their personal success. It never seemed to be a question at all about the public measures; but merely about gratifying local, personal or partizan predilections in selections for the offices.

I believe there is no doubt but that a desperate effort was made by the incoming administration to carry Senator Walker's scheme about California and that during the last week of the session all that could be done in the way of prospective influence among the northern dough-faces was resorted to. I thought at one time they had succeeded; indeed nothing but the ayes and noes; and the resolute conduct of a few northern democrats in the house who were resolved that the people should see and understand the whole thing succeeded in warding off the treacherous scheme. Mr. Calhoun seemed to me quite despondent; feeble in health; abstracted in deportment; and satisfied that his power of leading the south had departed from him. The affair of nullification has left such a terror of the word disunion

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Gilpin, H[enry] D[ilworth] to MVB March 28, 1849

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"disunion" and so much misgiving as to the position in which his plans will lead them; that the southern men who have any future aspirations shrink from putting their names or pledging themselves to any definite scheme that he suggests. The south for the first time seem to be irresolute, disunited, and without a definite plan; while the force of public sentiment at the north is forcing the time serving and the timid into a union — in their votes at least — with the friends of freedom.

I send you a pamphlet on "farming" given me by the author for you — he is, like yourself, an amateur farmer who prides himself upon having his farm in better order than his neighbours notwithstanding they are much older hands at the business. He heard that Smith and Mrs. VanBuren had been inoculated by you so completely that they are going to leave Albany and learn the philosophy of farming in the school of Lindenwald so as to be prepared to establish at no distant day an American "Holkham" for themselves. Is this so? I hope so for their sake — and yours too. If it is, I think I shall plot with Mrs. VanBuren to effect my scheme of the summer house on the brow of the hill, looking over the meadow; which you promised but relinquished for the more solid improvements; that, and the walk round to it through the orchard I shall claim as my suggestions. Mrs. Gilpin begs me to give you her kindest regards. Remember us to Martin too and believe me as ever

Most truly Sincerely Yours
H. D. Gilpin

His Excellency
Martin VanBuren

Gilpin, H[enry] D[ilworth] to MVB March 28, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 4 pages

Silver Spring: March 30: 1849

My Dear Sir

Your very gratifying letter of the 5th of this month, would have been immediately answered, had I not known you were surfeited by a whole winter's stuffing of my letters -

I rejoice very much in Smith's movement - That a man of his genius should lie dormant upon money bags having such motives to inspire his ambition in his fathers his long, seemed to me impossible - I always looked forward to a time when he would take the field and make it appear that you had at least two Percy's in the fight for the reason of the family in the next generation. He wants nothing to ensure his success, but not to be too chary of his reputation - His repute for talents makes him afraid to display himself lest he may disappoint expectation - This doubtless will be the case at first, and until he gets so earnestly engaged, as to forget himself entirely & think only of the cause - This will take him sometime, for he must by repeated efforts learn to shake off modesty & divers sorts of ~~[illegible]~~ hypercritical anxieties which will embarrass his thoughts and stiffen, if not shackle them -

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Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB March 30, 1849

Library of Congress, MVB Papers 6 pages (total 7)

The only thing that seems disagreeable to you in this
heir apparent invasion of Lindenwald, is an additional
recommendation to me. It is a capital improvement
to the place to cover up the flatness of old Peter
Van Ness's Domicil under presiding towers, if they can
be added with architectural appropriateness —
The towers will be in fine keeping with the pines
and if the roof of the old house can be pointed
sufficiently with dormant windows to blend
well with the new elevations, I cannot perceive
why the castle of Lindenwald may not in
some generations become worthy of the Romantic
Legend which has already made it the scene of
preternatural powers. But while all the sawing
strewelling fasing and other vulgar every day
business is going on, I think ~~nothing~~ it would be
decorous for the Magician to quit the scene
and nothing could make the happier than to
have him come & confer a little of his celebrity
on silver spring. I wish to be plain spoken, & beg that
you & Martin would leave South & his babel tower
to confound one another & come & take a season
of fruits & flowers, & quiet reading & speculation with-
in hearing of the hum of our city of disconsolate

Blair, F[rancis] P[reston] to MVB March 30, 1849

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Officeholding Greatness - It would be surprising to them to see how near you could be to their exaltedness, without envy and that even a very humble friend's roof had more attractions for you, than the palace you quitted with so much dignity - I am very sure, ~~that~~ if they did not feel conscious, ~~that~~ the public would, that there was a wiser head just without the precincts of the national power than any employed in it. I have paid my devoir to the President & some of his cabinet, and they seemed as I thought to treat me with marked favor. I suppose they included me in the list of wounded, whom John through Filmore, recommended to the President's kindness.

I was summoned by a note from Gillet to call on him when I visited the city on a matter of political interest - I hastened to report myself the very next day. He told me there was a gentleman of the north (I think he called him Capen) who had undertaken to write a history of the Democratic party - that it was understood that Th. Jefferson Randolph would have the editing of his Grand fathers papers purchased by Congress - that Capen would be employed by him to do the work - that this furnished him access to the very best materials to build his history of the Democracy out of - that besides the advantage of this sort of recommendation, he was backed by R. J. Walker, Buchanan, & Burke of the patent office -

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- that he & they & others had agreed to advance Cafeer $2.00
each to help him on, until his numbers of the history
(they are to appear periodically after the fashion of Dickens
stories) began to put him on funds - that he had been
desired to bring this to my notice as I was known to
zealous for the Democratic Cause - Just as Gillet got
through his story, in popt. T. O. S. Smith on private
business & while they had their heads together in a
corner of the office, I took my hat & passing out, told
Gillet I would call to see him again - From
Selden & Gillet I learned on the same day that
propositions were pending between Ritchie & no one
Burke, & a son of Judge Tucker of Va for the
transfer of the union ~~from [illegible]~~ to the
latter - Ritchie's price is $57,000 - there is some dy
ficulty about it & the thing sticks - Gillet told me the
the proper loses subscribers rapidly - It would be
a capital hit for Ritchie to sell at his price - He
bought the establishment for $35,000 a congress elected
under your auspices to give him the printing & the
material all in good order - all is now out of order -
the congress against his press - and the Hunkers thinking
seems, abandoning the sinking course -

The favorable opinion you express of
my Frank & his conduct in his late affair at St. Louis

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Louis was a sensible relief to my feelings & I am sure ~~will~~ would give him success & buoyant feeling to resist the faction of ~~his~~ Villains, who have been banded together to break him down - to kill him if it could not otherwise be accomplished - (But I will not tell what you have said now that he has triumphed - it might make him vain forever.) I send you his letter to his Brother Wm. Lee, (the only one he has written on the subject) giving an account of the last attempt of this Bandette. I am at a loss to know who is the man who shot at Frank - I am surprised he does not mention his name as he is indicted, he may suppose we know it, but we know nothing, for Cave Johnson's vesti-tion mail carriers have brought no news papers to the East for months back. Repentance was convicted by Montgomery while his best attorney, as one of the Robbers & murderers of Charvis - while others were hung, he was ~~convicted~~ condemned to the penitentiary merely as not a ring-leader - He was pardoned by the Govr before his time expired & has lately been employed by the Missouri Hunkers as a Sub Editor of the Union - I have no doubt that Pickering had this fellow and others like him, fixed in ambuscade in some house at the place where he first proposed to meet Frank & fight it out on the Street - They would no doubt have shot him from the window before he could have come up to Pickering -

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Mrs Martin sent me two little volumes of hymns, one of which I send you, as she desired me (if I thought worthy of such destination) to forward it. Now, as I think any present from so sweet a lady would be most welcome to you, it must be doubly welcome as proof of the devotion of her heart & the interest it takes in you, it gives me great pleasure to execute her commands — I pray you write her a little note acknowledging the ~~receipt~~ reception of this miniature of a very kind & innocent heart & make it happy —

Pardon this voluminous letter and I shall be more than ever your debtor &

Affectionately Friend

F P Blair

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Martin Van Buren

Lindenwald

N.Y.

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