

The Filson Historical Society

Mss.

A Bullitt family
B937c Papers-Oxmoor Collection.
146 1683-2003. 164 cu. ft.

John C. Bullitt (1824-1902) -
Personal correspondence,
January-July 1844

50 items

257
~~1844~~ 1844
413
1844
Cannonsburg, January 16, ~~1844~~ [1844?]

(From ^{Gas} S. Jackson to John Bullitt)

Cannonsburg, January 16, ~~1844~~ [1844?]

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Vanity
OK

Are you dead, married or in love - these would be the only causes which might prevent you from writing - if dead, then these lines are useless and altogether vain-what a dead man write- we have often heard of a voice from the tomb-the book mentions how the defunct are made to rise, walk and talk, but as to writing, there is nothing on record. The most untiring searchers after old and curious facts have denied the possibility of discovery. Ah nevertheless I now see those cold, white, bony fingers tracing lines of incomprehensible words and he now translates - "he that neglects his friend when far off and amongst strangers, no one to console, no one to pour sweet consolation into his ear, is already condemned and if in that neglect anything operates save the infatuation that fallen woman casts on a man then is eternal perdition his reward". The state of connubial felicity, or its usual forerunner, precludes all hope of attention. the honeymoon, ah; sweet, delicious season! sighs, sweet embraces and that most extatic of all felicities. - Now, by all the Gods and little fishes, the philosophy of the thing has never appeared to me - facts stubborn facts have borne testimony to the truth, without giving any just cause for so singular a phenomenon. Three persons formed the extent of my intimate friends - a trio - one of them deserted a twelvemonth since, has ceased to remember her quondam confidant or remembers with indifference - a second has followed in her foot steps or has gone to his long home - there are more ways of dying than one- a man dies unto sin-dies unto a friend- As for Logan I could pull his red head,

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and ring his nose right well-never did man make fairer promises and never did mortal prove more faithless. I was afraid that he as well as yourself had become disgusted, and truly there was enough to sicken any decent man-a recklessness of character, a disregard for anything like common decency and politeness were my most prominent characteristics during the late visit. Logan of course could not stand this but you, John, who have known me so long and well ought to have seen through it - instead of condemning, should have offered every palliation "A friend should bear a friends infirmities" and when vile alcohol has destroyed the man, you should pity the animal.

An attempt to disguise my feelings would be useless - I will speak plainly. That you did not act as was once your wont, is true that you were disappointed when we met was obvious - and that you had ground for disappointment I cannot deny. You expected to see a more dignified person you supposed me a changed man-but let me tell you one thing- "the original man was not visible-a character, unintentionally assumed, was all that could be seen. But enough of this, the chagrin has passed away and J. Bullitt holds the same place he has so long, and so well filled-and if any should so far forget themselves as to say aught against him, I would enter the lists as readily as chivalrous knights of old did in defence of some fair, unruffled A petticoat.

Louisville and kind friends there residing were left not without regret "the woman had almost risen to my eyes, to shame the man". The thought of my dear Aunt's condition, her deep distress and almost degradation sent a pang to my heart-pity that such a woman should be united indissolubly to such a brute - its like mixing soul and dirt into one heap. His thoughts cannot be very pleasant when he thinks of what he once

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was, and now is-a change from affluence to poverty, from respectability to insignificance. As far as Cincinnati our trip was exceedingly pleasant-at that place we saw the "Old man eloquent" and never was I more disappointed-instead of that venerable, dignified looking person, possessing all the graces of an accomplished gentleman, there was a little old stump-not over five feet, six-quite pettish looking - his features are by no means good having but little expression-if the face be an index of the soul, he has not that ethereal essence-animals have not that exalting something called mind-and in his face the animal predominates those large burns on the last half of his head are extremely large. Never did appearances and facts contradict each other so palpably-indeed it seems to me almost impossible that such a mockery on nature should possess such attributes it is my firm belief that when God Almighty formed him "he tried his hand" to show the world ^{what} ~~that~~ heavenly powers could be joined with the meanest mud, formed in the most unshaply mould-he has knocked that 21st rule to the Devil at last and Joy go with it-I wish he had sent French along with it. When he arrived in Cincinnati your humble servant was in a pretty pickle-many and mighty were the shouts sent up-there was enough drunken breath sent up to drive such a God as Jupiter into the "delirium tremens" - he would most certainly have puked over the whole world-its well we have not such a God.

We met with a hell of a fellow on board-a raw son of Erin-he had been in St. Lewis for some time and had acquired some money and the card playing mania - after intruding himself into my notice, he insisted on having a game and for a wonder I refused and that too out of pure compassion-this rather enraged

him and caused him to insist still stronger, whereupon, purely to gratify, I played a few games with and beat him-losing hard earned money is disagreeable to any one,- the coolest will become excited-then you can imagine how a fiery, hot headed fool would act-he ript and swore brandishing his brawny arms in a manner by no means comfortable. I had seen such and indeed much harder cases before. Standing upon my reserved rights, with a little instrument in my pocket-handed me by a Dane who was on board - I gently told him to come on, and he as snugly backed out - all that distressed me at the time was my Sisters, being on board - it subsequently got into the Pittsburg papers "A Jefferson College student had a fuss with a raw Irishman on board the Massachusetts-it originated at the card table". On reaching this place it appeared that some of my particular friends had circulated a report that we were not coming back and some went as far as to say "they had a communication to that effect" - this was done to influence certain results expected to be favourable and highly honorable to myself - they failed however and as is usual, fell to abusing the person they had injured - this could not hurt, but annoyed me considerably - there was a serpent known to the Ancients, which, being unable to bite, besmeared its victim with loathsome vomit. The class had gotten two weeks ahead of me-had gotten fairly under way and were going on with whip and spur - but a Kentucky horse can outrun the Devil when put to his best-we overtook them very soon and it really was advantageous to start last-no bother about electioneering and that continual visiting at the first of the session which is so very hard to break off - our location is the most desirable, being in a private family and they too the "oi ^{aristoi} ~~anstoi~~". Christmas-receiving an invitation

from a friend-was spent very pleasantly at Uniontown, Pa. there were some beautiful ladies and one angel-ye powers, what eyes they could melt a stone-they went through my poor heart long since riddled by a thousand arrows-the little thing almost ran me mad made me promise to spend part of my vacation under the vivifying beams of those heaven lit orbs. Never in my life did time pass more pleasantly-two good friends - real blind friends (at least, as far as "fault seeing[#] in your humble) had gone before and given the greatest recommendations a man could wish-they represented me as a perfect paragon, ~~a~~ ^Y nonesuch-the ladies all knew me well- and the little fairy on being introduced walked up and familiarly shook hands - "Ah, she said, you are no stranger to us, we have known you long". You may imagine, but by St. George and all other holy ones, I am totally unable to describe my feelings at the moment - to be addressed thus by a stranger-a lady and she, exquisitely beautiful, how could a mortal bear it-a little God would have become extatisised on such an occasion - the whole thing was entirely unexpected-I was ignorant of the praises that had been bestowed upon me or that my name had been mentioned to her. The family I went expressly to visit-was one of the most agreeable and kind, it was ever my good fortune to visit-they did all in their power to make me happy and they succeeded. It felt like home. The difference between them and the people here was indeed striking-the short time appears now as the recollection of some pleasant dream. I shall ever recur to it with feelings of the deepest and purest joy. One hour spent there was ^Worth more than an age of dissipation, it really elevated my soul.

Well my Dear Fellow the paper has expired without giving me time to say half - there are a thousand and one things I

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wish to say-I am in a writing humour somehow - a letter from
June to eternity would not tell all-you must write soon and
tell me all about everything how Logan, the dear fellow, gets
on-he has declined corresponding-so you must do for both -
try and shut him up. How does the fastidious Short come on-
he did not treat me well when in L. and has not answered a
letter I wrote him about four months since. When you answer
this put a Post Script to Olyhant ~~the~~ -the young man I went to
visit in Uniontown- he is fine fellow. Give my respects to
your Fathers family. Tell Josh I have not determined whether
to study law with him or Johnston of Lexington-the latter
wishes me to take him into partnership-it's yet uncertain.
Present me to the magnanimous Breckenridge-tell him-I should
be happy to hear from him. Goodbye John and dont forget that I
am the same creature made up of contradictions-as when you
first knew me-you hold the same place in my heart you have so
long held and with the help of God you shall still hold it-
its useless to make a fuss about it but some how I cant help it.

Your Friend

J.S.Jackson

10pt
Addressed: John Bullitt
Louisville, Ky.

Postmarked: Canonsburg, Pa. Jan. 18.

an unidentified young lady - probably Mary E Robertson - then at in

[John C. Bullitt to]

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*
1844

Virginia ~~possibly Mary Robertson at~~

After the 7

Oxmoor January

OK
Full and frank
OK

And so I "shall not flirt" ! What a little tyrant you are ! Although I am here almost a life's journey from you with nothing to vary the dull monotonous round of eating sleeping drinking & studying Law - a perfect rustic in habit & looks - gradually I losing all the polish & other valuable knowledge which your excellency taught me - out of sorts - out of tune - out of humour - in fact out of every thing save romantic love - likely at some day out of pure despair to give my soul to the [devil?] & yet I "must not flirt" -

"When sighing swains their plighted faith do swear"

"How sadly cruel they do find the fair"

I wont quote the author lest you might think I was slandering him by putting my own effusions to his credit - But isn't it apropos? Well as usual I suppose I must knock under & obey the law - You complain of my tardiness in writing - perhaps with justice too - no doubt you will think so, when I tell you that I have recd & answered a letter from a male friend since I recd your last - but keep down your rising ire - it was from one of my best friends & my only correspondent beside yourself - Jim Jackson - I have been owing him a letter for several months - he seemed to think I had forgotten him - wrote me a letter complaining of my neglect - I could never stand the complaint of neglect from a friend - he seemed too in one of those fits of despondency - during which he has often unburdened his soul to me - you have often heard speak of him & know how much I am attached to him - he is one of those strange inconsistent beings, whom

* The date 1844 is assigned because of the letter's reference to the death of Mrs Jure Brown who died January 17, 1844; (ii) the Johnston-Horsely marriage of _____; and (iii) the memorandum which was ref on _____ (p. _____).

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we often meet - endowed by nature with rather more fiery than amiable qualities - his feelings, vehement & uncontrollable, with a mind too, one would think, strong enough to curb their wild passionate excesses. I will venture the assertion that if he lives & makes the proper effort he will be one of the first men of his day; but I very much fear, that he has already given such a blow to his constitution, predisposed to consumption, as will bring him to a premature end & deprive me of one of my earliest & most valued friends. Pardon this digression - for I feel more like telling you of him than any one else. You sent my letter down to Cousin Agnace - I am by no means vain of them - the feelings by which they are prompted will influence you to make due allowances - but where I am not known this can not operate - so I will not lay any positive injunction upon you, lest you might think I had caught some of your own despotic temper; but I would rather no one should see them beside yourself. Again any one who had not seen my previous letters, would think me between drunk & crazy - but what is the use of talking about - no one will read so much trash, merely to discover whether the author be a fool or a madman. I suppose you have heard of the death of Mrs. Judge Brown - I believe she expired with little or no suffering - & was interred here at the request of the family - adding another to the number of those pure & heavenly ones who are now grouped within yon gray stone wall - inviting us their living friends to follow in their holy walks. It is thought that another of your acquaintances Mrs. Wm. Speed is now the land of spirits - she has been ill for some time - he is an un-

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Blue

fortunate man - ~~the~~ Miss S. Thruston was married to Mr. Hornsby & behaved just as any other lady would have done under similar circumstances • I was in the house for a few moments just before the ceremony & everybody was rife with curiosity & wondering what would come next - but there was no scene - neither comedy nor tragedy • But if don't have to put her into a tar kettle or else get in himself - then I am a Dutchman • Cousin Ellen²²⁶ spent a week with us not long since ~~she~~ she is becoming much more dignified - quite a Mentor - I think of putting myself under her tutelage - we neither fought, quarreled nor kissed this time - though we laughed - a good deal • I advise her to take an early start this leap year & at least get rich in horses if not in husbands - I suppose you are taking advantage of this glorious privilege - All hands are out here & there is a decided commotion among the feathered tribe • ~~I~~ I did not meet with Miss Johnson • I have fallen back upon my reserved rights of late & seldom see any one except such as come to the house • About once a month. I go to Louisville & stay just long enough to wish myself heartily at home without the trouble of going there • The last large party I attended I became heartily sick of it ~~there were~~ - there were some forty or fifty gentlemen to 7 or 8 ladies • I never dance except for the sake of company & then I am so good natured that my feet run their own course without much regard either to time or tune - the musician was an Indian half drunk & I had a squabble for every set • At supper time I found myself attached to a little Miss of about 14 - who could say "yes Sir" & "No Sir", with considerable gusto -

by which I lost all the oysters & several other rarities & to cap the climax, I lost my hat. I left the house thinking seriously whether it was fashionable for one gentleman to take another's hat - for this was a fashionable crowd I had been in. The country is running stark mad with Mesmerism. It might seem strange that sensible people would give their countenance to such mummeries, if we did not see so much of the same thing every day - whether it be politics or fiddles, religion, jugglers or operas, millerism or mormanism or fortune telling or some such low vulgar & monstrous thing as the Mysteries of Paris, it seems to matter but little - there are always dupes & officious persons enough to gulp it down & spread its ^m fame. It is enough to make one, a sceptic, as to the most approved & established facts - to find intelligent & creditable persons believing in such miraculous performances, as a modern Miss of 16 reading Greek & Hebrew & singing in German, Italian & Spanish, through the pure influence of magnetized will.

Miss Ward has returned from the South & has loomed out in her Southern plumage "the fairest bird of them all" - "tout ensemble". She is very fine looking. I shall ask her for a lock of her hair - "Pray what for sir?" "only Miss to bind up a bleeding heart - the hair of a dog is good for the bite you know" - now will not she feel flattered by such a compliment? I have a new plan in my head - I am as full of them as an old maid is of fancies. It is to pay a visit to the Old Continent - turn up some of its rubbish - dive into its mystic lore & endeavour to extract from thence

Fill in
 [The sheet is here left blank for
 and folded in the ancient manner to leave
 room for the address and the "treasure" in
 for sealing and mailing - but there is no address]

some of the essence of greatness, which is accumulated
 in such rich profusion. But this is one of my air castles
 & it may be that I will never leave my natal sod. Oh! for
 one look into the future. And now my dear friend I will
 finish my letter, for it just that time of night when all
 is quiet, that I love to devote to thoughts of you - how
 often in times past, at midnight's stilly hour, with my
~~heart~~ ^{heart} warmed with happy dreams have I poured out to you
 its dearest - its most sacred contents - & though not
 dreams of things that have been or are now - yet I love
 them - though love has now lost its sway & that which
 mankind call ambition has taken its place. If I have any
 passion, I still can think with pleasure of the time at
 least during which the bright illusion lasted & without
 regret of that, during which the feeling remained without
 the hope - the memory is not sad though it is fond - I
 blush, but it is the blush of honest shame that I should
 have so often displayed even to you the weakness of my
 nature - you have possessed that magic charm, which has
 laid bare the inmost recesses of a heart, into which no
 other eye has penetrated & God grant that you may ever be
 what I have ever imagined you & that you may possess the
 esteem of those who may be more worthy of a reciprocity -
 the honest, confiding simplicity with which I have treated
 you, I hope will secure your friendship & that I hold a
 treasure. May your path be strewn with flowers & long,
 bright, & prosperous your days - dearest friend of my
 youth!

[No signature]

Addressed: (No address)

Postmarked: (No postmark)

~~No name signed to letter~~

*and (iii) its references
 to the past rather than
 the present*

[This letter must have been written to ~~Mary~~
~~Bowdell~~ ~~or~~ Mary & Robertson - more probably to
 the latter from its internal evidence of ~~an~~ assumption
 that she knew local news; and (ii) its bantering style;

*Printer,
 A but bring out to
 edge of page without
 even an "m" of in -
 dentation*

OK

LWC

R. Blanton to John Bullitt, Louisville, Ky.

Elizabethtown Feb 9th/44

My Worthy Friend

It was with great reluctance I assure you that I left the city without going out to see you and when I met your Mother on the Street I fully intend doing so, on wednesday, having completed my business, consisting in running from one book store to another and then to the apothecary Shops & instrument makers, having told Waggoner to meet me at 8 in the morning, instead of which he made his appearance about three in the evening and I was engaged an hour or two with him, and thus I was kept from a visit which I assure you I contemplated with much pleasure. You may ask why I could not stay longer the reason is I have not less than three chronic patients on hand and one of them is my Mother, and duty called me home, though you cannot realize the feeling^s of one who has entrusted in his care the lives of his fellowbeings, but can realize the importance of a young man just set out to life attending strictly to his profession for in his first efforts depends much of his future success. But I did not sit down to write ~~an~~ ^{an} apology on a moral essay. I saw Mr. Edwards in town who had just left your house and a more delighted man, I never saw, he spoke of the time spent under your parental roof with perfect ecstasy.

I also saw Miss Becton and she spoke in the same way and who is it that has not spoken so - Surely your house must be one of the most pleasant places this world affords.

I suppose you have heard before this of the report, to wit; that Miss B and myself ~~will~~ ^{are} to be married this ~~fall~~ ^{fall} and as Byron says general rumour is a common liar so believe it not. I suppose she has told you better herself, if you ever spoke of it to her. Horace Gaither has just got home from St Louis and we are daily looking for Jim from Springfield; I shall rejoice when they all get here, for you know that know heat ever propelled

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note
cannot be
mistake for
see postmark

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Probably error for
March of post-
mark

Dr

6

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[?]

~~From Lizzy~~ to Miss Martha Bullitt

[February 17 1844]

Dear Martha,

Hoping you will pardon me, for presuming to disturb the tranquility of your thoughts by intruding my unworthy self upon them - I will proceed to give you an extract from a letter written by me this morning to "Especially" --- "She is a young lady of the sweetest manners; & sweetest features I ever saw except Fanny Williams, - So dignified yet affable; so pretty yet free from vanity, & affectation; with a pretty quick Temper - yet good sense sufficient to enable her to govern it; so intelligent yet far very far, from being pedantic, -- After this description do you think you will be willing to make the exchange?" Now sweet girl can you imagine of whom this is a very faint description?

If not: Lizzie would say, your lady-ship- I will know sometime next week, what Dr. Wendel thinks of the agreement we made last week; & will inform you in due time.

Tell brother Joshua I sympathize very deeply with him; & wish I could be near to pour the healing balm of consolation into his wounded heart, but as I am not you can act in the present, (as you will (according to promise) have to do in future) as may substitute.

Many, ~~many~~ ^{very} many thanks, to you dear friend, & all the family for the happy week I spent with you -- If it were not so late I would write you a nice note but I have been writing all day & as it is very late at night I must soon close; hoping that the lateness of the hour will excuse all mistakes, & when I write again it shall be a note worth reading.

My love to your Mother & Father. Kiss the children for me. My compliments to brothers Joshua & John, say to the latter for me, I hope has had pleasant dreams since Sunday & will continue to have such, until his dear sister Lizzy sees him.

May guardian angels protect; & heaven & richest blessings rest

17 Feb 1844


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LWC
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upon thee sweet girl; & all you love, is the fervent prayer of

Yours affectionate friend

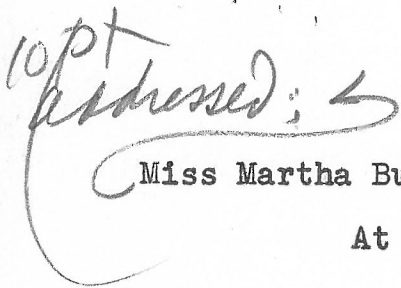
Lizzy 

P.S. Do not for mercy sake let any one read this scrawl. You can read it to Mother, & my brothers, if you wish, but do not allow them, to criticise this one, if you please. The next  they may read if they wish to do so.

Affectionately yours

F. E. B.

Feb 17th 1844

10 pt
addressed; 

Miss Martha Bullitt

At Home

The Filson Historical Society

LWC
OK

L. 432

Louisville, Feb. 24th 1844

I turn to thee in time of need,
And never turn in vain; - - -
I see thy fond & ~~pearly~~^{fearless} smile,
And hope revives again,
It gives me strength to struggle on,
What'er the strife may be;
And if again my courage fails,
Again I turn to thee.

Thy timid beauty charmed me first;
I breathed a lovers vow:
But, little thought to find the friend
Whose strength sustains me now.
I deemed thee framed for summer skies,
But in the stormy sea,
Deserted by all other friends
Dear love, I turn to thee.

Should e'er some keener sorrow throw
A shadow o'er thy mind,
And should I thoughtless, breathe to thee,
One word that is unkind;
Forgive it love! thy smile will set
My better feelings free;
And with a look of boundless love,
I still shall turn to thee.

Copied for Mr. John Bullitt

By his friend


Lizzie

Louisville Feb. 24th. 1844

Keep this in remembrance of me if you please, but do not show it to anyone, & you will exceedingly oblige your sincere friend (or sister)

Lizzie B . . .

18 March 1844



 EXHIBITION

 OF THE

PHILO LITERARY SOCIETY,

OF
JEFFERSON COLLEGE, CANONSBURG,

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 28TH, 1844.

PRAYER.

Music.

Oration,—The Age of Cromwell, - - - - - **JAS. S. JACKSON**, Lexington, Ky.

Music.

Oration,—The Classics, - - - - - **RODNEY MASON**, Springfield, Ohio.

Music.

Oration,—The Triumph of Civil Liberty, - - - - - **S. DUNCAN OLIPHANT**, Uniontown, Pa.

Music.

Oration,—National Glory, - - - - - **JOSHUA T. OWEN**, Baltimore, Md.

Music.

DISCUSSION.

“IS MIND IMMATERIAL?”

Affirm, - - - - - **WM. HORNER**, Florence, Pa.

Music.

Deny, - - - - - **J. W. ELLIOTT**, Callonsburg, Pa.

Music.

BENEDICTION.

Canonsburg March 18 44

You doubtless think My Dear Fellow that some mighty catastrophe has befallen me, or that I have become most imperiously lazy. Now this supposition on your part would show the folly of all human speculations - you would have good grounds for coming to that conclusion - your premises correct and conclusion legitimate. Arguments are often substantially true and logically false - it is vice versa in this case. There is not a man under heaven who so piously abominates apologies and explanations as myself - it's almost as bad as being blown to h...e by one of Stockton's big guns (vity that John Tyler was not sent on that special mission with his cabinet) You wrote me a d...n, etc. fine letter, John, so much like you - breathing love and confidence - yet void of sickly sentiment - it did me more good than you can imagine - somehow I thought every body was against me but that show^{ed} me plainly that it was all a mistake - that there was yet one friend who would never forsake nor desert me - who could palliate youthful follies and at the same time correct them - who could penetrate the thin guise which concealed my real character - I am not a drunkard, a black guard as some suppose - both characters are loathsome - nor a monkey or clown yet there is often good reason for believing me such - I sometimes play the fool, to make for laugh. But to come to the letter and the reason for not having answered it. When I came there was nothing that could possibly interest you - then for a short time there was a rumor of push about our studies - then the President appointed four of us to debate the tariff question in the presence of the students and faculty - this along with recitations kept me mighty busy - then a little speech had to be written on "The Age of Cromwell," which had to be spoken before society some six weeks ago so that they could see whether it was fit - And then unfortunate as I ever am a slight scratch was received on the back of my hand - which was so unlucky as to catch cold and for more than a month it has been safely lodged in a sling and it is with considerable pain I now write. Now John do you not think these reasons sufficient and the latter reason must also answer for this short epistle - it's not worth 25 cts.

During this session, which is about to close, I have been a pretty hard stant prolicked very little and can go home with a clear conscience -

When we left home permission was granted me to take a trip to the east - at the time I was
very much in the notion thought it would be pleasant and beneficial - but as the time near-
ed I was very sorry about it and wished to go home but was too poor to ask the folks at home
a day or two ago I got my great satisfaction they sent me a letter from the whole family
begging me to go home - and with the help of God I am going. Now I hope
myself - by all means meet me there early in April - we will have a clear time - talk
over old times and recent prospects - Of course you yield to me the right to marry first -
as I am the oldest and engaged to - by heavens John Spi is the cleverest woman
on earth and would help a man to build up a fortune - there are no false notions
about her. Well my hand is so painful that it is impossible to write longer -
My kindest regards to your father family - the Smiths and don't forget Logan
although I fully believe he has cut my acquaintance - be sure and bring him with
you to our house -

Your friend
J. S. Jackson

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Mr. John C. Bullitt

Louisville

Ky.

The Filson Historical Society



Find out if there is a Jefferson College at Cannonsburg, Pa.

Write the following letter:

In about the fall of 1842 one James S. Jackson of Lexington Kentucky went to Jefferson College at Cannonsburg and stayed there several years. If your records go back that far could you tell me when he entered, and how long he stayed there, and whether he graduated, and if so when? In trying to classify certain old correspondence of John C. Bullitt of Philadelphia (now deceased) a clew would be given if I could find out this information about James S. Jackson.

Thank you very much in advance and with great appreciation for anything you can do for me in this respect,

Very truly yours,

IDENTIFICATION OF J. S. JACKSON'S CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Apparently John C. Bullitt must have been in Danville at College until he graduated at the end of September 1842 (Oct. apparently being the holiday period; with another little holiday in April).

Apparently at the end of his graduation in 1842 may have been the time when his father made him stay a year out of college because of his rudeness to his mother, but I am not sure about this until I can tabulate his whereabouts by his correspondence.

In the fall of 1844 he went to Lexington Law School until March 1845. We must fit the correspondence in with these dates.

(2) Jackson is recorded as a member of the Sophomore class (the same class with Josh Bullitt) and one year behind John C. Bullitt in September 1841, which, if Jackson happened to stay beyond the Sophomore class he would have been in Danville until Sept. 1842 as a Junior, and until September 1843 as a Senior to graduate.

Isham Henderson, Dolph Martin were in the same class with John C. Bullitt while Jas. A. Gaither and R. C. Wintersmith were in the Senior class, a year ahead of John C. Bullitt.

On the other hand Bogle, Cheek, Duncan, W. L. Green, Ector, Logan McKnight, Wm. Short and Worthington were in the same class with Jackson - a year behind John C. Bullitt.

(3) As he was apparently in Centre College up to September 1841 his correspondence can hardly have been dated in 1839-1840 or 1841. I am afraid I made a mistake in assigning his letter of June 30th to be 1840. I do not find any internal evidence in it that would fix it in 1840. It must have been a later date.

Jackson's letter of November 29, 1842 indicates (as the normal course of his Danville standing would make him) he would graduate in September 1843, but that he got into trouble with the faculty in November '42 (the beginning of his Senior year).

JOHN C. BULLITT

In John C. Bullitt's Alumni Address at Centre College in 1887 or 1888 he says he was a student there for some "three years and a half". Apparently John C. Young must have been President while John C. Bullitt was at Danville.

1111
copy
Nov 29
Nov 42
Nov 42

The Filson Historical Society

~~From~~ James S Jackson to John C Bullitt

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Canonsburg March 18, 44

OTD

You doubtless think My Dear Fellow that some mighty catastrophe has befallen me, or that I have become most infernally lazy. Now this supposition on your part would show the folly of all human speculations- You would have good grounds for coming to that conclusion - your premises correct and conclusion legitimate. Arguments are often substantially true and logically false - It is vice versa in this case. There is not a man under heaven who so piously abominates apologies and explanations as myself - its almost as bad as being blown to h..l by one of Stocktons big guns (pity that John Tyler was not sent on that special mission with his cabinet). You wrote me a d...n.ed fine letter, John, so much like you - breathing love and confidence - yet void of sickly sentiment - it did me more good than you can imagine - somehow I thought evry body was against me but that showed me plainly that it was all a mistake - that there was yet one friend who would never forsake nor desert me - who could palliate youthful follies and at the same time correct them - who could penetrate the thin guise which concealed my real character - I am not a drunkard, a blackguard as some suppose - both characters are loathesome - nor a monkey or clown yet there is often good reason for believing me such - I sometimes play the fool, to make fools laugh. But to come to the letter and the reason for not having answered it. - When it came there was nothing that could possibly interest you - then for a short time there was a deal of push about our studies - then the President appointed four of us to debate the tariff question in the presence of the students and faculty - this along with recitations kept me mighty busy-then a little speech had to be written on "the Age of Cromwell," which had to be spoken before Society some six weeks ago so that they could see whether it was fit. And then unfortunate as I ever am a slight scratch was received on the back of my hand - which was so unlucky as to catch cold and for more than a month it has been safely lodged in a sling and it is with considerable pain I now write.* Now John do you not think these reasons sufficient and the latter reason must also

blue

Postmarked: Canonsburg, Pa. Mar 18

VP

(Handwritten initials)

(J. S. Jackson to John C. Bullitt)

I
INTER SILVAS ACADEMY QUAERERE VERUM

E X H I B I T I O N

Of The

P H I L O L I T E R A R Y S O C I E T Y

Of

JEFFERSON COLLEGE, CANONSBURG,

Thursday Evening, March 28th, 1844.

PRAYER.

Music.

ORATION, - The Age of Cromwell Jas. S. Jackson, Lexington, Ky.

Music.

ORATION, - The Classics Rodney Mason, Springfield, Ohio

Music.

ORATION, - The Triumph of Civil Liberty S. Duncan Oliphant, Uniontown, Pa

Music.

ORATION, - National Glory Joshua T. Owen, Baltimore, Md.

Music.

D I S C U S S I O N

"IS MIND IMMATERIAL?"

Affirm Wm. Horner, Florence, Pa.

Music.

Deny J. W. Elliott, ^{Canonsburg} Canonsburg, Pa

Music.

B E N E D I C T I O N .

(Willis G. Edwards to Mrs. ^{Wm. C.}~~M. A.~~ Bullitt)

Alton Mch 20th -44

My Dear Aunt

When taking leave of you I little thought that almost two weeks could elapse after my arrival at home without my writing, but they are gone & I scarcely know how. Calling upon my acquaintances & pressing business which had suffered from my absence have kept me constantly employed. To this you must attribute my delay & must not think me forgetful of Friends because separated from them. My thoughts are often of you all & the kindness which I cannot thank you for because I have no words to express my feelings will ever be remembered. The most pleasant & profitable hours of my life have been spent at Ox Moor & the recollection of them relieves the tedium of many an hour when riding alone about the country. Could I see you now after spending a few days among Brothers Sisters & Friends I would probably for a short time at least invalidate my claim to the title of the "Silent" Mr Edwards, but though I would scarcely know where to begin talking all seems dull & tame & not worth the reading as soon as I am seated to write. The many Follies & Flirtations of your own & Mothers youthful days which you rendered me so familiar with have been all brought freshly before her from the oblivion to which she had consigned them. They usually furnish the topic at dinner & the effect produced by the mention of some long forgotten circumstance is so different from that produced upon Aunt Ann that it seems quite novel. Upon my mentioning the other day the circumstance of Duff Green having addressed her we all were not a little amused to see her face mantle with a blush deeply crimson as you would expect from a damsel of Fifteen upon the mention of her first love. She thinks it almost sacrilege in me to have mentioned it even at this late day & says that she never told it to any one & so you must be careful in future least you betray her secrets, I do wish that I could see you together. It would be so

- 2 -

pleasant to hear the tales of the olden time.

Sister & Ben have arrived since my return & we are all once more together. Sisters health is but little improved & she is happy to be at home again after an absence of eight months. Her only regret is that she did not visit Louisville. I denied myself the pleasure of a visit to Cousin Sue for the purpose of meeting her at the appointed time, but she was not prompt & so I lost the pleasure of Both & in addition had a dull trip home.

Ben is considerably changed & happily his traveling propensities have given way to others of a more substantial & common sense character. Tell Cousin Sue that he is taller than ever & says that the woman who links her fate with his if short in stature must expect a great many ups & downs in life.

Speaking of Great men I hope that she saw General Tom Thumb whilst in the City. I called upon his Honour in the evening after bidding you good-bye & would have been delighted with her Company. He is a great curiosity & quite amusing & with an acquaintance I should have enjoyed the call very much but alone & feeling doubly so it was very dull.

I called twice upon Dr Bayless but was unable to see him which I very much regretted. Please present my Compliments to himself & Lady when you meet them. Cousin Matilda talks a little of a visit to Ky. but it is hardly probable. Bell has just graduated & thinks it her turn now. The Honors of her Alma Mater give her an undisputable right to be a young Lady & she is determined not to be a Stay-at-Home, school-girl any longer.

Tell John to come on as soon as he is ready. She is not quite so good quality as Cousin Till~~x~~ but then the quantity, one Hundred & Forty Five pounds ----- !!! I hope that she will make a deep impression when they meet, just think - seven Misses Edwards in the two families not one of whom is less than Fourteen & not one

- 3 -

married yet - & besides a fresh supply coming on. What a prospect!
Their Brothers can never commit suicide for want of something to live
for.

For the present I have thrown aside Books & pleasure & am a
man of business. Since my return I have been busily engaged in riding
about the county upon business & seated myself to write this evening
after having ridden 30 miles on a rough trotting horse. Such exercises you
will acknowledge are not altogether congenial to literary pursuits & on
this plea will excuse this dull & disconnected scrawl. I write what
comes first & will not stop to think it over until after it is mailed
least I should burn it up. All send their love to all & you can apportion
& divide it among you as suits you best. I shall anxiously look for
that promised letter. John may expect to be horrified with a long
epistle from me as soon as circumstances permit. Please prepare him
for it. Remember me to Mr Bullitt. Give my love to all the family &
accept for yourself that portion which is next to a mothers from

Your much attached nephew

Willis G. Edwards.

10pt
Addressed:

Mrs. M. A. Bullitt, Louisville, Ky.

Postmarked:

Alton, Il. Mar 23.

OK

E. Robertson
From Mary to John C. Bullitt

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Wakefield, March 25th, 1844

With sincere pleasure though some delay do I acknowledge the receipt of my dear friend's long & kind letter. Yes, impudent as it was I was heartily glad to see it. For not writing sooner I grant you forgiveness, in consideration of your having ^{promises} ~~provided~~ better things in future, but should you prove recreant to the vow ~~now~~ you will find me less amiable than now.

You seem to think me unreasonable in my prohibition of your flirting - I give my free consent - making it a virtue by necessity - knowing full well that you will remember to forget my objections to such a procedure, should you feel inclined to indulge in the "pleasing pastime" so rather than have you act in direct opposition to my commands, I now tell you to "go a head" - Provisors-!! the lady must be altogether interesting (somewhat a reflection upon your taste, to suppose you you could choose any other.) The parties must be well assured on what ground they stand, - conducting the matter most skillfully - and pass through the ordeal unharmd - Finally-I must be regularly advised of each and every movement. Do you agree?- but I am writing all this trash, and in fact have no right to say one word on the subject - through me - you sought permission of Agnes which she immediately gave on reading your letter - by the bye you should not quarrel with me for sending it to her - I thought you had this in view when penning it - as she was one of its principal subjects. I was with her yesterday and she told me she would put a P. S. to this if I would send it into town - I think though as we are not together she must wait till next time.-I know I am acting very much against my own interest, as my letter would be far more acceptable in your eyes, did it contain a few words from Addie - you tell me to write such an one as my last. I would not for the world test your time, patience (may I add temper?) so again - it was crossed every page

E. 440

- so rather than do the like with this, I have selected a longer sheet than usual. I feel flattered & far more gratified that you remember me so well - that in your "imaginings" I am so often seen - my voice so often heard - but like some other things the ideal image may be fairer than the real - be this as it may I have quite enough vanity to believe that the latter is sufficiently so to afford some gratification to those who can excuse its many, very many defects. - in short to those who love me as I am, not I ought to be. Your little song I frequently sing and think of Josh and yourself whilst so doing - a propos - "he has a new dog", Do tell me if dogs often are ever take the place of friends, with some people? If so - I retire from the contest, yielding the prize to the triumphant victor - but seriously - Has Josh given me up as friend as well as correspondent once I flattered myself into the belief that I was quite a friend - I cannot think that he is capricious - or that he cannot love dog & damsel at the same time - though to one who knows, and appreciates his worth less than I it would certainly so appear. He has been in my debt a letter since October - please ask me to tell me whether or not he intends writing - I am weary of this suspense and expectation. Have you both been very studious this winter? I have thrown up books almost entirely - at times rather preferring to study men and manners. Petersburg is dull beyond endurance - nothing to disturb its village-like quietude - the men here somewhere heard that "matches are made in heaven" - hence obviating the necessity of making any on earth I suppose they think - so we are going to be the most glorious set of old maids and old bachelors! will you come on & join our fraternity? A glad welcome shall we give you! But I have been writing too fast & Mr. James McIlwaine & Miss Fannie Owen would not thank me for what I have said. On the 6 of April or May rather - I hear they are to be made "one & the same" - I quite admire their independence of spirit - only

to think of their braving public opinion so far, as to perpetrate a deed considered by some almost heinous - to say the least of it - certainly en mauvaise haste - don't promise me ennui today indeed I was ever in a better humor - for I have no "part nor lot" in this matter of marriage - only interested for my friends -

9 "The Ethiopian minstrels" have just left town & for lack of something better many people went to hear them (not I of the number though). Willis says "the ladies must have some excuse for putting on their bonnets and shawls - hence the necessity of evening amusements; lectures, concerts, theatres & cc - " - I am much of his opinion, and think the fair ones of Petersburg do need "this" excuse "most amazingly Mrs. Clay will be here shortly, and arrangements are being made for his reception. Mama talks of accompanying him to Washington - I have felt no desire to visit the metropolis since the shocking catastrophe on board the Princeton - Mama had a letter from a friend there last night - a shade of melancholy must of course have settled on the community, and the calamity was deeply felt by all "but as our correspondent writes, there " an active agent is ever present in the political spirit - and Oregon, Texas tariff and President-making have little time to think of other things either mournful or pleasing - "a dreadful accident occurred here a few days since. The train of cars on the ^{railroad} Roanoke/had just left the depot - the boiler bursted and killed several persons and mortally wounded one or two others. The engineer - a very respectable man by the name of Smith - was blown literally to pieces - he left a large and dependent family to mourn his untimely and distressing end ~~and~~ since coming to Petersburg my health has improved though I have been sick twice - Mama vetos my remaining at Bellevue all summer - so we shall probably visit the springs - should you not like to meet us at White Sulphur or Washington? We shall be most happy to see you. I hope to meet some of our southern friends - as "cotton has riz" - they will perhaps find it expedient and pleasant to travel this year. Agness has been quite indisposed but is better

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she bade me give you much kind remembrance - I think you will find no formidable rival in one "Cousin Richard" - who is very attentive to me, inasmuch as I have promised to make interest for him - A gentleman told me yesterday that he "saw the marriage of Miss or Mr. Bullitt, he had forgotten which - and knowing that I/^{was} particularly interested in the name, had thought especially of it to tell me when we met" - Do you know who the individual is? My friend mischevously said "I am sure it is the one with whom you corresponded some time ago" - I gave no credence yet thought it possible it might be his sister - whom I hear from many sources is Miss "certainly engaged to Mr. Allison" - "Can these things be true" At one time I heard that she had discarded Richard, and I presumed her a lady of "bad taste - give my best love to her, and tell her if she is not already married please wait till I return - for I am getting so old, & "times are so dull", that I think I shall dance neither at my own, or anybody else's wedding! If she give not her consent I ~~presume~~ appeal to Mr. Richard! Hugh Smith has returned from Transylvania I presume - you know not how often I think of my delightful stay at Oxmoor, and the pleasant acquaintances made there - But the time has passed! Shall it ever return? Amen! "Hope whispers "days may come - bringing with them happiness like unto that which hath been" - I think, & feel that it will be so - we may be deluded, but to me there is much pleasure in the anticipation. I was in a castle hidden - but alas! On^s so frail a foundation. "My day dreams are ~~all~~ pleasant - even more so than my sleeping-~~but~~ it is injurious, very, I believe - yet I go on from hour to hour until my very existence shall have been dreamt away! But I ~~allow~~ ^{abhor} sickly sentimentality - and I know you do - so let's be done with it. I fear me much, that your temper (^{sweet} such as it is) has given way ^{ere} in this - you must accept Jimmie Dean's excuse "My heart is so very bad my Lord" - I had a letter from Miss Louisa Smith - telling me that you and she had become

visit

very good friends during the Xmas ~~xxxx~~ - at Mr. Robert Smith's. She paid you some nice compliments too, but as I don't think you merit them, you will excuse my repeating - Sallie Ward I hear from all is the reigning star of fashion beauty and belleism. Do you know her? You seem to like and admire the brother & I thought it possible might have become a devotee of the ~~brother~~ ^{mother} sister - she was certainly a beautiful, elegant looking girl when I left Louisville - though I think Malime will be still more so when grown. How changed will be the circle ere I return! I shall scarce fell at home in the place of all others which I have loved most dearly. Many whom I have known and cherished are with the sleeping millions of the dead - sad sad indeed must be the emotions awakened on revisiting the scenes of my childhood - for from the memory of those who are still there I may be effaced and this were even worse than death - to me - I cannot bear to be forgotten - by those whom I have loved - who have loved me - in other- perhaps in happier - days - I had heard of the death of our beloved friend Mrs. Brown - ^{surely} ~~truly~~ she was meet for heaven - should we lament, when we know that our loss is her great gain. Please present our kindest love to the family, when you see them - Mama will write soon - we have had an affectionate letter from cousin Mary telling of her dear mother's last days - of the death of my sweet Mary Ellen - I have also heard! But she was prepared to die - to stand in the presence of her reconciled ^Father - so young, so gentle, so beautiful she was! The Reaper sparest not - & not content with those he had ^{est} - already cut^d down hath taken ^{here} ~~him~~, "the chosen one" the idealized pastor of an idealizing people & left them as "sheep without a shepherd" - truly we know not what a day may bring forth " - One year ago, I was enjoying the balmy breezes of the south - the day is bright as those, but the March winds blow mournfully - most mournfully - I am changeable as the chameleon - and though in a gay mood when I commence writing feel now really sad - can you bear with my caprices, my impulses? I trust so. And this reconciles me to sending you so

much trash as I do always - but I should never write if I waited
 to feel perfectly satisfied with my letters - They are always
 written to one - and cannot bear to be seen by a third person. I
 have nearly finished and said not one word of our dear Jim - who
 is today ^{braving} ~~travelling~~ the dangers of the deep - The sloop of War
 Plymouth to which he is attached sailed, or intended sailing from
 Boston ^{on the} 23thd of this month - for a three years' cruise in the
 Mediterranean - Jim is charmed with the life he has chosen -
 though he has many ~~hard~~ hardships to undergo - He has
 been on duty almost a month - the Vessel is in nautical parlance
 a "crack" one - officers the finest - many of them are acquaintances -
 Courtland Benham is on board - and Governor Wickliffe's son also -
These young Kentuckians I trust they will represent well the dear
 old "Banner state" I envy them almost - and never wished so much
 as now to go to sea. I had always a great fancy for it - its
 Dr. ^{Powell [?]} ~~Ponole~~ used to call me his "little rowdy" and say I "ought to
 be sent to sea" - when you see him, give him much love for me as
~~much~~ indeed to my all of my old friends for I love them dearly
 still - I am obliged to Dr. Edwards for his "good wishes" return
 mine if you deem them worthy of acceptance - What is his [^] cousin
 Nelson's story? Tell me it when you write - And so you cannot
 learn Josh neatness; well, I cannot advise you in a course to pursue -
 but I guess you are to blame as much as he in the disorder of your
 sanctum - have you nearly finished it; and hung other drapery since
 I saw to it. Tell Josh I often see his friend Travis Roper . He
 has inquired after him particularly. Marriage seems to have had
 the happiest effect on him - He is in love with the whole world
 if you could only see his gracious ^{bow} ~~men~~ - and fascinating smile!
 I could live on them an entire week - I do believe - though he is
 a married man, but entre nous I think I smiling and bowing ^{are} ~~on~~
 his ^{fort} ~~feet~~ - for he certainly does show off to peculiar advantage

whilst doing either. I must stop, to finish a letter to James -
 beside I have written enough to make you cross for a whole week -
 but I am not near enough to feel your ^{anger} eyes, If you value me or
 my letters - pray don't be so very tardy in the response as you
 were to my last - or when you do write I'll "take my time Miss Lucy"
 in replying. Present us most affectionately to each and all around
 you - I do wish I could peep in upon your circle for a little while -
 but if you will write soon a long letter I shall feel somewhat
 compensated for the pleasure which is denied me. I have not been
 taking much advantage of the golden privilege allowed us by Leap
 year - I thank you for the relation of its origin you impudent
 boy! Kiss Ellen for me when you see her - and remind the little
 lady that she owes me a letter. Have you heard from Sue Weiss lately?
 & your "better half" - Jim Jackson. Remember me to both when you
 write - you have never told me of your visit to Lexington! I cannot
 write any more. ^{Very} Sincerely your friend,

Mary

10pt
 Addressed:

John Christian Bullitt,
 Care of Mr. WM. C. Bullitt,
 Louisville, Ky.

Postmarked:

Petersburg
 March 25

IWC
[Handwritten initials]

Willis

W. G. Edwards to John C. Bullitt ~~at Louisville, Ky.~~

[Handwritten initials]

Alton, April 20th 44

Only a few weeks have passed since we parted ~~and~~ still my dear Fellow circumstance ~~and~~ change have occurred with their usual rapidity, but now that I am at last seated to write it is difficult to select anything from such everyday occurrences as have befallen me with the hope of interesting you. Indeed nothing unusual has occurred in the affairs of those with whom you are acquainted. Nels is growing old as all men must ~~and~~ is completely engrossed in business of which you have had an indication in his long neglect of your letter. Until within a few weeks he has continued to cherish the expectation of visiting Sarah & probably reinstating himself, & even strongly hoped though without expressing it that she would yet return to her first love, but a letter recently received by sister in which she alludes to the circumstance at some length has I think determined to think of it no longer. This has continued to furnish that degree of excitement which is almost necessary to one of his ardent disposition & now he will turn in search of it to something else probably Politics, probably another faithless ~~Woman~~.

blue

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He ever has you know some fond scheme^s - some chief anticipation to dream upon, & plans to secure its occurrence[^] ~~to~~ ^{Now} to have you for a partner in law - not matrimony is his usual theme of wishing though as improbable under existing circumstances as anything which he could hope for. He is tied to Alton. You never could be.

Sid is at last going to be married!!!! to ~~Miss~~ Strong of which community has long been satisfied, - I never until now. When it will take place no one knows & though no one doubts their engagement, she denies it even to me & still I do not doubt it. T'is

blue
Do "Sid" and "Jill" abbreviations in matrimony

LWC
Page 2

hard to think of seeing her another's, but I do not wish it otherwise. Though she has reciprocated all my feelings nature has placed a barrier between us which each consider insurmountable, & as I have loved without hoping or even desiring its realization, so can I see her without regret take that step which will render her position sacred from every feeling save friendship. A cold world this seems here & still it expresses all that I may feel. This John has been the ^{one} ~~all~~ — the enduring passion of my life & to you only have I mentioned it seriously. Do not then think this weakness but forgive this manifestation of feeling which before has hardly been acknowledged to myself & never will be to any other than you.

I never have frolicked as much in my life as since my return & of course never have had so much fun. We have had the honor of a visit from a Lady of Louisville a Miss Bartlett of whom I never heard while there & happily for me, she is quite pretty & very interesting so much so to induce me to take a trip to St Louis for the purpose of seeing her, which after all I was unable to do. If you don't know her do find her out and form her acquaintance for my sake & then ask anything which I can do for you.

On last Saturday I visited St Louis again remained until Wednesday under charge of a Dentist. I could not have been more astonished by any other apparition than I was on Sunday morning by meeting Hugh "solitary & alone" loafing along the street in a profound revery, suggested probably by his having just passed down Tine Street where are displayed for the encouragement of younger members of the craft just "starting out", some thirty or forty attorneys' shingles. I spent most of Sunday and Monday with him & had the pleasure of asking a hundred questions about you all, Nels was down on Monday

20 Apr 1844

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LWC
Page 3

& we tried hard to induce him to come home & spend a day or two with us, but he seemed anxious to get on & left for ^{Don} ~~Brown~~ville on Monday evening .

Give my best love to Aunt Ann, Cousin Martha, Cousin Sue and all the rest of the Cousins. I am very much obliged to Cousin Sue for answering my letter just as I began to fear that I was forgotten. This was received this morning & I will answer it in Danville. Aunt Ann wondered if I would miss you all as much as I should be missed.

I think of it often and wonder in turn. Aunt Ann promised me a letter from her own loving self + I still expect it.
April 27

You will see from the date that this epistle has been on hand for some time. It was my intention when it was written to have sent it by Cousin Martha ^eBarbour who was here on a visit with Aunt Isabella but in the bustle of their leaving it was forgotten & I have since hesitated whether to send it at all or write another.

It was my good fortune to draw from the lottery at our Fair a pair of mits "with a little variation" & having no use for any thing so diminutive & moreover not anticipation any use for such I sent them to you by Cousin Sue ^{thinking} ~~thus~~ pray that they would match those which you have — but be careful & don't [crakup?] the childs feet — It may affect its genius.

Tell Aunt Ann (as she wishes to know if I am not improved) that a few days since I called on the ^Lady who so kindly anticipated me about 18 months since by telling me that I "had her friendship twas all ~~that~~ she had to give" & who has since married. ↗

The servant in spite of all that I could do ushered me into the bedroom & thus gratified me with a peep into the mysteries. Now I don't know whether she is sorry for her sin against me, but she told sister that Willis had improved more than anybody that ever she saw and then she had a baby with a yellow dress on. Just think of it — a baby with a yellow dress on. Lord! how I congratulated myself!!!
As to the modesty she can form her own conclusions.

Do not mention my having spoken of Cousin M's engagement. Give



20 Apr 1844

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my respects to your father and Josh my heartest wishes for the success
of the latter & some of his Brandy Peaches.

Please inquire at the Post Office & take out & examine anything
which may come for me & remail if important. Write soon & don't for-
get Miss May B.

Your sincere Friend

W. G. Edwards

10/25
Addressed to

Mr John C Bullett, Louisville, Ky

Postmarked

Alton, Ill., Apr 30

The Filson Historical Society

DOJ

(J. S. Jackson to Mr. ~~E. W.~~ McKnight)

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Canonsburg June 14, 1844

There once lived an old man whos' locks were silvery white - his thin and furrowed visage exhibited the marks of time, - and care sat on every feature - day by day we saw him and as often remarked his abstracted air- faltering voice and tremulous step. - Yet at times there was about him an unnatural energy, a something which said it was not always thus, neither has time made me old. Oh my friend, if you had seen that deep despondency, if you had seen those burning tears, which came hot from the soul, - and again if you had beheld that misanthropic smile "that froose the hearts blood" and known the cause of all his suffering you would not have *erred* in one particular to so great an extent. But the question naturally arises, what caused this mans peculiar state of mind? had ambitious hopes been blighted? had he lost his hold in ascending fames rugged hights? or becoming *dis* - infatuated, fallen and been crushed? ~~had~~ his disappointed love for gain thus influenced him? he was far far exalted above such sordid trash - he had risen and was greatest amongts the great - his name was on every mans tongue and the remembrance of his virtuous and patriotic acts caused the hearts of all to swell with gratitude and pride, and whilst praises and gratulations were showered upon him he was miserable and fled from those who fain would have caressed - he sought solitude in the vain hope of having quiet and there he "told his tale" it's simple, yet interesting. "When young I was sent to a college - was subject to much temptation and often sinned, from a warm and excitable temperament was led to do much that was grievous - there was no one to say stop - no warning voice - there was much dross and very little true friendship - there were many pretenders, hypocrites who often deceived by false professions untill all were distrusted -

14 June 1844
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my condition was lonely - fate threw in my way one whos evry word seemed very sincerity - he scorned to deceive - was all virtue and truth - at length we parted and the ties which had grown between us were strengthened - the chains which bound us together grew brighter and more strong,- But alas! the chords were snapped the chain was dimmed - my soul lost its nourishment when he ceased to administer kindness. ^{TP} To think that he would err was far from me - to think that he would basely desert me without a cause all sufficient I could never believe - no blame was attached to him since it was evident my own wayward course had driven him from me - his finer feelings were shocked and his rigid virtue revolted at my recklessness and loose morals - he could not esteem, he could not love, he could not have one kind feeling towards me - nay, the recollection, of our former intimacy, of all the hopes and fears we had once held in common, of the pleasant hours which had glided sweetly away whilst we were together, could not raise one emotion, could not call forth even pity.- I could not blame him, yet he might have remonstrated - he might have drawn me back - he might have written, at least, and told me of my unworthiness - hatred, alone would have been nothing in comparison with silent neglect. Ah! it was too much it could not be borne - it haunted me through my whole life and has thus made me prematurely old - honours, ~~w~~ wealth, power, life were nothing without true genuine friendship - The cup of pleasure may be drunk and yet when sympathy of kindred hearts is gone "there is an aching void within", there is an unsatisfyed restlessness which makes one miserable. He ceased and there appeared a resemblance between parts of his narration and a case which had come under my observation and in which I was personally concerned. You, Logan, have neglected me. You have said by your actions "I will have nothing to do with you", we were intimate and I confided in yourself and John alone - on his part there was always a corresponding confidence - a laying open of the heart - a communion of soul with soul - on your part untill now there seemed the same interchange - I cannot blame you for the conscious-

ness of my unworthiness prevents it - you saw my faults and fled from me - my infirmities are many and aggravated, yet a friend should bear with them, or rather should be blind to them. How long have you been silent? do you know? and how did you act when an opportunity of seeing one, you once esteemed, presented itself? did you embrace it? could you not ride the great distance of eight miles to see a man to whom you had once been a friend? if the present afforded no inducement could not the recollection of the past influence you? Was there no inclination to see the loathsome being and say "I hate you". Feeling lonely and deserted, as I do, and feeling that this poor scrawl will be an intrusion, yet it is impossible to remain silent - I cannot give you up without a remonstrance and it seems incompatible with my former pride and independence to ask one to care for me. ^P But think not that your *quondam* friend is more humble, but that its the love he bears you that so influences him - he hates the world, he ^{to} condemns its small heartedness - its avarice - its selfishness - He has schooled his feelings and steeled his heart to bear everything - he has marked his course and will follow it at the expense of all save honour - ambition his God, his criterion success. There may be a time when you will not be dishonoured by my acquaintance and if my highest aims are realised - if all my scemes are doubly successful never think you are forgotten - and if you should see me in political strife where all are enemies - where all is confusion and distraction, remember, you shall never be forgotten. If you see John tell him for ~~my~~ God's sake never to desert me - some cause must have prevented him from writing or he has also gone the way of all flesh -

Your Friend

J. S. Jackson

Addressed:

Mr. L. W. McKnight, Louisville, Ky.

Postmarked:

June 22, Canonsburg, Pa.

Robinson
 [Mary to ~~Mr.~~ John C. Bullitt]

Wakefield July 5th '44

Verily

I very much doubt the legality of my proceeding My dear Friend in sending this sheet to you, whilst there are no less than eight other letters staring me in the face for answers which should have been given long, long since. I sat down with the good intention to write a long letter to Miss Louisa Smith in looking for her last communication my eye chanced to fall upon your's, the impulse, (as my impulses always are) was invisible, in truth I know not that I struggled very hard against it - but you see I have yielded ~~to~~ and you must bear the consequences. Your dateless sealless yet no less valued letter reached me a few days previous to my departure for Old Point Comfort from which place I was some ill about a week since - Our stay there of a fortnight was very delightful until my old enemy & I had an encounter - I was exceedingly ill for a few days & so soon as my physician thought it at all practicable we returned. Never have I known such universal kindness and sympathy from friends - far less from persons with whom I was an unfamiliar stranger and to others totally so - I shall ever, ever feel truly gratified for the exceeding great kindness extended to me - and flattered too, for I had not an idea that I under any circumstances could call forth such sympathy. "Here is an affectation of ~~her~~ her usual humility" you will probably say. Believe me I have a sufficiently good opinion of myself and you my friend have taught it me - or aided others in so doing, so you must not blame me if my bump of self esteem, should become so distended that I can esteem nothing else. I wish much you could have been with us at Point Comfort - the fine sea breeze and bathing in themselves were all sufficient to keep me in good humor. So invigorating, so refreshing - your Esperance taste for fish, oysters and crabs might have been

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satiated, mine was - Company select & most agreeable to say nothing just now of the Garrison & its attendant delightful attractions! Oh! those officers. Perfect heart breakers! And if mine had not been steeled - I might have come off minus - I put on my whole armor of ugly looks before going down as a preventative against the gold & tinsel fever, which has a way of insinuating itself into the systems of most demoiselles who visit that place - the disease struck in most cases affected me not; - my system being so thoroughly prepared before passing through the ordeal; the first day or two were rather cold, weather bad and - I found horse [?] ~~then~~ the only cow which passed current, & accordingly mounted some, consequently ~~found~~ found pared well - I found Major Leach ^[?] of whom you have heard me often speak - he is a host in himself and to the point was truly a sine qua non so bright in face and feeling with his cheerful, happy spirit, he is certainly the life and light of all around him - we had some charming people from Richmond, all the elite of the city amongst them Mr. and Mrs. Mason (alias the great heiress Ellen Bruce), who is decidedly 'distingue' in person - You would feel greatly complimented (if you could know her) when I tell you that she reminded me almost hourly of you - a delicate beauty too, ~~with a~~ in her brain + yet ~~in~~ the color and expression of eye, and she was so very like you! I told her of the likeness - They are the most perfect sample of ^{not} conjugal bliss that I have ever seen - So entirely, and wholly devoted to each other. Mr. Robert Steward, with Miss S. and her sister E. Pearce were expected when I came away. Preparations were being made for the reception of the President, but I thought with not little pleasure - He arrived the evening of the day we left, with his fair young bride - Their stay will occasion some gaiety of course - a beautiful temporary residence has been made

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ready for them, immediately on the beach and commanding a fine view of the Fort, and a delightful water prospect - one of the greatest inducements one has for staying there is the splendid band which performs daily - I never heard such strains! They play out every other evening in the center of the plain, and you have no idea of the restivity and beauty of the scene - Groups of two or more walking, standing or sitting under the trees which are scattered over the ground - the music so delightful, with its thousand echos! the officers are all equally sensible, and some very handsome - I like them well, and as evidence will show you some trophies when we meet (not of conquest), ~~principally~~ friendship merely! But you must be weary of one theme - and yet I scarce know of what to write. Petersburg is so quite, so village-like in its dull round of monotony but I must not tell its people so. They are of all others, most tenderly tenacious of their rights, and like not well, to hear of comparisons being drawn - so before them I generally keep still - yesterday was the 4th which now always is no more than the 3rd. Very little was done - Sunday school children marched an oration was delivered & the Declaration of Independence read as usual - Mr. Moffitt addressed the children - to the enthusiastic admiration of all who heard him. He had had of course crowded houses for a day or two & will remain about a week I heard - Taking I suppose as many benefits as he ever did in the west and south - On Monday we shall return to Bellevue from which place we have been absent almost six months - Shall probably not remain there very long as my physicians say I must go to White Sulphur this summer, to receive a permanent cure - or my constitution will not be worth one [?] - I have proven so very delicate you would scarce know me I guess. The song that you spoke of I already know. I do wish you could hear the Old Point band play the air, 'tis certainly the most delightful thing I ever heard. And so Josh is a regular bona fide lawyer! From my soul do I wish him success. Aye the very best! I must be his friend still, tho' there seems to be much doubt and some

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mystery about his being mine! You bid me not seek to know why I am a forbidden theme! I must and will seek - and why not tell me John? I have flattered myself that I was often thought of & sometimes spoken of by the brothers - Josh's conduct is inexplicable - his continued silence after such protestations of regard, and faithful promises to write - but it is past - I certainly am not now what I once was. My messages to him I really wish delivered! Though it matters not now. A truer friend he has never had - nor one who would more sincerely sympathize with him in weal or woe - And when do you my dear friend receive your license? You are quite right in believing that my kind my best wishes will go with you where'er you go, whether it be in the far distant west or the bright sunny south - I should prefer the latter were I you - Oh! give me the south, with its warm gush^{ing} of feeling! Open hand - extended ~~over~~ ^{ever} to assist with heart to sympathize with and console! - But I would have you go where you can best succeed in securing for yourself that honor and fame which should rightly belong to every man of so an ambition! But seek not to be great rather than good - to be great is to be good I think - and when you have ^{won} ~~seen~~ for yourself the name which I feel you will deserve let it tell of ^{moral} ~~much~~ beauty and greatness as well as mental!"

You speak of a cabinet! I too must be forming one I believe - I have some five specimens already - Your Mount Vernon relics shall surely be preserved, nor ami, ~~and~~ presented when we meet, when that shall be, none can tell! I have not the most foreign idea when we shall return to Kentucky - the day is far distant, and you may not be there - but we'll remember each other still, and think of the years which have passed fraught with happiness to both of us., And so Matt is not engaged, as said Dame Rumor. Like me she is not for "immediate annexation". So J J. J. Jr. is your neighbor and a good one too you say. I have heard much of Sallie's bellèism.

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I should like so much to see you all, if but for a little while even. Where and how is Ellen? I am in her debt a letter, which I will pay soon tell her with my affectionate regards - I have of late become sadly negligent as a correspondent, it was not my wont & I must retrieve my character Have you seen anything of Judge Browne's family lately? We have not heard from them for some time - Please remember me very affectionately when you see them - I should love so to see Jenny's little Ben And so it is thought Miss Louisa and Mr. Green will be married. I am so glad, and think they will suit exactly - she will have to join the presb church I guess - I love her dearly, and have always wanted to see her nicely settled so much - Sue W. will like it I am sure - My paper is almost gone and warns me to close. A few days since I had long letters from James He was then at Gibraltar, perfectly fascinated with his vacation and his officers - Was in very fine spirits - I think it may continue. Where is Hugh Smith now - and has his father moved to Missouri as was his intention - Write to me very soon and tell me everything that is going on - Shall you go to any of the springs this summer? Give my best love to all around you and remember me to any friends who may inquire after me - I was surprised to hear that E. Shallcross was to marry Mr. Scott. Do you think it quite certain? - I have written a stupid letter, but [?] you must pardon it, ^{be} My poor head aches sadly, and I am still very feeble - ~~Lo~~ ^{Saw Agnes} yesterday. She sends much love to you - will leave school this month. She is very much admired, but will endeavor to watch over your interest, insomuch as I feel interested myself, and should like you for my cousin. Do write soon to

Your very sincere friend,

Mary

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Address:

Mr. John C. Bullitt, Care Mr. Wm. C. Bullitt,
Louisville, Ky.

Postmark: Petersburg, Va. July 6

Alton July 10th 1844

OK

revis

"Different extremes" are often productive of misfortunes equally to be regretted & being "Called" by a lady is scarcely less unpleasant, aside from the flattery it conveys, than falling into a Similar Error yourself. The only difference is that in one case you have the glorious privilege of crawl-fishing out of the scrape and in the other the glorious privilege of going out when you are kicked out & this constitutes the slight difference between your case & mine.

Again my arrant heart has been running after "no profit" & in Cultivating the virtue of Susceptibility I am made to suffer a penalty proportioned only to some great fault. I almost took an oath never to fancy another Woman. Read before you pronounce me rash.

Having laterly denied myself the dangerous pleasure of Ladies Society the impression made by Miss Bartlett has been unusually lasting & unfortunately just as time is effacing its last traces, another Fairy being crosses my path to brighten it for a moment & then to cast a deeper gloom upon its future course.

Sixteen Hundred of the ~~patrons~~ ^{patriotic} Citizens of McCoupin County - Sturdy Yoemen - Buxom dames & Fair Lasses were assembled about Fourteen Miles from here at the ~~little~~ ^{little} Town of Woodburn to celebrate in a becoming manner the ~~Sixty~~ ^{Sixty} Eighty year of our Glorious Independence. The Stars & Stripes of freedom waved proudly over half a Thousand of the bright Daughters of our chosen land. The Elastic Step - the glowing joyousness of their happy faces spoke the enthusiasm of every breast & gave an earnest of the existence of that spirit upon which depends our National endurance. Each countenance told the happiness of its possessor & was ~~draped~~ ^{dressed} in its gayest & liveliest expression. In looking

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round upon the crowd before me my eye was caught & my attention fixed by one whose returning glances shot a thrill through my frame Equisite as indescribable. You know the magic of a look from beauties Eye a vague & indefinite recollection of somewher before having met that same look passed through my mind but I was unable to fix it & strove in vain while gazing upon her to recognize some girlish acquaintance of my boyhood now matured into womanly perfection. The Spirit of gentleness seemed slumbering neath her slightly irregular Features & ever waking at each pleasing thought into a smile of loveliness. Here^{re} was not the Beauty of the lifeless Statue but the beauty of the Soul. But who can describe the irresistible charm that attracts us we know not why. She was all that your luxuriant Fancy can paint her & you cannot be surprised that in gazing after such a creature , I almost lost my dinner.

Loosing sight of her in the crowd on our way to the table restored me to comsciousness, but my appetite was gone. Restless & uneasy I went in search of the Company to which she belonged & having discovered it, invited several of the boys round just opposite to see the prettiest girl on the ground but lo she was not among them & the Boys soon forgot their disappointment in Clamoring for dinner whilst I on tiptoe endeavoured by looking in every direction, to discover the object of my search. Upon the point of despairing & of cursing the moment our Eyes ever met I turned from my survey just in time to see her approach the table & with a smile of gratifying tenderness @ place her baby upon it !!! D-n the Baby & all babies whether in yellow gown or white say I for they are equally

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fatal to me. The dish thus served up for my chagrin and disappointment had the happy effect of restoring my appetite. I ate a Devil of a Dinner & satisfied the enquiring curiosity of the Boys by wondering what could have become of her - & concluding that the pretty girl I was looking for must have left the crowd & gone home in disgust. I afterwards found that she was an old acquaintance & wished to let me know that she recognized me. She was very pleasant notwithstanding the Baby.

If you are not tired of this Celebration I can give you some circumstances connected with it which will be more interesting than this string of stuff.

Nels was the orator of the day & discharged his high duty with much credit to himself & pleasure to his Friends. He gave us an Oration Chaste Beautiful and appropriate & delivered it in his clear distinct & somewhat Eloquent manner which is all that can be said of one delivered on so common an occasion.

Partiality may influence me unconsciously to place too high an estimate upon it but after making all allowances you may rest assured that it was good.

Nels is rising rapidly & is the most popular young man in this Section of Country. Indeed I wish he was less so. It is such a temptation to rush into Political life prematurely & such a course could not but ruin him professionally. He only needs a Kentucky Wife to give him the finishing stroke & make him the cleverest fellow living. Won't you help him to ^{one} ~~come~~ if he comes on this Fall. I Received a few days since my first letter from Old Smith. He is in fine Spirits & writes that "he will have a large practice" (God save the patients) "this Fall". He wishes me as his next friend to discharge the painful duty which

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devolves upon him of communicating to Aunt Ann that he has broken his pledge to her not to drink & requests me to gloss it over with half a sheet of excuses which I have neither time nor inclination to copy. I can only state the plain unvarnished fact & leave him to put in his own plea. Since my last my life has had every charm which variety can give. I have dissipated (not drank) in St. Louis, frequented the theatre, & participated in every amusement which it affords. Have explored the greater part of South Western Missouri & part of Arkansas. Have been Physician & Farmer, have made Pills & made Hay - Attended the June Convention at Peoria & Sunday prayer meetings at home & run to every extreme except in hard study.

My plans for the future are all changed & I will not give them to you, least they should be changed again ere you hear from me. To me all anticipations are uncertain & I indulge in them only to beguile the hours of relaxation from mental exercise of a more positive nature. You either have seen or will see the Miss Popes soon as when they were here a few weeks since they were anticipating a trip to Louisville this Summer. Take my advice & dont suffer yourself to be captivated by either & ask no questions. If you do not think Lucretia one of the most Splendid Women that you ever met with I must forfeit my judgment of the sex. You know my opinion of her but I must acknowledge that when I last saw her it underwent some favourable modification.

Ask Aunt Ann if the abundance of her good nature & benevolence has not been accumulating almost long enough to suffer a slight expenditure without materially diminishing its quantity. I am now waiting a letter from Dr Gross which is to determine my future course. It is left to him entirely & I am ignorant of what it will be. The greatest sacrifice which I should make in exchanging Louisville for any other place would be the

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home which you all have furnished me & which you know I have not held lightly.

I have read this to Nels ^{He} ~~She~~ agrees to pay the postage for the compliment.

My best love to your mother, Cousin Martha & all the Ballance. Tell Cousin M that I fear she will be compelled to forego her so frequently expressed resolution or else submit to those annoying reports which a community invariably ^{circulate} as a compliment to its favourites. The only efficient & certain way of avoiding them is to confirm some one of them, & I shall not be surprised to hear that her stoicism has failed & that she has adopted this most politic plan. It may be something new to her to know that I have had the pleasure of hearing her praises trumpeted on the wild prairies of the prairie state.

I have **not** yet been able to procure a copy of Lees Strictures which I shall read my first opportunity. It is my intention to visit St Louis in a week or two where it can probably be obtained, & will get a copy if it can be had. I shall spend three or four days there in business & hope to be able to indulge in the occasional exquisite relaxation of a call upon Miss B - I write nothing upon the engrossing subjects of public attention - the assassination of J. Smith & the inundation of the country by the Mississippi as you will find everything interesting in the papers. Had I not filled my sheet with trifles in my present mood I would write something more substantial, but there is nothing like following a mans humor & as I have done this I must not regret it. My respects to Josh & your father & for yourself the best wishes of your sincere friend

Willis G Edwards

Addressed: Mr. John C. Bullitt, Louisville Ky.

Postmarked: Alton, Ill. Jul 11