

Then to the War Department - spent but a short time there in any other room than that which contained a variety of flags taken from the Mexicans in the 8th and 9th of May last - one from the British in the Revolution and another during the last war with him. Of course you know me well enough to know things of that sort entertained to a high degree. Mr. Law carried us through. The balance of the evening I spent in walking about with Isaac leaving our sweet little girls at his house.

I am sorry my dear Mary that the decision wall is not yet completed. But if Mr. Bastable and Mr. Phelps have gone, there will soon be a Mr. Clark there for the purpose of doing a little work for the Rail Road Company, who no doubt will do it for us.

Give my love with that of our dear daughters to each of the Children, and accept a union of the same for yourself - whilst I subscribe myself your affectionate husband.

Martin F. Powell

Washington D.C. Nov 11/46

My dear Son James;

Your business like letter was this day received with that from the Dept. You have done in this what is exactly right. The Postmaster at Baltimore has doubtless

transcended his duty - in three minutes after I received the communication enclosed from the Dept. it was again in the hands of Mr. Brown, the 1st Asst. Postmaster General. I frankly told him, if that was the duty of one Postmaster, I had been in total ignorance and must have been a dereliction of duty. He as frankly told me that it was not a part of my duty. And that that letter was merely to notify me of it, as it had been sent on to him. I parted with him well satisfied at the result of the interview. So, therefore, my beloved boy, do not think that this insignificant oversight has lessened in the least degree, my full confidence in your conduct in business. Mr. Buchanan's vindictiveness (and for what cause God only knows) I can not help thinking will fall harmless to the ground. His blundering manner of manifesting it is truly pitiable. Persevere my child, and be watchful over the business which I have given in your charge with your dear mother, and no censure will be laid at your door.

Kiss each of the dear little ones for me, my love to your grandmother, and to all engendering friends. Your two sisters join in sincere love to each of you and to all of you. All your relations here are well - unless I except Stuart he is down with a fever
your affectionate Father
Martin F. Powell