



Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History

The Historical
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BALCH
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ETHNIC STUDIES

Pierce to Fanny Butler, Jan. 7, 1861, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Wister Family Papers, Butler section, Box 38

Jan. 7, 1861

My dear Fanny,

If there was any apprehension of danger in going to Georgia, I would not take you there. I am very sorry that you have a feeling of aversion and fear about going, but you may rely upon it that it will all vanish as soon as we reach Savannah, and you receive the warm welcome of the friends you made there.

I do not believe there will be a civil war, or any fighting at all. If there should be, it is not probable that I would be called upon or expected to take up arms, unless the danger should happen to be near our property, which is not likely. I feel compelled to go: my sympathies are entirely with the South: all the trouble has been caused by the bad faith and the bad conduct of the people of the North, who have violated their duty to the Union and the Constitution. I must be in Savannah to attend the argument before the Supreme Court, and if that decision should be in my favour, it will be necessary to go to the Plantation at once. If any thing should oblige me to leave the Plantation, I would not think of leaving you there alone. My dearest Fanny, your love, devotion and loyalty are not lost on me, and you may be sure I would not take them unnecessarily. Therefore, if I cannot comply with your wish to postpone our going to Georgia, it is because there is a necessity for my presence there which I must not neglect, and likewise because I am certain you will not regret having accompanied me.

Your affectionate father,
Pierce Butler