

Albany April 15 1865

Dr. J. J. Charlton

Dear Sir

Your favor of 29th inst

with its contents is at hand. your former letter with the first of Exchange & a letter for your wife was duly rec^d. the bill obtained & letter forwarded.

Mr. Cram wrote me a few days since that your wife & family (with others) had been ordered within the Confederate lines. I have a letter from him this morning saying that application had been made for her to go to Europe which could not be granted there. the Commanding Gen^l has applied Washington & she is given two weeks respite to await a reply.

If I had known your address I should have written you some days since & offered you some suggestions in view of the prospect of an early peace & a settlement of all our difficulties the action of our authorities being such as render it quite certain that a general amnesty would be extended to all

who had been in arms against the Gov. & I
should have spoken of your return to the country
& of the renewal of fraternal relations between yourself
& family & all your kindred & Countrymen but
all is changed this morning our beloved President
was assassinated last night also Mr. Seward
the latter may recover but there is no hope for the
former the news has spread a gloom throughout
our land such as a Nation never before felt
& it will arouse an indignant spirit of
retaliation that I fear will lead to direful
results my feelings are too strong for
utterance. I can only say that I can do
nothing more in furtherance of your wishes
at present I must stop to think I know
what my duty is, friendship must succumb
to a crisis like this let me beg of you
now again to be found serving against this
Gov. resign your Commission at once,
as our people now feel no quarter will
be given to those taken in arms against
us I do not offer this as a reason for the
course I recommend to you for I know

you would spend the thought as may again
be a united & happy nation & I believe we
are speedily approaching that event which
would be hastened by each individual doing
what he can to aid its accomplishment
when I feel more calm I will write you
again I hope you will not consider my
suggestions as officious or dictated by any
thing but the kindest motives

Yours Truly
Horace A. Hill

President Lincoln died at 8 o'clock
this morning