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Title: Letter from Benson Lossing to James Buchanan

Date: July 19, 1865

Location: MC 1998.10, B1, F17

Contact:

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Fought Kearsant. V.
July 19, 1865.

Dear Sir:

The newspapers, from time to time, have assured us that a History of Your Administration, prepared under your own eye, would be published very soon, under your authority. I have made diligent inquiries, but cannot obtain positive information concerning the matter. I therefore take the liberty of asking you whether such a History has been prepared, and if so, when it will be published?

My object will be manifest when I say that I am extremely desirous of ascertaining and recording the Truth, in any History of the Great Civil

War, of which the enclosed Cir-
cular speaks. The first volume
is nearly ready for the press.
In that, of course, is included
the history of the latter part of
your Administration which has
reference to the rebellion. I
should be wanting in candor
if I did not say ^{to you} that in the
light of all the information at
my command, ~~that~~ ^{which} seems
truthful, your character for
patriotism and sagacity, which
^{you} had borne through a long life,
seems much impaired. I
need not say that it would
give me pleasure to find that
such conclusions ^{is} erroneous
of which, I have thought it
~~probable~~ ^{probable}, the publication referred
to might give positive proof. It
is for that reason, ^{alone,} that I make

the present iniquity.

I trust you will receive
this letter in the spirit in
which it is written. While
I loathe the selfish men
who raised the arm of re-
bellion against their ~~country~~ ^{government},
and especially the few con-
spirators who, for years, pre-
pared the way for rebellion,
I have no party prejudices
to serve or obey. I am
a simple searcher after truth,
and wish to be a Chronicler
only of truth. If I fail, ^{in finding it,} it
will not be for want of
diligence in the search.

Very Respectfully
Your fellow Citizen,

Orson J. Lossing

Hon. James Buchanan

Poughkeepsie N. Y.
July 19, 1865

Dear Sir:

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Very respectfully
Your fellow Citizen,
Benson J. Lossing

Hon. James Buchanan