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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to James M.H. Beale

Date: December 28, 1852

Location: MC 1998.10, B3, F9

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Wheatland, near Lancaster 28 December 1852.

My dear Sir /

I have received your favor of the 24th Instant & deeply regret the cause which has induced you to become an applicant for office. I most cheerfully & gratefully recognize your strong claims upon me, & shall do any thing in my power to serve you should circumstances render that possible.

You say, you shall rely upon myself alone to make ^{strong} your claims known to General Price. In this, you are certainly wrong. An appointment to a full major, & this among the best of them, has ever been considered almost as much in the light of a State appointment as that of a Cabinet minister. In order to succeed, you must bring ^{which I know you can do} strength, from Virginia. Without this, what would the influence of a private citizen avail (I expect to be nothing else) living in the interior of Pennsylvania, in favor of a friend in another State?

With every disposition to serve you which you could desire, I remain very respectfully

Your friend
James Buchanan

Hon: J. M. H. Beale.

Wheatland, near Lancaster 28 December 1852

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I have received your favor of the 24th. Instant & deeply regret the cause which has induced you to become an applicant for office. I most cheerfully & gratefully recognise your strong claims upon me, & shall do any thing in my power to serve you should circumstances render this possible.

You say, you shall rely upon myself alone to make your strong claims known to General Pierce. In this, you are certainly wrong. An appointment to a full mission; & this among the best of them has ever been considered almost as much in the light of a State appointment as that of a Cabinet Minister. In order to succeed, you must bring strength which I know you can do from Virginia. Without this, what would the influence of a private citizen avail, (& I expect to be nothing else) living in the interior of Pennsylvania, in favor of a friend in another State?

With every disposition to serve-you which you could desire, I remain very respectfully

Your friend
James Buchanan

Hon: J. M. H. Beale