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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to J. Randolph Clay

**Date:** January 9, 1833

**Location:** MC 1998.10, B1, F13

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50<sup>00</sup>  
w/rd  
47  
My dear Sir /

St. Petersburg, 9<sup>th</sup> January N.S. 1832,

I need not inform you that the letter which you left for me was highly gratifying to my feelings. - I paid the ~~Com~~ Postillion 25 Roubles, R. A. according to your request when he brought me the letter from Polanga.

On the 2<sup>d</sup> Instant I received the letters <sup>for me</sup> from Mr. Miles which had been accumulating at Paris, ~~from~~ by a Russian Courier. It seems he never thought of putting them in the Post Office on their arrival. Our newspapers are all there. The Department might as well send them to the Rocky Mountains. They would then reach me via China as soon as from Paris. -

But I speak too fast. Munroe, Barry & myself were at dinner on the last day of the year, when the cargo of the Postman was brought into the room. The bulk startled me. I found it contained the newspapers & documents of paper which had <sup>been</sup> sent me by the Department in the Packet for Havre of the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov: Whence it came I know not except that the Havre Post Manse was upon the separate parcels. I would not have given 6 cents for the <sup>except Mr. L. Destable</sup> whole consignment & the postage <sup>on the newspapers & alone</sup> amounted to 1626 Roubles 18 Kopeks!!!. The worst of it is more of these unwelcome guests may arrive though I have taken all the means in my power to arrest them ~~at~~ Havre. They vanish my hopes of keeping down the contingent expenses of the mission!

I am very happy to inform you that I have heard nothing <sup>said</sup> of you since your departure except expressions of the most kindly feeling. Upon your return here you will be a new man. Determine henceforward always to follow the dictates of your own excellent judgment, & never do any thing which it condemns in compliance with the wishes of others; & you will become a distinguished & useful diplomatist. I was going to say something about religion but you would probably consider that out of place. I do not see the objections to your return in so strong a light as I did, & my personal feelings were always in favor of it. Your absence will give you the air of novelty - & you may now make a fair start.

4 There is one subject to which I venture to ask your particular attention. Decker's trial, it would seem, has never yet been published. There is some mystery in this omission. I am inclined to think the fault chiefly lies at Mr. Virts' door, & it is certain, should his speech be fairly reported, it will contain sentiments which cannot meet the approbation of the American people. Immediately after the adjournment of Congress in March 1831. I was hurried to write off my remarks from Mr. Stearns's notes, & I sent them to Hilliard & Gray in Boston. The publication was delayed from time to time until my departure from the United States, by Mr. Virts' omission to prepare his speech; & I even understood, & that from a respectable source, that the publishers had furnished him, Mr. Stearns's remarks & mine which were both delivered in reply. This I can scarcely believe. The trial was to have been published immediately after I left the United States, & Mr. Sparks had kindly agreed to correct the proof for me.

I owe it to myself, as well as to Col: Larocles, Mr. Niven & others not to suffer my remarks to be suppressed. For this purpose I authorize & request you to demand them from Hilliard & Gray. I shall write to Mr. Clay upon the subject with whom you may consult if you have an opportunity. His brother-in-law Mr. Sansat would be a proper person to have them published in a pamphlet in Philadelphia with a suitable preface stating the reason of their appearance in that form. Should Mr. Sansat would undertake the trouble, although I am not so well acquainted with him as I should wish to be, & as I intend to become should I please Providence to enable me to return to my country. But I leave all to your own discretion & firmship.

I wish to direct your very special attention to the annexed which Barry has copied on the wrong page. It is an extract ~~of~~ from a letter addressed by me this day to Hon: Campbell. P. White of New York. You would impose many obligations upon me by not leaving the United States without seeing this business definitely arranged. I ought to have done it myself before I left the country. I trust Mr. Scajpat, should it become necessary, would undertake to superintend the publications. Of course I shall thankfully refund ~~you~~ all expenses which either you or he may incur.

I have received your letters for you through Stangletz & Co since your departure. They are all directed in the hand writing of your brother & will be preserved for you by Captain Barry.

The Despatch which I received on the 31 ultimo contains a just compliment to yourself. You will see my answer.

Mr. Livingston has accepted my offer of "Sparks' Correspondence", "Reports on Finances", "Walters' tables". If convenient you may carry them for me from Washington to Lancaster & deliver them to John Reynolds Esq. - He has authorized me to purchase for the use of the Legation Martens' Collection of Treaties & such other works as may be necessary for the discharge of my duties & suggests that they may be easily obtained from Paris or London. I shall not make these purchases until I hear from him. Should you return here, as I think it highly probable you will, Mr. Livingston himself may suggest the books necessary & you may bring them along with you either from the United States or London.

I consider it very strange I have not yet heard from my good friend Pearson. What is the reason? Maurice left the day before yesterday for the Black Sea. Barry desires to be remembered to you. I have just rec'd yours of the 26 & 29 ultimo from Munich & Berlin. I approve your hurrying on as far as possible. This goes by an English Courier. Adieu! God bless you

J. Randolph Clay Esq. Hurra! for Jackson. James Buchanan

St Petersburg 9th. January N. S. 1832

My dear Sir/

I need not inform you that the letter which you left for me was highly gratifying to my feelings.- I paid the ~~Co~~ Postillion 25 Roobles, B. A. according to your request when he brought me the letter from Polanga.

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I am very happy to inform you that I have heard nothing said of you since your departure except expressions of the most kindly feelings. Upon your return here you will be a new man. Determine henceforward always to follow the dictates of your own excellent judgements & never to any thing which it condemns in compliance with the wishes of others; & you will become a distinguished & useful diplomatist. I was going to say something about religion but you would probably consider that out of place. I do not see the objections to your return in so strong a light as I did, & any personal feelings were always in favor of it. Your absence will give you the air of novelty - & you may now make a fair start.

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Hilliard & Gray. I shall write to Mr. Clay upon the subject with whom you may consult if you have an opportunity. His brother-in-law Mr. Laussat would be a proper person to have them published in a pamphlet in Philadelphia with a suitable preface stating the reason for their appearance in that form. Doubtlessly Mr. Laussat would undertake the trouble although I am not so well acquainted with him as I should wish to be, & as I intend to become should it please Providence to enable me to return to my Country. But I leave all to your own discretion & friendship."

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I consider it very strange that I have not yet heard from my good friend Pleasonton. What is the reason? Munroe left the day before yesterday for the Black Sea. Barry desires to be remembered to you. I have just recd yours of the 26 & 29 Ultimo from Merrel & Berlin. I approve of your hurrying on as far as possible. This goes by English Courier

Adieu! God bless you  
James Buchanan

J. Randolph Clay Esq.

Hurra! for Jackson.