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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Mahlon Dickerson

Date: June 18, 1835

Location: MC 1998.10, B1, F14

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My dear Sir,

Manchester 18 June 1835.

I have received a letter from my friend
Wager in Philadelphia urging me to request you to give his son
employment. I am very sorry you ^{have not been able} to do it heretofore, as there are
few situations more eligible both for the young midshipman & his
relations than the state of anxiety in which they are placed before
he is taken into service. "Hope deferred, maketh the heart
sick". - Peter Wager has suffered much in the good cause & has never
obtained & does not expect to obtain any thing for it except the
employment
appointments of his son.

When the Constitution returns from France, if there should be
any vacancy, it would afford me sincere pleasure if you would
fill it with young Wager.

Confidential. My situation & my feelings alike prevent me from taking
any active part in the contest between Wolf & Muhlenberg; though I shall,
under all the circumstances, vote for the former. In this respect I have
never disguised my opinion. Wolf will certainly be supported by a large
majority of the Democratic party. I now think it possible he may be

elects. If Muhlenberg should receive as many anti-masonic
votes as his friends anticipate, Wolf will be the successful candidate.
Several causes which I need not enumerate have produced the
impression more widely than I had supposed that the Administration at
Washington have interfered in this contest. There are men prominent in
the Wolf party who are in heart opposed to Mr. Van Buren & who
would be glad to injure him if they could do so without destroying
themselves. The excitement in this State will become very high between
this & the election; and permit me to suggest, there should be an entire
non-interference in it so far as the people at Washington are concerned.
I have been defending little Van on this point every where. Those who know
him will feel at once how ridiculous the charge is. —

I throw out these hints for yourself to make such use of as you
think proper. ^{Many of} The finest fellows in the State are Muhlenberg men. God
forbid that they should be put down! There should, however, be a studied
neutrality at Washington.

I am confident in the correctness of the opinion I express in regard to
the relative strength of the two candidates so far as the D. Party is concerned.
My sources of information are the best. I have no feelings to bias my
opinion. — In Philadelphia they know nothing about it: at least both sides
seem to be equally confident of their strength. Ever your friend
Wm. Mahlon Dickerson.

James Buchanan

Lancaster 18 June 1835.

My dear Sir/

I have received a letter from my friend Wager in Philadelphia urging me to request you to give his son employment. I am very sorry you have not been able to do it heretofore, as there are few situations more irksome both for the young midshipman & his relations than the state of anxiety in which they are placed before he is taken into service. "Hope deferred, you know, maketh the heart sick." Peter Wager has suffered much in the good cause & has never obtained & does not expect to obtain any thing for it except the appointment & employment of his son.

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Ever your friend
James Buchanan

Hon: Mahlon Dickerson