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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to John Hasting

Date: March 18 ; May 22, 1851

Location: MC 1998.10

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Private

Wheatland, near Lancaster 18 March 1851.

My dear Sir,

I have received your very kind letter of the 15th. Instant & owe you many thanks for your friendly & affectionate interest in my success. I was mortified, I confess, when I saw the Jefferson resolution & knew you were not present, for if you had been it would not have passed. It is part of a system which has been successfully pursued in other countries; at the far end of meetings, where my friends are largely in the majority. The object is twofold; - 1st - To convince the people of other States that I am weak at home; & 2^d to afford ^{if this should be found possible} a pretext for a resolution in favor of Mr. Cap at the Reading Convention. The leaders must well know that his nomination is out of the question; but ^{they} will continue to use his name for the purpose of injuring me in Pennsylvania. They, also, know, that the Democracy of this State can, if they will, secure me the nomination; & hence they will spare no pains to defeat me at home. An

other States, the honor of furnishing a President to the Union
silences & unites all opposing political elements in the
Democracy; but not so in Pennsylvania. I am glad,
however, to inform you that within the last few weeks, the
infamations which I have received from different parts of
the State is highly favorable. With the aid of a few
such efficient & valuable friends as yourself, I think
all will yet be well. I suppose you are well acquainted
with Major Lynch of Pittsburg. He has been as late & I might
add as valuable ~~my~~ a friend as ever any man possessed. I should
be glad you & he ^{would} ~~should~~ know each other well. Had he
not been detained on the way home, I think the Allegheny
County proceedings would have borne a different aspect.

In writing to Mr. Wise, please to present me kindly
to him. Give my warmest & best respects to my valued
old friend William Karns & believe me to be

gratefully & respectfully

John Hastings Esq

Your friend
James Buchanan

Private

Wheatland, near Lancaster 18 March 1851

My dear Sir/

I have received your very kind letter of the 15th Instant & owe you many thanks for your friendly & affectionate interest in my success. I was mortified, I confess, when I saw the Jefferson resolution & knew you were not present, ~~or~~ for if you had been it would not have passed. It is in part of a system which has been successfully pursued in other Counties; at the close of meetings, where my friends are largely in the majority. The object is two fold; - 1 - To convince the people of other States that I am weak at home: & 2d to afford a pretext if this should be found possible for a resolution in favor of Mr. Cass at the Reading Convention. The leaders must well know that his nomination is out of the question; but they will continue to use his name for the purpose of injuring me in Pennsylvania. They, also, know that the Democracy of this State can, if they will, secure me the nomination; & hence they will spare no pains to defeat me at home. In

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other States, the honor of furnishing a President to the Union silences & unites all opposing political elements in the Democracy; but not so in Pennsylvania, I am glad, however, to inform you that within the last few weeks, the information which I have received from different parts of the State is highly favorable. With the aid of a few such efficient & valuable friends as yourself, I think all will yet be well. I suppose you are well acquainted with Major Lynch of Pittsburg. He has been as true & I might [~~one word illegible~~] add as valuable a friend as ever any man possessed. I should be glad you & he ~~should~~ would know each other well. Had he not been detained on the way home, I think the Allegheny County proceedings would have borne a different aspect.

In writing to Mr. Wine, please to present me kindly to him. Give my warmest & best respects to my valued old friend William Karns & believe me to be

gratefully respectfully
your friend
James Buchanan

John Hastings Esq

Whealland, near Lancaster 22^d May 1851.

My dear Sir /

I owe you many many thanks for the Jefferson County Resolutions; & I trust that you will pay me a visit on your way to Reading & bury Mr. Wise with you whose acquaintance I shall be very glad to make.

I rejoice that you are coming to Reading. I shall need such friends as yourself at that place. I do not now fear that they can pass a Cap resolution; but they will do all they can to produce the impression in other States that the party in Pennsylvania is seriously divided. The leaders will know that in any event Cap is out of the question; but his name is the best instrument with which to do me harm in our State. I hope our friend Lynch will be at the Reading Convention. He is a host on such an occasion.

My information from different quarters confirms me daily more & more in the opinion that the nomination depends upon Pennsylvania.

From your friend
very respectfully,

James Buchanan

John Hastings Esq

Wheatland, near Lancaster 22d May 1851

My dear Sir/

I owe you many many thanks for the Jefferson County resolution; & I trust that you will pay us a visit on your way to Reading & bring Mr. Wise with you whose acquaintance I shall be very glad to make.

I rejoice that you are coming to Reading. I shall need such friends as yourself at that place. I do not now fear that they can pass a Case resolution; but they will do all they can to produce the impression in other States that the party in Pennsylvania is seriously divided. The leaders will know that in any event Cass is out of the question; but his name is the best instrument with which to do as harm in our state. I hope our friend Lynch will be at the Reading Convention. He is a host on such an occasion.

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