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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to William N. Irvine

Date: June 29, 1844

Location: MC 1998.10, B2, F7

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4500 92
Lancaster 29 June 1844

My dear Sir /

Your very kind letter demands from me the warmest acknowledgements. It is replete with the friendship of "Auld Lang Syne" & has touched my heart. My withdrawal was an act of deliberate duty as well as of sound policy & now have I regretted it for a moment. Had I remained in the field I would have been crushed between the upper & nether millstone before the arrival of the Baltimore Convention. I should have incurred the hostility of Mr. Van Buren's friends in the North; and in the South where I have many ardent friends my tariff principles would have destroyed me. By the by, this I fear is destined again to become a troublesome question, my time had not arrived; and if it never should, I shall be content.

I most cordially congratulate you on the bright prospects of our party. The nominations of Polk & Dallas have been hailed every where with that kind of enthusiasm which is the precursor of victory. In the beginning, I feared that the Whigs might make a serious impression against Polk ^{in Pennsylvania} on the Tariff question & every effort will be used for this purpose; but ~~still~~ I believe, without success. He can neither make nor repeal a Tariff: and I agree with him cordially on all other questions.

He is a faithful & true Democrat, & his character both personal
& political is above reproach. Unless we are mistaken in the
extent & influence of the Texas question in the South, he can be
elected without the votes either of New York or Ohio; though he
has a fair chance for both. Pennsylvania I consider certain.

Please to remember me in the kindest terms to Mr. Irvine, - also
to Judge Smyth & believe me ever to be sincerely & respectfully

General William N. Irvine

Your friend
James Buchanan

Lancaster 29 June 1844

My dear Sir/

Your very kind letter demands from me the warmest acknowledgements. It is replete with the friendship of "auld lang syne" & has touched my heart. My withdrawal was an act of deliberate duty as well as of sound policy & never have I regretted it for a moment. Had I remained in the field I would have been crushed between the upper & neither millstone before the arrival of the Baltimore Convention. I should have incurred the hostility of W. Van Buren's friends in the North; and in the South where I have many ardent friends my tariff principles would have destroyed me. By the by, this I fear is destined again to become a troublesome question. My time had not arrived: and if it never should, I shall be content.

I most cordially congratulate you on the bright prospects of our party. The nominations of Polk & Dallas have been hailed every where with that kind of enthusiasm which is the precursor of victory. In the beginning, I feared that the Whigs might make a serious impression against Polk in Pennsylvania on the Tariff question & every effort will be used for this purpose; but I believe, without success. he can neither make nor repeal a Tariff: and I agree with him cordially on all other questions.

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Your friend,
James Buchanan

General William N. Irvine