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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to George Plitt

Date: November 1, 1853

Location: MC 1998.10, B3, F14

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Legation of The United States.

London 1 November 1853.

My dear Sir /

Your letter of the 18 ultimo has afforded me sincere pleasure; though I mourn over the defeat of my good friend Bauger. Please to remember me to him, in the kindest terms. I hope he bears it like a man. He may console himself with the reflection that "there's a better day a coming."

I fear that I shall get into great difficulties here, socially, on account of the deep circular of Governor Marcy. I shall not have to decide the question until the Queen opens Parliament which will not be until February next, unless the Russo-Turkish question should cause their assembling at an earlier period. The fashionable season in London commences about the middle of March & ends about the middle of August. The rest of the year, the ^{Queen} nobility & gentry are absent.

I have at length succeeded in obtaining a suitable furnished house for £700 per annum: but shall not be able to obtain possession of it for a month to come. They allow £80 for office rent, - when I could have procured an equally comfortable house for £500, but without accommodations

for the Legation.

I have just received Sophie's letter. Mr. Bellings called here with it; but was told at the door, which was the fault, that I was just finishing important despatches to be sent to Liverpool this afternoon & could not be seen. He will call tomorrow, when I shall be very happy to comply with Mr. Plett's request.

I am glad that our good friend Col: Forney has, under existing circumstances, given up the idea of a Paper in New York. The two unfortunate divisions of the party there, ^{at least for the present,} ought to be permitted to fight it out without foreign interference. I observe, however, that the Pennsylvanian has taken sides with "the Softs". I feel a deep interest in Forney; & cannot doubt his re-election to the Clerkship.

Sophie's letter is admirable & full of agreeable gossip. California is a new Country; & Harry Magraw seems determined to increase its population as rapidly as possible. Good luck to him & Emily!

I admire Mr. Thompson. She is a noble, kind hearted & elegant woman. Some consider her

Man, of
imprudent; but ^{Man, of} those who censure, ~~has~~ every her. Should
occasionally offer, please to tell her, that I both love & admire
her. This expression is not too strong, proceeding as it does
from an "elderly gentleman"

Sophie says that my return home is anxiously looked
for by my friends. Heaven only knows when this will take
place. My way is to do my duty & not to leave it
undone on account of personal inconvenience. I shall succeed
in my mission, with the blessing of God, if this be possible; - if
not I shall leave a fair record behind. My agreement
with General Pierce was for two years; & I presume I
shall have to remain here until the end of that term.
Still I shall be delighted, should any circumstance take
me home at an earlier period; but not to take any other
office. I desire that my political life should close with
this mission. Lord Clarendon & myself well, I think, get along
very well together. Thus far, I have been much pleased with him.
I find I must close on the Bag will close without
my letter. Remember me very kindly to Col: Martin & Mr.
Appraiser Westcott. Also to James Henry & tell him that I am
glad to learn from Mr. Platt that he is a good student. Should
Sophie be writing to Mr. Polk, I should be glad to be
remembered to her. - Give my kindest love to Sophie & believe
me to be, in unaffected haste, ever your friend

George Platt Esq

James Buchanan

Legation of The United States
London 1 November 1853

My dear Sir/

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