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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to Aaron Vail

Date: 1838-1849

Location: MC 1998.10

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Lancaster 22 October 1838

My dear Sir/

I have received a letter from Mr. Clay dated at Vienna on the 24 August. He had not then received the letter of credit for his salary which Mr. Forsyth had omitted to send & has in consequence been subjected to great inconvenience. If this has not yet been attended to, I hope you will arrange the matter at once.

I, also, received a letter a few days ago from my namesake James Buchanan, the British consul at New York, informing me that he was to meet Lord Durham at Whitehall on the 30th, & that His Lordship would reach Albany on the 1st November. Mr. B. says "a line from head quarters would be highly regarded by Lord Durham. Perhaps the suggestion is unwise". I scarcely know what he means; but you might make this known to the President.

In this State, it was not deemed expedient by the 4th. March Convention which nominated Gen: Porter to make the Independent Treasury a prominent point in the contest. This might have been done safely six weeks before the election so much had it gained in public favor. Our Democratic papers one after the other will now hoist the flag. I went to Harrisburg five or six days ago for the purpose of putting the ball in motion.

Ever your friend
James Buchanan

Aaron Vail Esq

600
adv
58

Washington 13 March 1849.

My dear Sir /

Pressing engagements have too long prevented me from acknowledging the receipt of your kind letter of the first Instant. The publications to which you refer more attracted my attention; and if they had, and contained any thing improper, I should not have entertained the most remote suspicion that you were the author. Our consular system is a perfect chaos & requires legislation more than any other branch of the Government.

I should not, under any circumstances, have remained in the Department, I entered it unwillingly & have left it with pleasure. I thank God that I have passed through the late ^(Polk) successful, but stormy administration, unscathed.

A. Nail Esquire

from your friend
very respectfully
James Buchanan

Washington 13 March 1849

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