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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Isaac Wayne

Date: January 18 ; February 19, 1830

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Dear Sir

Washington 18 January 1830

I feel myself much indebted to you for the likeness of the late General Wayne, which you have done me the honor to send me. I shall ever prize it, not only on account of the pride which, as a Pennsylvanian, I feel in the character of the father; but of the high respect & warm friendship which I entertain for the son.

I have often thought of writing to you during the present session; but I have been so pressed by a mass of business of different kinds that I have perhaps neglected it: and in truth I had nothing of importance to communicate. We have yet been proceeding without much party excitement in the House. There is a storm brewing I think on the Indian question; and from what I can learn, the friends of the late administration in the Senate intend to make a vigorous opposition to the confirmation of some of the nominations.

The old General ^(Jackson) is in good health. There are defections among the members of his cabinet, as you may have seen from the newspapers; but I am not sufficiently acquainted with their character, to give you such information as you ought to rely upon, & I feel certain you would not be entertained by the idle gossip of this city.

Colonel Isaac Wayne

From your friend with great respect
James Buchanan

Washington 18 January 1830

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Dear Sir,

Washington 19 February 1830

I have received yours of the 14th & 15th Instants & delivered the letter enclosed in the letter to General Harrison. He seems to be in fine health & spirits.

In regard to the appointment of young W. Smith as Midshipman, I regret to say it is out of the question for the present. W. Adams immediately before his retirement from office appointed such a number of ^{midshipmen,} that ^{new} no appointments can now be made. W. Branch has been inflexible upon this subject & has refused all applications no matter from what source they may have proceeded. W. Leiper who had the special charge of W. Smith's application, in conjunction with Generals Barnard & Evans & myself have done every thing in our power; but in vain.

I feel gratified that my remarks on the Judiciary Bill have met your approbation; as I have always felt proud of possessing your good opinion.

In regard to the aspect of political affairs here, I can give you no certain information. Whether General Jackson will again be ^a candidate

I do not know. My own impression is that he will not, & I have come to this conclusion, ~~roughly~~ because I think he loves retirement, & because Calhoun & Van Buren & their friends seem to be acting under the opinion, that he will retire at the end of his present Term.

I believe the rumor to be true that the cabinet are divided. Whilst it is said Messrs Ingham, Branch & perhaps Burien favor the pretensions of Calhoun, - Messrs Barry & Eaton are the friends of Van Buren. What is of more importance, it is supposed that the old chief himself leans to the New York rather than the South Carolina candidate.

In my own part, I shall remain perfectly neutral until I can ascertain what are the views of General Jackson in regard to a re-election.

In the Senate, as you have seen from the papers - the party war is violent. Many of the nominations will be resisted with great determination. Our House has hitherto been remarkably dull. We have had no party question to disturb our calm. I do not think this will long be the case. The elements ^{of strife} are beginning to get into motion.

General Jackson's health is much better than it was last spring; still it cannot be considered robust. He is constantly occupied & I believe sincerely has nothing but the good of his country in view.

From your friend
with much respect James Buchanan

Colonel Isaac Wayne
My political speculations in regard to Calhoun & Van Buren are confidential.

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