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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to James Campbell

Date: January 30, 1851

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Washington 30 January 1851.

My dear Sir /

I have just received a number of letters & Telegraphic Despatches from Harrisburg on the subject of W. Baker's appointment as Superintendent on the Columbia Rail Road. Some of them are several days old; but by an accident they did not reach me soon.

I regret extremely that your friends & myself have come into conflict on this question; but I cannot abandon Baker. I cannot desert a friend to secure the neutrality of a foe, - a friend too, whom I advised to apply for the situation & whose success I have used every honorable effort to promote. If I were thus to act, I should forget my own self respect; & I feel confident you are the last man who would require such a sacrifice.

I rejoice that you have carried the City & County so triumphantly. My humble services in other parts of the

State have been given to you cordially & cheerfully, & I consider your nomination almost certain. I shall, however, continue my efforts until the victory is achieved.

I have been here for four or five days; & am astonished myself at the prospect. The time has arrived, in the natural progress of events, when Pennsylvania may furnish the Democratic Candidate for the Union, should she but will it energetically. But that is the question. There are so many jealousies & factions & wheels within wheels in operation in our good old State, that no person can predict with confidence what will be the result. The public works have for years been in the charge of my enemies & have been covered with agents hostile to me. Now when I desire to have a friend appointed whose success is essential to me in my own County, I am met & resisted by good friends who ^{from the best motives} desire the continuance of the present incumbent who has been more bitterly my enemy than any individuals in the State, save Frazer & Cameron.

Hon: James Campbell.
from your friend,
very respectfully,
James Buchanan