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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to John Maclean

**Date:** November 7, 1834

**Location:** I-Friends-2004-4

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

Dear Sir,

Lancaster 7 November 1834.

Samuel Humes Porter, a son of the late Governor Porter of Michigan, is desirous, if possible, to enter the present junior class at Princeton. He is a very promising youth of about seventeen, possessing fine talents & excellent principles. In the beginning of July last, when his father died, he was preparing to enter that class; but that occurrence arrested his studies & has prevented him from being so well prepared as he ought to be. His father has left a large family & an encumbered estate, & he can scarcely afford to remain even two years at College. If he could be admitted into the class, I entertain not a doubt that in six months he would make up every deficiency. He has read Cicero, Sallust, Virgil, Horace, *Græca Minora* & about one half of the first volume of *Græca Majora*, & has studied the four first books of Euclid & the greater part of Days Algebra.

I feel a deep interest in the welfare of young Mr. Humes, & shall therefore esteem it a particular favor if you will do what you can, consistently with a course of duty, to accomplish his wishes. I shall probably become his guardian.

If you believe he cannot be admitted into the Junior class, would you have the goodness to inform me what would be required to

enable him to enter the Sophomore class six months advanced,  
at the commencement of the next session of the College? I should  
be sorry to send him to any other Institution

Entertaining a hope that I may yet have frequent opportunities  
of cultivating an acquaintance formed under such agreeable  
auspices, I remain, with sentiments of the highest respect

Yours truly

John Maclean Esquire.

James Buchanan

Lancaster Nos. 34

James Buchanan

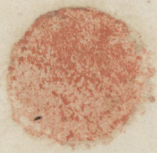
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John Mackay Esquire

Princeton

New Jersey

LANCASTER  
NOV 7 11



## JAMES BUCHANAN - ALS to AN OFFICIAL AT PRINCETON

15th President of the United States. During his administration, John Brown made his famous raid on Harpers Ferry, the Pony Express service began, and many Southern States seceded from the Union. As president, Buchanan's Pro-Southern bias in the bitter slavery controversy made him so unpopular that he did not seek re-election. Buchanan may have been our first 'gay' president. Recently discovered correspondence between Buchanan and Alabama Senator Wm. R. King (Pierce's V.P.) suggests the two men were lovers.

**ALS** from Lancaster, PA addressed to John McClean, Esq. and dated Nov. 7, 1834. At the time this letter was written, he had just resigned his position as Ambassador to Russia and would become Senator from Pennsylvania later that year.

'Samuel Porter, a son of the late Governor Porter of Michigan is desirous to enter the present junior class at Princeton. He is a very promising youth of about 17, possessing fine talents and excellent principles. In the beginning of July last, when his father died, he was preparing to enter this class but that occurrence arrested his studies and has prevented him from being so well prepared as he ought to be. His father has left a large family and an encumbered estate, and he can scarcely afford to remain even 2 years at college.

If he could be admitted into the class, I entertain not a doubt that in 6 months he would make up every deficiency. He has read Cicero, Virgile, Horace, Greca Minora and about 1/2 of the first volume of Greca Majora and has studied the four first books of Euclid and the greater part of Day's Algebra.

I feel a deep interest in the welfare of young Samuel and shall therefore assume it a particular favor if you will do what you can, consistent with a sense of duty, to accomplish his wishes. I shall probably become his guardian.

If you believe he cannot be admitted into the Junior Class, would you have the goodness to Inform me what would be required to enable him to enter the Sophomore Class 6 months advanced, at the commencement of the next session of the college. I should be sorry to send him to any other institution.

Entertaining a hope that I may yet have frequent opportunities of cultivating an acquaintance formed under such agreeable auspices, I remain, with sentiments of the highest respect.

Yours truly,  
James Buchanan'