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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to Stimpson Woodward

**Date:** August 20, 1841

**Location:** I-Friends-2007-2

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Washington 20 August 1841

Dear Sir,

Although much pressed for time, I cannot forego the pleasure of thanking you for your very kind & acceptable letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> Instant & the graphic description which it contains of the meeting assembled to denounce Mr. Brown. I rejoice that he was sustained; because it is an evidence that the people of Pittsburg cannot be much longer ~~bamboozled~~ <sup>"bamboozled"</sup>, to use Col. Benton's word.

The Bank Whigs have passed a Revenue <sup>through the House</sup> Bill under which Rail Road iron imported for the use of States & Corporations will continue to be free of duty; whilst they impose a tax of twenty per cent. upon coffee & tea! So much for Pennsylvania interests! I shall make a strong effort to amend the Bill in these particulars; although I almost despair of success. The truth is the ~~free~~ Whig party have never acquired power without abusing it; and although they are on the broad road to destruction, yet they may do much mischief to the Country before the end of their term.

Tyler has behaved nobly in vetoing the Bank Bill & of he will only act upon <sup>firmly</sup> his avowed principles, all may yet be well. I

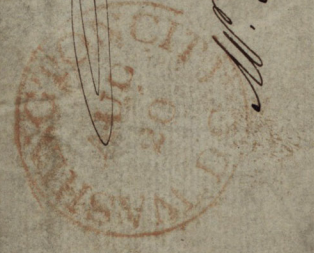
cherish some hope that this may be the case; but as yet it is  
mingled with much fear.

yours sincerely

M. S. H. Woodward.

James Buchanan

James Buchanan



M. S. H. Woodward

Pittsburg

Penn<sup>a</sup>

1841

**SENATOR BUCHANAN RAILS AGAINST THE WHIGS AND  
THE BANK OF THE UNITED STATES: “THE PEOPLE  
OF PITTSBURGH CANNOT BE MUCH LONGER  
‘BAMBOOZLED’...THE WHIG PARTY HAVE NEVER  
ACQUIRED POWER WITHOUT ABUSING IT...TYLER  
HAS BEHAVED NOBLY IN VETOING THE BANK BILL”**

**JAMES BUCHANAN** (1791-1868). Buchanan was the Fifteenth President.

ALS. 2pg. 7 ¾” x 10”. August 20, 1841. Washington. An autograph letter signed “**James Buchanan**” as a Democratic Senator from Pennsylvania. He wrote to Stimpson Harvey Woodward, an entrepreneur in Pittsburgh: “*Although much pressed for time, I cannot forgo the pleasure of thanking you for your very kind & acceptable letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> Instant & the graphic description which it contains of the meeting assembled to denounce Mr. Irwin. I rejoice that he was sustained; because it is an evidence that the people of Pittsburgh cannot be much longer ‘bamboozled’, to use Col. Benton’s word. The Bank Whigs have passed a Revenue Bill through the House under which Rail Road iron imported for the use of the States & Corporations will continue to be free of duty; whilst they impose a tax of twenty percent upon coffee & tea! So much for Pennsylvania interests! I shall make a strong effort to amend the Bill in these particulars; although I almost despair of success. The truth is the Whig party have never acquired power without abusing it; and although they are on the broad road to destruction yet they may do much mischief to the country before the end of these terms. [President John] Tyler has behaved nobly in vetoing the Bank Bill & if he will only act upon his formerly avowed principles, all may yet be well. I cherish some hope that this may be the case; but as yet it is mingled with much fear.*” Andrew Jackson killed the Bank of the United States, and in the early 1840s, Whigs, led by Senator Henry Clay, tried to revive the institution. President Tyler twice vetoed bills to create a Third Bank of the United States, and both vetoes were sustained in Congress. As a protest, all of Tyler’s cabinet, except for Secretary of State Daniel Webster, resigned in September 1841, crippling Tyler’s Presidency. William W. Irwin was mayor of Pittsburgh, serving from 1840 to the next year. There is also a free franked signature “**James Buchanan**” on the address leaf.