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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to James Henry

Date: May 3, 1851

Location: I-Friends-2010-2

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Wheatland, near Lancaster 3 May 1851.

My dear James /

I have just received your circular. In behaviour & industry you stand 100 & with this I am much gratified. In Scholarship you are 93, 9; not so high as formerly, your standing in December last being 96.6. - I cannot, however, complain of this falling off, as it appears to was not for want of industry. I should like to know how many in the class are above & how many below you. I know you have a good capacity; & my own impression is that you only require a devoted attention to the subject when you study & ^{with} fixed purpose so to engrave it on your memory that it will not afterwards escape. Take care to understand every thing thoroughly before you pass over it & do not rest content with merely being able to get along at recitation.

We are moving on here in the same old way. Harriet has returned from Washington after having passed three weeks in Baltimore on the way.

I was very much shocked to hear of Mr.

BB

Newton's death. For almost thirty years we had
been friends & she was always the same kind friend
to me. She possessed tact, talent & most agreeable powers
of conversation. She was eminently a lady of the world
without having lost those warm affections & noble impulses
of the heart which ~~the sex~~ constitute the
most captivating charm of the sex. What a blow her
death has been to poor Mr. Newton, Laura & Clem!
I think you would do well to address Clem a
letter of sympathy.

We shall all be rejoiced to see you at the
vacation.

W. James B. Henry;

Yours affectionately
James Buchanan

I am my dear Sir

You are most respectfully

James Buchanan

a) ALS. 2pg. 7 ¼" x 9". May 3, 1851. Wheatland. An autograph letter signed "**James Buchanan**" to Henry: *"I have just received your circular. In behavior and industry you stand 100 & with this I am much gratified. In Scholarship you are 93.9; not so high as formerly, your standing in December last being 96.6. I cannot, however, complain of the falling off, as it appears it was not for want of industry. I should like to know how many in the class are above & how many below you. I know you have a good capacity; & my own impression is that you only require a devoted attention to the subject when you study & a fixed purpose to engrave it on your memory that it will not afterwards escape. Take care to understand every thing thoroughly before you pass over it & do not rest content with merely being able to get along at recitation. We are moving on here in the same old way. Harriet [Lane Johnson, his niece] has returned from Washington after having passed three weeks in Baltimore on the way. I was very much shocked to hear of Mrs. Pleasanton's death. For almost thirty years we had been friends & she was always the same kind friend to me. She possessed tact, talent & most agreeable powers of conversation. She was eminently a lady of the world without having lost those warm affections & noble impulses of the heart, which constitute the most captivating charm of the sex. What a blow her death has been to poor Mr. Pleasanton, Louisa & Clem! I think you would do well to address Clem a letter of sympathy. We shall all be rejoiced to see you at the vacation."* The letter is on white paper with some minor staining that does not affect the legibility.