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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to Isaac D. Barnard

Date: March - August 1829

Location: MC 1998.10

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Dear Sir,

Suncoaster 11 March 1829.

I thank you for your kind letter of the 8th Instant.

I have not for a long time felt so much mortified as when I heard of your defeat at the Harrisburg Convention. ~~If~~ your friends there immediately after the result of the last ballot had been announced ^{had} protested against the decision & insisted that you were the choice of a majority of the delegates regularly appointed, perhaps it would have been the proper course. As they acquiesced & pledged themselves to support Wolf, there is no course left but submission. He is now the candidate of the party & as such will be supported. The vote in your favor under all circumstances was highly flattering. It proves your exalted standing in Pennsylvania.

Your enemies would be delighted if you should consent to become a candidate. This however I feel certain you will not do. Your friends feel a deep interest in your future course. Should it be such as I confidently hope, you will place yourself upon an enviable eminence.

I cannot believe that Foster has said any thing disrespectful of you. His friends here are your friends, & I received a letter from him on Monday evening expressing the warmest gratitude towards you.

Please to present my best respects to Mr. & Mrs. Pearson & Miss Matilda & believe me to be ever your friend

The Hon: Isaac D. Barnard.

James Buchanan

Lancaster 11 March 1829.

Dear Sir/

I thank you for your kind letter of the 8th. Instant. I have not for a long time felt so much mortified as when I heard of your defeat at the Harrisburg Convention. If your friends there immediately after the result of the last ballot had been announced had protested against the decision & insisted that you were the choice of a majority of the delegates regularly appointed, perhaps it would have been the proper course. As they acquiesced & pledged themselves to support Wolf, there is no course left but submission. He is now the candidate of the party & as such will be supported. The vote in your favor under all circumstances was highly flattering. It proves your exalted standing in Pennsylvania.

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I cannot believe that Porter has said any thing disrespectful of you. His friends here are your friends; & I received a letter from him on Monday evening expressing the warmest gratitude towards you.

Please to present my best respects to Mr. & Mrs. Pleasonton & Miss Matilda & believe me to be ever your friend

James Buchanan

The Hon: Isaac D. Barnard.

Dear Sir,

Lancaster 20 August 1829.

I left Lancaster on Thursday last with the intention of paying you a visit before my return to this place; but unforeseen circumstances prevented me from carrying my design into execution. On Monday afternoon I got to the Wilmington Springs & on that night the rain fell in torrents. The Landlord told me that before the rain the road to West Chester was very bad & that it would, after it, be almost impassable. I yielded to the elements & came home.

We had a very pleasant festival at Frovcpud & much regret was expressed that you had not been invited. The invitations were confined to the members of Congress from the District. I found when I went there that it was expected I should make a speech. In doing so I did not disguise my real sentiments. I stated that George Wolf was not my first choice; but after his nomination by the convention I felt it to be my duty to support him. I presume my remarks will be published next week.

I spent Friday night ^{very pleasantly} last with Isaac Wayne. He informed me that he had communicated to you the request of General Jackson to acknowledge the receipt of a letter enclosing to him a likeness of General Wayne & an autograph letter from him to his ~~mother~~ ^{wife}; & that you had said you would write to General Eaton upon the subject. He wished me to enquire of you whether you had received an answer; & if not I promised to write to General Jackson. Be so good as to inform me whether your letter has been answered.

When I commenced my letter I had not an idea of alluding to the report in

circulation concerning yourself; but I think I owe it to the friendship which I
have professed & which I ardently feel for you ^{not to keep them over my silence}. If they be true, for God sake,
for your own & that of your numerous friends summon up that resolution
which belong to your character & abandon the practice forever. Very many
of us in this County are warmly attached to you. You have been but once
disappointed; & ~~this~~ disappointment is the common fate of public men. The
Senate of the United States is a theatre as exalted as that to which your
friends wished to elevate you. One winter service in that body such as
you performed the first season after your election will prove more in
oblivion the reports whether true or false now in circulation.

Pardon my frankness & attribute it altogether to kindness.

Let me hear from you soon & may God bless you.

Your friend
James Buchanan

General Isaac D. Bernard

Lancaster 20 August 1829.

Dear Sir/

I left Lancaster on Thursday last with the intention of paying you a visit before my return to this place; but unforeseen circumstances prevented me from carrying my design into execution. On Monday afternoon I got to the Wilmington Springs & on that night the rain fell in torrents. The Landlord told me that before the rain the road to West Chester was very bad; & that it would, after it, be almost impassable, I yielded to the elements & came home.

We had a very pleasant festival at Haverford & much regret was expressed that you had not been invited. The invitations were confined to the members of Congress from the District. I found when I went there that it was expected I should make a speech. In doing so I did not disguise my real sentiments. I stated that George Wolf was not my first choice; but after his nomination by the convention I felt it to be my duty to support him. I presume my remarks will be published next week.

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From your friend
James Buchanan

General Isaac D. Barnard.