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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to M. S. Blackman

Date: November 29, 1841

Location: MC 1998.10, B1, F27

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Private

Leicester 29 November 1841.

My dear Sir,

I owe you many thanks for your kind letter of the 17th Instant.

I have never yet deemed myself a candidate for the highest office, nor have I considered it proper to decline. I am content that public opinion shall take its course entirely satisfied with whatever may be the result. The apparent division of opinion which has existed in the ranks of the Democracy of Pennsylvania on this subject, has probably prevented the State from exercising that moral influence over her sister States to which she is entitled. It is difficult to conceive that any State can obtain the Presidency, whilst her own preference remains in doubt; especially when the friends of another Candidate, sustained by a powerful State, are exerting themselves throughout the Union. I have often thought that the want of State pride which has so signally characterized Pennsylvania has been of great advantage to the Union. We are the steady wheel horse of the Confederacy; and whilst we do not aspire to the high offices & honors of the Republic, we exert a greater influence in keeping other States ~~with upon the Democratic line~~ to the principles of Democracy which

can alone perpetuate our glorious Institutions.

Although I believe that Pennsylvania must evince her preference for a candidate of her own in a different manner from what she has done or will do in order to secure success; yet as one of those ^{in connection with the two highest offices} who have been mentioned, I have not yet determined to decline. I shall await events, without feeling much solicitude on the subject.

Repeating my thanks for your kind letter, I remain yours sincerely.

M. S. Blackman Esq

James Buchanan

Lancaster 29 November 1841

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M. S. Blackman Esq