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**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to James A. Caldwell

**Date:** December 22, 1838

**Location:** MC 1998.10, B1, F21

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Dear Sir,

Washington 22 Decr '38

I am about setting out for Philadelphia on some business. The Senate have adjourned until Wednesday. I called to day on Mr. Wate, but did not get to see him. Even if he had had money for you, I could not have sent you a draft for want of money in Bank in Lancaster. On my return ~~and~~ I shall call again on Mr. Wate.

I fear you are about to abandon your noble, safe & prudent position without receipts. You will find more difficulty in getting up a Convention than probably you may dream of. The House might have continued to meet until the 1st Tuesday of January; the Speaker might then have qualified the Governor, & all the consequences of a suspension of Legislation would have fallen upon the heads of the conspirators against popular liberty. I doubt not the power of the people to modify & change their Governments in any manner they may deem proper; but I exceedingly doubt the policy of making the attempt upon the present occasion.

Ever your friend  
in haste

James A. Caldwell Esq

James Buchanan

Washington 22 Dec: '38

Dear Sir/

I am about setting out for Philadelphia on some business. The Senate have adjourned until Wednesday. I called to day on M. Waite, but did not get to see him. Even if he had had money for you, I could not have sent you a draft for want of money in Bank in Lancaster. On my return ~~again~~ I shall call again on M. Waite.

I fear you are about to abandon your noble, safe & prudent position without necessity. You will find [one word illegible] difficulty in getting up a convention than probably you may dream of. The House might have continued to meet until the third Tuesday of January; the Speaker might then have qualified the Governor, & all the consequences of a suspension of Legislation would have fallen upon the heads of the conspirators against popular liberty. I doubt not the power of the people to modify & change their Government in any manner they may deem proper; but I exceedingly doubt the policy of making the attempt upon the present occasion.

Ever your friend  
in haste  
James Buchanan

James A. Caldwell Esq