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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to James Campbell

Date: 1852-1854

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Wheatland, near Lancaster 5 Feb: 1852.

My dear Sir /

Since I wrote to you to day under much excitement, I have seen Mr. Baker & spoke as strongly to him as I had written to you. He says that he would be the last man alive to appoint any person on the road who had not strongly supported your election: - that Darlington was your ardent & active friend & that he satisfied himself that Jayson, though opposed to your nomination had given your election a warm & active support. I told him that if I had entertained the least idea or imagination that he was about to remove either Murphy or Collins, I should have made a strong personal appeal to him in their behalf: That the latter was one of the most zealous & useful supporters I had in the City & County; & that he ought to have made no removals ^{or appointments} there without first consulting you. He will call to see you & make his explanations himself. He is a good & capable man; but has made a sad mistake both in the thing itself & in the time of doing it. I think it will be found that the urgency of one of the Canal Commissioners in favor of the three year rule had a decisive influence on Mr. Baker.

I hope that ere this you have abandoned all serious notions of resigning. I presume the appointment of Vansant is highly agreeable to you. Some of the appointments have been very strange. Indeed I know not what to make of them. State facts have not been sufficiently developed & I trust they never may be to justify your resignation. You are now placed in precisely the same position I was during part of Mr. Polk's administration.

I am exceedingly desirous to have a long talk with you. - I am obliged to be in Richmond by a previous engagement on Wednesday next & must leave home on Tuesday at $\frac{1}{2}$ past ^{ten or eleven} ~~five~~ to reach there. How can we arrange it to meet. Could you not come up to Lancaster in the night line on Monday evening? I will meet you at the cars at 9 O'clock P.M., bring you out to my house & we can both leave on Tuesday morning. I shall rely upon your friendship not to leave Philadelphia sooner, unless you believe you can do it with safety.

Ever gratefully & respectfully
Your friend
James Buchanan.

Hon: James Campbell.

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Ever gratefully & respectfully
Your friend
James Buchanan

Hon: James Campbell

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Wheatland 26 Feb: 52.

My dear Sir / I have received your favor & have written in strong terms to Baker.

Stell informs me that Jones was preparing the address & resolutions & would send them to him this day. He promised to forward them to me immediately. Should they not come, I shall prepare the general resolutions myself. I hope you may make it convenient to be on the ground early & that you will call to see me on your way. - I have written at length to Hunt who has doubtless shown you my letter before this time. God: Porter was with me last night. We agree in opinion that there ought to be a Caucus of my friends the night preceding the meeting of the Convention & that they ought to agree to pass some such resolutions as I have sent to Mr. Hunt immediately after the organization of the Convention. This point will be the tug of war. I have written to Mr. Kinley to search the precedents. John Weedman of Lebanon writes that the plan of electing by districts is an innovation on the ancient usage which was changed in 1840 or 1844. I hope this may prove to be the fact.

Hon: James Campbell

In great haste, I remain
as ever your friend
James Buchanan

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My dear Sir/

I have received your favor & have written in very strong terms to Baker.

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In great haste, I remain
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James Buchanan

Hon: James Campbell

Wheatland, near Lancaster 23 August 1852

My dear Sir /

I have received your favor of the 19th Instant; & whether you shall visit General Purce or not, I am glad that I have stated to him the standing & character of yourself, Governor Porter & General Brawley. I had supposed that your visit was a matter agreed upon among you three; & my letter was written for the purpose of assuring you a cordial reception. Such a visit might counteract the efforts of our opponents ^{among the feisty Democrats} in this State & be of service to our friends & I cannot perceive that it would be either indelicate or improper.

The Democrat Convention have this week, a most important duty to perform. Upon the judicious selection of a Canal Commissioner may depend the result of the Presidential election in this State & perhaps in the Union. The nominee ought to be a man of high character for ability & uncompromising integrity who has never heretofore been connected, either directly or indirectly, with the public works. The present Board are now every where viewed with suspicion; & I have yet to meet the first man, whether Whig or Democrat, in this region who does not condemn the contract with Bingham & Cook.

Hon: James Campbell.

From your friend
and respectfully
James Buchanan

Wheatland, near Lancaster 23 August 1852

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor of the 19th Instant; & whether you ~~shou~~ shall visit General Pierce or not, I am glad that I have stated to him the standing & character of yourself, Governor Porter & General Brawly. I had supposed that your visit was a matter agreed upon among you three; & my letter was written for the purpose of assuring you a cordial reception. Such a visit might counteract the efforts of our opponents among the fishy Democrats in this State & be of service to our friends & I cannot perceive that it would be either indelicate or improper.

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very respectfully
James Buchanan

Hon: James Campbell

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Private & Confidential

Whealland, near Lancaster 22 April 1853.

My dear Sir / On opening the Pennsylvanian this evening, I find that Shaler has been appointed District Attorney for Western Pennsylvania. Thus Cameron, Morehead, Dawson & have got the great political power & influence of the Marshal & District Attorneys of the West under their absolute control. Every & The Juries will be political caucuses of their friends from the different Counties of the West. The same thing will happen in the East. Weyhook has cast himself into the arms of Cameron who has become his Bail. He will be used, with effect by that Arch intriguer, as his appointments already prove. The faction which was defeated has been galvanised by the present administration & they may perhaps be enabled to defeat poor Brawley, as they did yourself. Certain it is that they are bitterly hostile to him & Governor Bigler: & the Lancasterian is out against General Pierce. Fears are now entertained by the true Democracy of Cumberland County that the President will appoint Bralton the Postmaster at Carlisle. This may have one good effect as it will ^{re} unite Judges

Stuart & Woodburn ~~in office~~ who have been divided for
some years. ^{of that of} Things of the true Democracy there is, as
it ought to be, "any body but Bratton". He is an inevitable
suspicious, malign ~~man~~ man who is incapable of making
or preserving personal friends; but is a convenient
instrument for Cameron, Beetsom & that set, & hence
their support. He denounced your appointment; &
his selection will be exceedingly unpopular, as it will
deserve to be. The President seems determined to infuse
new life & vigor into that corrupt faction; & thus, ^{may possibly} ~~with~~
^{I hope not,} succeed in alienating his true friends. Oh for "one blast
upon the Bugle Horn" of Old Hickory. They desire now
to defeat Magraw, & get an auxiliary under the
Post office Department & that they hope to manage the
West in their own way. It is a remarkable fact,
that I have not succeeded in obtaining the appointment
of ^a single individual whom I recommended beyond the
limits of my own County. I shall not give another
recommendation to the President. My support has
been fatal to my friends; & I shall injure them no
more in this manner. But I am too proud to complain
& shall do so no more, except to the President himself.
I shall certainly tell him what I think of all this,

thought to should cost me my reputation which I
value very little. I would do any thing but lay down
my life for my friends; & I am deeply sorry that my
support has ~~done them so much injury~~ ^{proved fatal to so many of them}. I am sick
~~almost to~~ heartily sick of politics; & you are the
only person to whom I can have the satisfaction of
unburdening my mind. The guerillas are in high
hopes of Barrets appointment. Should that be made,
"Othello's occupation's gone".

I gave M^{rs}. Campbell a pressing invitation to
Wheatland, with her children which I hope you
will advise her to accept. Harriet will now soon
be at home & the place is truly beautiful.

General Price has followed the compromising
policy of W. Polk in New York against which I
protested; & I venture to predict that the result will
be similar. I congratulate you on the accession of
the Washington Republic to the administration.

from your friend

Hon: James Campbell.

Very respectfully
James Buchanan

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from your friend
very respectfully
James Buchanan

Hon: James Campbell

Legation of The United States.

London 2 January 1854

My dear Sir /

"Long looked for come at last." I have received your welcome letter of the 10th ultimo. And first let me say, I am much pleased with your report. It is an able, sensible & business paper; - in short just what it ought to have been. You have no friend who has been more grateful than myself with your success in the Post Office Department; better than I had anticipated from the beginning.

I am getting along here as well as I can, though I have not become acclimated to their weather. It has been colder, more changeable & far more damp here since the first of December than I have ever experienced at home in the same season. Since yesterday morning I have been made happy to reflect that in the course of the next year I shall be at home, should a kind Providence preserve my life & my health.

I have been somewhat annoyed by the question of

Mrs. Buchanan
Jan 1854

costume to which lady like I have no doubt the Queen
attaches much importance. On this subject I have
kept my own counsel pretty much except to declare
that I would put on neither gold lace nor embroideries.
The dress of an American gentleman is precisely the
dress of the Court servants & if I were to adopt this I
might be mistaken for one of them & expose myself
to ridicule. I have ~~just~~ recently learned from
unquestionable authority that the Queen would be entirely
satisfied, should I adopt the civil dress of Washington, ^{& the gentlemen of that day in America}
It will be difficult for me to resist this suggestion.
I have not yet seen the portrait; but I believe the
dress is sufficiently plain, though doubtless of an antique
fashion. It would be very difficult for an American
minister to justify himself in a refusal to appear as
Washington did, - when the Court dress, gold lace &
embroideries have been yielded in the highest quarters

January 4. I have this moment received the Lancaster
Journal of the 20th ultimo from which I learn that the
New York National True Democrat has been assailing me.
It would be difficult for me to imagine the cause of abuse
from that quarter. I consented to banish myself from a
home I love, with the ~~most~~ possible reluctance, to endeavor
if possible to serve the President & the Country, in settling

our important questions with England; & I consider
it a hard measure of justice to be ~~affront~~ attacked by
an administration Journal, whilst in a Foreign Land.

I sincerely hope that you may be correct in your
opinion that the Democracy of other States will not take
any part in the New York controversy. They ought to be
left to themselves. Brodhead & Cameron, having apparently
come out in opposition to the administration, will be
of essential service to it among the true Democracy of
the State, & so mote it be. How long are we or rather
you, to be troubled with such disorganisers!

You have presented a goodly list of candidates
for the Senate, & among them are several names worthy
of ^{the} place. Although I do not entertain the most
exalted opinion of Governor Byler, as you will know;
yet it appears to me that the great interests of the
Democratic party, State & National, require his re-nomination
& re-election.

The climate here has been shocking ever since my
arrival & now we have a coat of snow on the ground
which would justify sleighing; but they have no sleighs.
I have never ~~felt~~ suffered so much from cold as since
the middle of December, not even in Russia. This does
not arise from its intensity, so much as from the extreme

& chilling dampness & fog of the atmosphere.

This Government is extremely averse to going to war with Russia. They have exhausted every effort of diplomacy to avoid it; but apparently in vain. Should war commence in earnest, God only knows when it may end. This country is an eye sore to the Despotic Powers of the Continent on account of its comparative liberty & they all detest it for this reason, as well as on account of its arrogance. They have the liberty of the Press here in perfection as well as the protection of individual rights, though these ~~are~~ ^{of these} ~~are~~ ^{is} ruinously expensive in a Court of Law. John Bull seems to have made up his mind to fight with a determined spirit, should this prove to be necessary. He is exceedingly annoyed with the honors paid to John Mitchell.

I wish I could write you my views at length on the present condition of G. Britain. The old Whig & Tory parties are effete. They were both essentially controlled by the Aristocracy. This aristocracy were ~~now~~ ^{hereafter} be compelled in self defence to unite for the preservation of their own power against the popular element. The extension of the franchise will increase the power of the people; & it is extremely doubtful whether any Reform Bill will pass at the next Session of Parliament. It is true the lower classes in this Country are abject & owing to their superiors; but this will have an end.

Please to remember me, in the kindest terms, to Mr.

Campbell & the Reasoners & believe me, ever to be
sincerely your friend
Hon: James Campbell. — James Buchanan

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