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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Benjamin Champneys

Date: January 13, 1843

Location: MC 1998.10, B2, F4

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Washington 13 January 1843.

My dear Sir,

I have this moment received your kind letter & I shall not attempt to express to you my grateful feelings for your kind, able & efficient friendship. Mr. Sumner who is a most excellent man, "wise as the serpent; but harmless as the dove," has made me fully acquainted, in minute detail, with your successful exertions, in rescuing me from the hands of the Philistines.

I shall be curious to observe the movements at Harrisburg on the arrival of General Cass. I have purposely kept myself aloof from the question of Judge Porter's appointment to the Cabinet; but from rumors on which I rely, I believe he is now in great danger. Whether true or not, the combination against me ~~has~~ is here attributed to the Governor; and I never believed ^{until the present moment that} I had the personal good will ^{really} of all the

members of all parties to such an extent. I have been informed upon unquestionable authority since my election that means were adopted by several of the leading Whigs in Congress to prevent the Whig members from uniting with the cabal; and the congratulations of the Whig Senators upon my success were nearly as warm as those of the Democrats. For this, I was entirely unprepared.

Tyler is jealous of the manifestations in favor of Cap at Harrisburg. One of the guard told me the other day, that Porter thought he had a trump card in the hand of every candidate; but yet he would probably not take a single vote. Cap, I know, goes to Harrisburg under high expectations. He anticipates the transfer of Johnson's strength to himself; and this with the support of the administration is to make him the Penn^a. Candidate.

I am under the impression that it would be better for me to postpone my visit to Harrisburg until after the 4th March.

Mrs. Benjamin Champney.

Ever your friend
James Buchanan

Washington 13 January 1843.

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Tyler is jealous of the manifestations in favor of Cass at Harrisburg. One of the guard told me the other day, that Porter thought he had a trump card in the hand of every candidate; but yet he would probably not take a single trick. Cass, I know, goes to Harrisburg under high expectations. He anticipates the transfer of Johnson's strength to himself; and this with the support of the administration is to make him the Penna. candidate.

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Hon: Benjamin Champneys