

# **Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections**

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

## **Documents Online**

**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to Caleb Cushing

**Date:** April 26, 1845

**Location:** MC 1998.10, B2, F9

### **Contact:**

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

Washington 26 April 1845

My dear Sir /

Judging by my last letter from Colonel King, it is not probable that Dr. Murtre will consent to leave him & Paris; and after our casual but playful conversation on the subject, I follow the strong bent of my own inclination in offering you the Chief Clerkship in the Department of State. I know it is not a place at all proportioned to your eminent abilities & services; and having occupied such exalted positions before your Country, I dare scarcely hope that you will accept it. Yet if it were what it ought to be & what we shall endeavor to make it at the next Session of Congress;—an assistant Secretaryship with a competent salary, I should think differently. It would then be a most desirable place.

Your services in this position, <sup>in</sup> ~~at~~ the present state of our foreign relations might be of much advantage to your Country; and it is probably a station from which you would be more likely to rise, than if you should remain in retirement. Still I am not authorized to make any promise to this effect. The President never commits himself in advance. All I can say is that I make you this offer with his entire approbation, and I shall be highly gratified if you should accept it. I have no doubt we should get along very pleasantly together.

With sentiments of the highest regard, I remain

Your friend

James Buchanan

Hon Caleb Cushing.

Private

Washington 26 April 1845.

My dear Sir /

Judging by my last letter from Colonel King  
it is not probable that J. T. Martin will consent to leave him  
& Paris; and after our casual <sup>but pleasant</sup> conversation on the subject,  
I follow the strong bent of my own inclination in offering  
you the Chief Clerkship of the Department of State. I know  
it is not a place at all proportioned to your eminent <sup>abilities</sup> talents  
& services; and having occupied such exalted positions before  
your Country, I dare scarcely hope that you will accept it.  
<sup>Get</sup> If it were what it ought to be & what we shall endeavor to  
make it, <sup>at the next Session of Congress</sup> an Assistant Secretaryship with a competent salary,  
I should think differently. It would then be a most desirable  
place. Your <sup>services in this position, in</sup> ~~services~~ <sup>at the present</sup> State ~~in assisting to conduct~~  
relations might be of <sup>much</sup> ~~great~~ <sup>advantage</sup> to your Country;  
and it is probably a station from which you would be  
more likely to rise than if you should remain in retirement.  
Still I am not authorized to make any promise to this  
effect, <sup>the President never commits himself in advance;</sup> and ~~most probably the Mexican Mission may be~~  
~~offered to another. Whether he will accept it is very~~  
~~doubtful~~. All I can say is that I make you this offer  
with <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ entire approbation of ~~the President~~; and I shall be  
highly gratified if you should accept it; I have no doubt we  
should get along very pleasantly together.

With sentiments of the highest regard, I remain

Your friend

Hon: Caleb Cushing.

James Buchanan

Washington 26 April 1845

My dear Sir/

Judging by my last letter from Colonel King, it is not probable that Dr Martin will consent to leave him & Paris; and after our casual but playful conversation on the subject, I follow the strong bent of my own inclination in offering you the chief clerkship in the Department of State. I know it is not a place at all proportioned to your eminent abilities & services; and having occupied such exalted positions before your country, I dare scarcely hope that you will accept it. yet if it were what it ought to be & what we shall endeavor to make it at the next session of Congress; - an assistant Secretaryship with a competent salary, I should think differently. It would then be a most desirable place.

Your services in this position, ~~at~~ in the present state of our foreign relations might be of much advantage to your country; and it is probably a station from which you would be more likely to rise, than if you should remain in retirement. Still I am not authorised to make my promise to this effect. The President never commits himself in advance. All I can say is that I make you this offer with his entire approbation, and I shall be highly gratified if you should accept it. I have no doubt we should get along very pleasantly together.

With sentiments of the highest regard, I remain

your friend  
James Buchanan

Hon: Caleb Cushing