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**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to M. G. Dale

**Date:** October 9, 1847

**Location:** MC 1998.10, B2, F17

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Washington 9 October 1847

My dear Sir /

I have received yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> ultimo;  
and am sorry to say I have not yet succeeded in obtaining  
an appointment for Mr. Holcomb though I have done my  
best. I need not explain to you the reasons. I have just  
had a conversation with the Secretary of war upon the  
subject; & he has promised to appoint ~~Mr.~~ Holcomb as soon  
as an opportunity shall offer. There will most probably, I  
fear, be numerous when we shall obtain General Scott's  
official Despatches from Mexico. We have yet had no  
communications from him since he left Puebla.

We are all in anxious expectation as to the result  
of the election next Tuesday in Pennsylvania. Governor Shank  
will be elected by a large majority should he have fair play.  
All appearances are in his favor; & he cannot be defeated  
but by secret & extensive treason in our own ranks. I

am sorry to say that there is <sup>now</sup> much heart burning & dissension  
in the Democratic party of Pennsylvania. Shunk is an  
excellent man & nothing can be said with truth against  
him.

I am much indebted to you for a copy of the  
Constitution of Illinois. I have not yet examined it  
carefully, as my time is almost exclusively occupied with  
my official duties.

I rejoice to know that you have been eminently  
successful in the State of your adoption. Towards the  
close of his life, I had become intimately & socially  
acquainted with your excellent father. I saw much of  
him & entertained the warmest friendship & highest respect  
for him. I shall ever feel deep interest in the welfare  
of his family & rejoice that you are a son worthy to bear  
his name.

In some respects things have sadly changed in  
Lancaster. Without any cause, personal or political, Colonel  
Frazee has become my bitter & malignant enemy. Years ago, I  
got his brother a Cadetship & his father a Judgeship in  
Wisconsin & since I have been Secretary of State I obtained

a pensioner in the Navy for his brother in law. It was  
impossible for me, in addition, to obtain the Treasurership of  
the Mint for his father-in-law: & since my failure, he  
has been continually pouring out torrents of unfounded abuse  
against me. This has <sup>only</sup> done himself harm.

from your friend  
very respectfully

M. G. Dale Esq

James Buchanan

Washington 9 October 1847

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