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## **Documents Online**

**Title:** Letters from James Buchanan to Thomas Elder

**Date:** 1827-1828

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#### **Contact:**

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a number of the first course me the lest we Which Sudge My dear Sii / Sancaster 11 November 1827. Sudge Dunson is truly very unwell. He has not been able to lie down for several days & nights. He is somewhat beller than he was I hopes are now intertained that he may get so well as to be removed to Thiladelphia, I do not believe however that the physicianis entertain hopes of his recovery. Mr. Duncan & Stephen are now here. It is believed by some persons that IV. Shulge will accept the nomination which it is expected will be made of him by the Convontion on the fourth of January. Can this be possible? If he should it will make the next election in Tenns loance the most better contest which we have welnessed Ince 1799. The experience of every day convenies me that the friends of General Jackson are not destined to obtain an easy victory in Tennsylvania. I Shall not would a political letter to you however until I go to Ikeladelphea I see how the land less there. I expect to leave Lancaster on Tuesday week & as I want money I shall anney a recept for my dividend. you will please to insert the dates.

The Court is not going on well here I the Judges are in a bad humor. We all prepared in the a number of the first causes on the list in which Sudge Rogers had been concerned. The inability of Judge Duncan to vit- of the absence of the Chief Justice compelled the Court to pap over the first causes & thus many of the gentlemen were taken by surprise . I am glad I was not. The causes however were freshed not urged by the courters of the Bar of this scens to have given great offence to Jude Huston which he has expussed we his usual courteous elegant & gentlemants language. from your sencere friend Thomas Elder Equire Sames Buchanans election in Jennis Course the most better intest which we have well fire I shale not write a political letter to you howing will I go to Milade plan I say fow the land his there. I expect to leave alongwhee or Sunday were as I want money I shall among a wearft of a my dividual. Then well

Lancaster 11 November 1827.

My dear Sir/

Judge Duncan is truly very unwell. He has not been able to lie down for several days & nights. He is now somewhat better than he was & hopes are now entertained that he may get so well as to be removed to Philadelphia. I do not believe however that the physicians entertain hopes of his recovery. Mrs. Duncan & Stephen are not here.

It is believed by some persons that Mr. Shulze will accept the nomination which it is expected will be made of offered to him by the Convention on the fourth of January. Can this be possible? If he should it will make the next election in Pennsylvania the most bitter contest which we have witnessed since 1799. The experience of every day convinces me of the correctness of your opinion & that the friends of General Jackson are not destined to obtain an easy victory in Pennsylvania. I shall not write a political letter to you however until I go to Philadelphia & see how the land lies there, I expect to leave Lancaster on Tuesday week & as I want money I shall annex a receipt for my dividend. You will please to insert the dates.

### [Page Break]

The court is not going on well here & the Judges are in a bad humor. We all prepared in the a number of the first causes on the list in which Judge Rogers had been concerned. The inability of Judge Duncan to sit - & the absence of the Chief Justice compelled the Court to pass over the first causes & thus many of the gentlemen were taken by surprise. I am glad I was not. The causes however were passed not urged by the courtesy of the Bar & this seems to have given great offence to Judge Huston which he has expressed in his usual courteous, elegant & gentlemanly language.

from your sincere friend James Buchanan

Thomas Elder Esquire

Sardon me for so long neglecting to answer yours of the 27 ultime. I feel much indebted to you for the information which it contains I have been prevented besterto from answering your questions, by an incepant prope of business.

Should Congress retermine to construct a road from Washington to Buffalse, unly I should change my spenson, I shall be decidedly in favor of making Harris about a bourge a point. I do not then however that any appropriation well be made for that purpose during the prosent define. The butto is the administration have, by in attempting to engries themselves also office, made to many surveys between grown front. When we now come to be the court of any case of these members who ought to united in its favor are directed among themselves between the different surveys. Many me half of Janon are directed among themselves between the different soutes between Washington & Pannsylvania has been contracted by the surveys of different soutes between Washington & Oughtalon. This is one of the prany will which flow from a week administration.

Is answer your questions more particularly, it is my spenior Farrisburg & Sunburg well be one it well and at Buffalow. I will be two points in the road of I think the road well and at Buffalow. I do not believe it well be a railway; because it is chiefly intended for a fish- not a commercial road.

If former laws should be pursued, a superintendant well be appointed with the advice & consent of the Senate to make the contracts for its construction of the that this shall be faithfully executed. Order the Act for the continuation of the Cumbuland load paper 3 March 1825

I have but lettle news to communicate : Chillon's resolutions at first threw us all tute confusion; but we rallied I beat the enemy in gallant oble. The had another victors on Monday last in relation to printing the documents concerning the six militie mea. You have on this seen are a casual of il in the Telegraph. We have at length arrived at the point from which we should have started & I now enterlain no fear that we shall do any thing improduct or improper during the present Selsion. The suit militia men well I had hereafter be permetted to rest quietly in their graves. It is as clear a case in form of Seneral Jackson as over was I expect the Tariff will be up next week. It will haps unless a division among the french of the Tysless should defeat it. I fear the Eastern members well not be welling to concede to Pennsylvania New york a protection for these articles in which they are most deeply interested. Should no additional deek be imposed whom molapes - an

additional duty on freign species well justed New England rum as It is said that the molapson brought wito this country was converted ento New England

Please to present my most uspedful complements to der Elder. I ferrantly hope your son may be notored to perfect health & your mind relieved from appelenson on his account. Grom your sincere friend How do you like the appointment of J. Smith " Who will be I fames Free Racean

Washington 13 February 1828.

My dear Sir/

Pardon me for so long neglecting to answer yours of the 27 ultimo. I feel much indebted to you for the information which it contained & have been prevented hitherto from answering your questions by an incessant press of business.

Should Congress determine to construct a road from Washington to Buffaloe, unless I should change my opinion, I shall be decidedly in favor of making Harrisburg a point. I do not think however that any appropriation will be made for that purpose during the present session. The truth is the administration have, by in attempting to engineer themselves into office made so many surveys between given points that when we now come to fly the the particular route of any road, those members who out to unite in its favor are decided among themselves between the different surveys. Nearly one half of Pennsylvania has been embraced by the surveys of different routes between Washington & Buffaloe. This is one of the many evils which flow from a weak administration.

To answer your questions more particularly, it is my opinion Harrisburg & Sunburg will be two points in the road certainly Harrisburg will be one & I think the road it will end at Buffaloe. I do not believe it will be a railway; because it is chiefly intended for a post – not a commercial road.

If former laws should be pursued, a superintendant of the road will be appointed with the advise & consent of the Senate to make the contracts for its construction & see that they shall be faithfully executed. ([one word illegible] the [one word illegible] for the continuation of the Cumberland road passed 3 March 1825)

#### [Page Break]

I have but little news to communicate. Chilton's resolution at first threw us all into confusion; but we rallied & beat the enemy in gallant style. We had another victory on Monday last in relation to printing the document concerning the six militia men. You have on this seen an account of it in the Telegraph. We have at length arrived at the point from which we should have started & I now entertain no fear that we shall do any thing imprudent or improper during the present session.

The six militia men will I trust hereafter be permitted to rest quietly in their graves. It is as clear a case in favor of General Jackson as ever was presented.

I expect the Tariff will be up next week. it will pass unless a division among the friends of the system should defeat it. I fear the Eastern members will not be willing to concede to Pennsylvania & New York a protection for those articles in which they are most deeply interested. Should no additional duty be imposed upon molasses – an additional duty on foreign spirits will protect New England rum as much as it does Pennsylvania whiskey. It is said that At least three fourths of all the molasses brought into this country are converted into New England Rum.

Please to present my most respectful compliments to W. Elder. I fervently hope your son may be restored to perfect health & your mind relieve from apprehension on his account.

How do you like the appointment of F. Smithd who will be our Judge in place of Bradford?