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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to Reah Frazer

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elle dear Sû | Washington 18 January 1840. I should long sinos home answered your letter; but I have had a mountain of business upon my Shoulders since the commencements of the Sepino; besides, I was not well for some time: & a man always feels disposed to take the greatest liberties with his best friends. Should any post Roads be established during the present Septem, I shall take care to have the one in which you take an interest included in the Bilo.

from it it hapon I less their come of proceeding in the

It would afford me great pleasure to serve Wille Ogilly & I have been looking out for a vacance teal never hear of any until its has been felled. In canda, however, I must vas that there are two other applicants to whom I was pledged before I knew he descret the Siluation. In one of them I have been endeavouring to get a place more those a year; but without succept. There would be another defficulty in Willels was. From the great number of opposition clarke in office, they now fell up the vacancies as they occur with fruits there whose Ocmocracy dates back at least as far as the first election of M. Van Buren. Now I could not certify that he supported cether Van Burero or Forter. Pleasto inform me whether he did. The elletropolis watches their matters very closely.

The Senate ordered the Independent Treasury Belo to be engroped

yesterday by a vote of 24 to 18. It well probably pass our Body finally on ellonday. It is believed that there is a majority in the House in

Goods, we cannot conjecture whether they will ever lake it up or not. They have not get elected their chaplain on their Printer I they have spent their whole time, dence the commencement of the Sepren, we discuping the New Jerses cleation & abolition from your friends very respectfully Col: Real Frazon. James Buckauaup Miss, they was felt up this massessie so the same with former

Washington 18 January 1840

My dear Sir/

I should long since have answered your letter; but have had a mountain of business upon my shoulders since the commencement of the Session; besides, I was not well for some time: & a man always feels disposed to take the greatest liberties with his best friends. Should any new post Roads be established during the present session, I shall take care to have the one in which you take an interest included in the Bill.

It would afford me great pleasure to serve Willet Ogilby & I have been looking out for a vacancy but never hear of any until it has been filled. In candor, however, I must say that there are two other applicants to whom I was pledged before I knew he desired the situation. For one of them I have been endeavoring to get a place more than a year; but without success. There would be another difficulty in Willet's way. From the great number of opposition clerks in office, they now fill up the vacancies as they occur with friends those who Democracy dates back at least as far as the first election of Mr. Van Buren. Now I could not certify that he supported either Van Buren or Porter. Please to inform me whether he did. The Metropolis watches these matters very closely.

The Senate ordered the Independent Treasury Bill to be engrossed yesterday by a vote of 24 to 18. It will probably pass our Body finally on Monday. It is believed that there is a majority in the House in

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favor of its passage; but from their course of proceeding in that Body, we cannot conjecture with certainty whether they will ever take it up or not. They have not yet elected their chaplain or their Printer & they have spent their whole time since the commencement of the Session, in discussing the New Jersey election & abolition petitions.

from your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

Col. Reah Frazer

Washington 27 Aprile 1840. illy dear Sw I have just received yours of the 24. Instants & hasten to give it an answer. A Malina Consention unce containly be held at Baltimore on the 5. of May; though Several of the States will not attend. In some of the Southern States they say they cannot run Col: Tohnston without ondangering the locket; and they well not allented as Convention by whose proceedings Their cannot bend themselves to support. Ale this is unfortunate, because we shall love the moral effects of a shory National Convention of am persuaded that we a number of the States Col: Johnston well be of dervice to us, as the military services of old Jecumsch wile be a vett off against

Those of Sippecanso. Caw you not spend a day with us here before the meeting of the Convention.

Our news thus for from Virginia has not been as favorable as we had anticipated; but as yet we have no reason to entertain serious appulensions concerning the note of that State in November. Ever your friends

Col: Real Frazero. - James Buchavay

Washington 27 April 1840

My dear Sir/

I have just received yours of the 24th. Instant & hasten to give it an answer. A National Convention will certainly by held at Baltimore on the 5th. of May; though several of the States will not attend. In some of the Southern States they say they cannot run Col: Johnston without endangering the ticket; and they will not attend a convention by whose proceedings they cannot bind themselves to support. All this is unfortunate, because we shall lose the moral effect of a strong National Convention. I am persuaded that in a number of the States Col: Johnston will be of service to us, as the military services of old Tecumseh will be a sett off against those of Tippecanoe. Can you not spend a day with us here before the meeting of the Convention?

Our news thus far from Virginia has not been as favorable as we had anticipated; but as yet we have no reason to entertain serious apprehension concerning the vote of that State in November.

Ever your friend James Buchanan

Col: Reah Frazer

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Col: Real Fraga.

Shietle confedenteal)

Washington 17 June 1841 elly dear Sicf be obedience to your request, I that of ell. Jungerick I called to day on the Jostmaster General for the purpose of injuring whether he had determined to remove Il. Occhison or not. He informed me that he had made no such determination; - that the papers were now with the President & nothing had gets been decided in regard to the case. This question I answer led to a general conversation on the subject in which I Shope of M. Dechson as sho deserved, He is evidently much opposed to the appointment of ladies to first offices for reasons which he gave me; but I do not think he is shough wichened to remove ell. Dichion. He lota me that Gillendew who is a good fellow had strongly used her continuance. This was in consequence of voluntarily after my remarks in her favor the were that whome & promise he had made to me. He said, however, that strong & Respectable recommendations from Lancaster in favor of her samuel which he would cheerfully show to me if they were not at the Suidents; whilst he had received no recommendation in favor of her continuance in office ; and he internated strongly that she would be removed, unly The should receive a recommendation from the Wheev. My own imprepion is that such a recommendation respectably signed by Whigh would save her; test nothing else; & I further thank he would be glad to receive it. I repeat that I think nothing but tober support will save M. Dichion. Ever your friend

James Buckanan

Strictly confidential

Washington 17 June 1841

My dear Sir/

In obedience to your request & that of W. [Junzcrick?] I called to day on the Postmaster General for the purpose of inquiring whether he had determined to remove Mrs. Dickson or not. He informed me that he had made no such determination; - that the papers were now with the President & nothing had yet been decided in regard to the case. This question & answers led to a general conversation on the subject in which I spoke of Mrs. Dickson as she deserved. he is evidently much opposed to the appointment of ladies to post offices for reasons which he gave me; but I do not think he is strongly included to remove Mrs. Dickson. He told me that Crittenden, who is a good fellow, had strongly urged her continuance. This was in consequence of a promise he had voluntarilymade to me after my remarks in her favor. He said, however, that there were strong & respectable recommendations from Lancaster in favor of her removal which he would cheerfully show to me if they were not at the Presidents; whilst he had received no recommendation in favor of her continuance in office; and he indicated strongly that she would be removed, unless she should receive a recommendation from the Whigs. My own impression is that such a recommendation respectfully signed by Whigs would save her; but nothing else; & I further think he would be glad to receive it. I repeat that I think nothing but Whig support will save Mrs Dickson.

Ever your friend James Buchanan

Col. Reah Frazer

Senale Chambor 18 February 1843. ells dear dir f I enclose you a letter which I have this moments received from M. Harren. What answer Shall I give him? If you have not lone to allend to the business, could you not entrust it to some other person, The prevailing belief here is that Judge Porter well come into M. Tylers Cabinets as secretary of War immediately after the 4. of March. Although I know nothing of the matter, yet I have no doubt of the buth of the rumon. We shall then have a Tyler party in Tennsylvania; because the President well surely expect the support of the Judio quendo. I observe that the Signal is already out for the I have many, very many things to say to your which I must defer until we have the pleasure of meeting. In the mean lime I remain most succeeds I most gastefully your friend. Mames Suchaceaup

Col: Real Frazer.

Senate Chamber 18 February 1843 My dear Sir/

I enclose you a letter which I have this moment received from Mr. Hamer. What answer shall I give him? If you have not time to attend to the business, could you not entrust it to some other person?

The prevailing belief here is that Judge Porter will come into Mr. Tyler's Cabinet as secretary of War immediately after the 4th. of March. Although I know nothing of the matter, yet I have no doubt of the truth of the rumor. We shall then have a Tyler party in Pennsylvania; because the President will surely expect the support of the Judge's friends. I observe that the Signal is already out for the Captain.

I have many, very many things to say to you which I must defer until we have the pleasure of meeting. In the mean time I remain most sincerely & most gratefully your friend.

James Buchanan

Col: Reah Frazer.

Mone have done all things nightly I well in

regard to I Humos; I you have my sineur thanks for extricating Captain Steele is myself from the difficulties in which we were involved. I shall pay your subscription to the Sheetator is order it to be discontinued recording to your request.

I have already premised all the mone, is more than all that I shall be able to command on the first of April neight. That you internated your desire to benow before I left Lancaster, it on the 1st of April would have affected me sincere pleasure to accommodate your, on your own Bond; and before next fales, I shall doubtlet be able to lean your \$2500. I day lean, because I should not be willing to make an investment payable in an annuity of eight years. The final payment is los distants. I am becomes los old for such long delays.

The appointment of Gelmen & Wese is the best that the

horident, could obtain. No dipatisfaction exists we are truck

against it. Gilmer is a man of latents & energy Lyreat industry,

who intending to retire from public life to hursue his profipien, was prevailed upon, from motives of personal friendship & state friede, to accept the appointment. No person altributes to him any mercenary or improper motive, or even any desire to fell the station. Although ranhed with the Guard, he has always pursued are independent Course Loppored the measures of the President when he deemed them wrong. - Wilhins, you know. I presume he thought it would be a pleasant close to his political life to be a Cabinets minister. He is a gentleman in his manners L fulings L his personal intigrity changed by these appointments, although I am pleased with them.

I have pursued the even tenor of my way between Shunk I ellublenberg; and sincerely denie that the Convention may pape off harmoniously. Any devision there would have fatal. I constain it almost impossible that either of them can be beaten; but you have better opportunities of knowing Jublic Sentiment Than myself. Van Buren's momentation is inevitable. This being the care, it is the part of wirdow to submit to the necessity Lyuld our objections to the man we our love for the principles of which he has ever been the clearly exponent.

Remember me most kindly to ell Fraza. Hoping that you may tothe organ yourselves at the ball tomorrows evening I that you may be prosperous I happy through life, I remain sincerely I respectfully your friends Col: Reah Frazer.

Washington 21 February 1844.

My dear Sir/

You have done all things rightly & well in regard to Dr. Humes; & you have my sincere thanks for extricating Captain Steele & myself from the difficulties in which we were involved. I shall pay your subscription to the Spectator & order it to be discontinued according to your request.

I have already promised all the money & more than all that I shall be able to command on the first of April next. Had you intimated you desire to borrow before I left Lancaster, it could have afforded me sincere pleasure to accommodate you on the 1st. of April on your own Bond: and before next fall, I shall doubtless be able to loan you \$2500. I say <u>loan</u>, because I should not be willing to make an investment payable in an annuity of eight years. The final payment is too distant. I am becoming old for such long delays.

The appointment of Gilman & Wise is the best that the President could obtain. No dissatisfaction exists in any party against it. Gilmer is a man of talent & energy & great industry,

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who intending to retire from public life to pursue his profession, was prevailed upon, from motives of personal friend¬ship & state pride, to accept the appointment. No person attributes to him any mercenary or improper motives, or even any desire to fill the station. Although ranked with the Guard, he has always pursued an independent course & opposed the measures of the President when he deemed them wrong. — Wilkins, you know. I presume he thought it would be a pleasant close to his political life to be a Cabinet minister. He is a gen¬tleman in his manners & feelings & his personal integrity is undoubted. My political relations towards the administration are not changed by these appointments, although I am pleased with them.

I have pursued the even tenor of my way between Shunk & Muhlenberg: and sincerely desire that the Convention may pass off harmoniously. Any division there would prove fatal. I consider it almost impossible that either of them can be beaten; but you have better opportunities of knowing public sentiment than myself.

Van Buren's nomination is inevitable. This being the case, it is the part of wisdom to submit to the necessity & yield our objections to the man in our love for the principles of which he has eve been the steady exponent.

Remember me most kindly to Mrs. Frazer. Hoping that you may both enjoy yourselves at the ball tomorrow evening & that you may be prosperous & happy through life, I remain sincerely & respect—fully you friend

James Buchanan

Col: Reah Frazer