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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to Edward D. Gazzam

Date: 1840-1842

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Washington 11 Decemr 1840

My dear Sir,

I have just received yours of the 7th. Instant; and nothing, I can assure you, would afford me greater pleasure than to be able to serve you. Mr. Flood, however, is not dead; and I know not how the report of his death should have obtained such general circulation.

Every thing here is quiet; and our true policy is for the present, to leave the Whig party to themselves. This party contains within itself the seeds of its own destruction, if they are permitted to germinate & bring forth their natural fruit.

It seems to be generally understood here that Ewing will be Postmaster General & Cullen the Attorney General; and I rather think from what I can learn that the office of Secretary of State will be offered to Webster.

from your friend
very respectfully

J. Edward. C. Gazzam.

James Buchanan

Washington 11 December 1840

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from your friend
very respectfully
James Buchanan

Dr. Edward D. Gazzam.

Washington 14 September 1841.

My dear Sir,

I have received your two letters & Mr. Benton & myself, both very much regretted that the Pillsbury resolutions could not be offered by Dr. Sturgeon without a violation of the rule & practice of the Senate. For my own part, I should have been very glad of the opportunity of making some remarks on the subject of those resolutions. They could not be presented on account of the personal reflections contained in one of them on Mr. Clay by name. Whether this rule be proper or not, it is well established.

Mr. Webster still holds on to his place. Late last night, we conferred the following nomination.

Mr. Forward - Secretary of the Treasury.
Judge McLean (of Ohio) Sec: of war.
Judge Upsher (of Va) Sec: of the Navy
Mr. Legaré - (of S.C) Atty Gen: &
Charles A. Wickliffe of Ky - P. M. General.

Never was there a Party so completely and up as the Whigs
have been, in so short a time. A Manifesto, it is said, will
appear tomorrow from the Whigs in Congress reading John Tyler
out of the Whig Church & delivering him over to Satan
to be buffeted

I rejoice in the bright prospects of Democracy in the
Ky State; and should be greatly delighted with your success.

In the midst of preparations to get off this afternoon
I remain, in haste, sincerely your friend,

J. Edw. D. Sazzam James Buchanan

Washington 14 September 1841

My dear Sir/

I have received your two letters & Mr. Benton & myself both very much regretted that the Pittsburg resolutions could not be offered by Dr. Sturgeon without a violation of the rule & practice of the Senate. For my own part, I should have been very glad of the opportunity of making some remarks on the subject of those resolutions. They could not be presented on account of the personal reflection contained in one of them on Mr. Clay by name. Whether this rule be proper or not, it is well established.

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James Buchanan

Mr. Edwd. D. Gazzam

Lancaster 11 November 1842.

My dear Sir /

Appreciating most highly your friendship, your
last letter has given me much pain. I regret most sincerely
the unhappy state of feeling between Major Lynch & yourself. But
what am I to do? If I were to abandon him who has ever been
my friend, I would show myself unworthy of your own friendship
which I am proud to believe that I possess. The man who will
desert ^{especially} ~~one~~ friend in his waning fortunes will desert another & ~~is~~
unworthy of confidence. Permit me to assure you that notwithstanding
I am the friend of Major Lynch, I entertain as strong sentiments of
grateful friendship for yourself, as if I were his most bitter enemy.
I presume it would be impossible to make you friends of each other;
but one reason why I regret that I could not visit Pittsburg this
fall, is, that I might at least have attempted to prevent any acts
^{mutual}
of hostility, ~~against each other~~

I regret that it should so have happened that many
of your warmest political friends are opposed to me; but I

Should be exceedingly sorry, if on my account, you were to lose one of the number. I hope they will permit you to think differently from them without offence.

I have no explanation to make to those Democrats who "are looking towards Clay, or Calhoun or even Van Buren", for no other reason; but because of the improper influence which Lynch would be likely to exercise over me. If your answer to them be not sufficient, I have nothing further to say.

From the news already received, there is scarcely a doubt but that New York has elected the Democratic candidate for Governor by a large majority. In that event I presume that Clay will, before long, withdraw; but he will never suffer Scott to become the Whig Candidate. Unless I am deceived by the signs of the times, many of the Whigs already have an idea of adopting a milk & water Democrat as their candidate, in the hope of thus dividing our strength. Ere long, I think this will be rendered apparent.

With sentiments of the highest respect, I remain sincerely
your friend

Edward D. Gazzam Esq

James Buchanan

any thing

P.S. I hope you will not fail to inform me of ~~what~~ you might deem
interesting to me in Western Penn^a.



Lancaster 11 November 1842

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