Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

Documents Online

Title: Letters from James Buchanan to Charles Gonter

Date: 1849-50

Location: MC 1998.10

Contact:

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

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Whealland near Lancaster 8 August 1849 elly dear dir In consequence of an alvence from home of between four of five weeks, I did not receive your favor of the 13 tellinis until very recently. This is the only reason why ix has not been sooner answered. I feel greatly iridebled to you for the Kind scretiments which to contains: and are rejoiced that I shall enjoy the pleasure of seeing your personally in September. I hope you will has me a visit as soon as you reach Lancaster where the opportunity will be afforded of conversing quely on the subject of your letter. Who shall be selected as slandard bearer of the great semo = cratic parts of the Union in 1852 is a question of Imale importance compared with the success of our time-honored of lime buch principles. That candidate ought to be selected, provided he be sound in political facilo, in knowledge & experience, who carricommand the Shongest popular support. We ought not to suffer our partialiles for men to endanger the triumph of the good old cause. Her now perhaps los soon to decido who shall be our Candidale. One then the state, as the time has passed when a mind Democratio nomination in Sense sylvania is equivalent to an election The velection of M. Gamble, as our Candidate for Canal Commissioner is a good one; I unless the signis of the limes greatly deceive me, he will be elected by a handsome majorely. In this State, I thenth I cannot be mistaken in saying, that General Jaglor has look much ground since his inauguaration.

Charles & Gonton Eng also respectfully

James Suchanan

Wheatland near Lancaster 8 August 1849

My dear Sir/

In consequence of an absence from home of between four & five weeks, I did not receive your favor of the 13th. ultimo until very recently. This is the only reason why it has not been sooner answered.

I feel greatly indebted to you for the kind sentiments which it contains: and am rejoiced that I shall enjoy the pleasure of seeing you personally in September. I hope you will pay me a visit as soon as you reach Lancaster when the opportunity will be afforded of conversing freely on the subject of your letter.

Who shall be selected as standard bearer of the great Democratic party of the Union in 1852 is a question of small importance compared with the success of our time-honored & time-tried principles. That candidate ought to be selected, provided he be sound in political faith, in knowledge & experience, who can command the strongest popular support. We ought not to suffer our partialities for men to endanger the triumph of the good old cause. It is now perhaps too soon to decide who shall be our candidate. One thing is certain that he ought to be selected with a some view to his strength in this State, as the time has passed I regret to say when a [one word illegible] Democratic nomination in Pennsylvania is equivalent to an election.

The selection of Mr. Gamble, as our Candidate for Canal Commissions is a good one; & unless the signs of the times greatly deceive me, he will be elected by a handsome majority. In this State, I think I cannot be mistaken in saying, t hat General Taylor has lost much ground since his inauguaration.

from your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

Charles G. Gonter Esq

My dear Sir /

Invented me from some acknowledging the receipe of your interest one letter of last month. You indeed present a glooms hicker of the condition of the Comocratic parts we ellepoure. I fear with you that we are distinct to be teaten in your state & that we may writing the election of a whose senators in the place of lot:

Benton.

The lamented death of General Jaglon & the succession of M. Tillmore to the Ineridence will most probably produce a regular old fashionia Whis administration & ristore the del iferes of a general system of internal improvements, a protective Sarefy ye the. It is believed that the present Cabinet will be changed I a new one appointed under the auspices of day I Websten. Should The slavery question be settled, the parties will then stand as they did years ago, with this exception that we shall then still have a free soil + abolition party. The success of when of the live old parties will, in a great degree depend whom the fact which of them will love the greater number by the Seception of fine soclars. I thente me man at present can pretend accurably to predict the future, though I have an aliding conviction in the himsel

The Shale are anywaish look for the usual of the August elections wi Mejorum.

Ommissione, auditor General L. Surveyor General is propular throughout the State L. I thento there can be letter doubt of its election by a handsome majority.

Our friend William Market hus laken his bude to his own house of they live very smugly. He is an amiable of cycellent man I is highly esteement by the whole community.

Jon ask my openion whether you ought to purchase the paper in Jown. On this subject I am incapable of giving you advice. Generally speaking it is but a pron business, so far as proper is concurred, to become the extens of a Country newspaper. Every young man when selling in life ought to look to the end of select such a provider as would promise him eventual independence. I have no doubt that with expension, your talents would enable you to edit a respectable I write paper.

With soutements of regard, I remain sincerely your friends
Witharles & Gonters James Buchanano

Wheatland near Lancaster 15 July 1850

My dear Sir/

Absence from home & other circumstances have prevented me from sooner acknowledging the receipt of your interesting letter of last month. You indeed present a gloomy picture of the condition of the Democratic party in Missouri. I fear with you that we are destined to be beaten in your State & that we may witness the election of a Whig Senator in the place of Col: Benton.

The lamented death of General Taylor & the succession of Mr. Fillmore to the Presidency will most probably produce a regular old-fashioned Whig administration & restore the old former issues of a general system of internal improvements, a protective Tariff &c. &c. It is believe that the present Cabinet will be changed & a new one appointed under the auspices of Clay & Webster. Should the slavery question be settled, the parties will then stand as they did years ago, with the exception that we shall then still have a free soil & abolition party. The success of either of the two old parties will, in a great degree depend upon the fact which of them will lose the greater number by the secession of free [one word illegible]. I think no man at present can pretend accurately to predict the future, though I have an abiding conviction in the triumph

[Page Break]

of the Dem Democratic party with whose ascendancy I believe that the prosperity & even perpetuity of the Union are identified. We shall all anxiously look for the result of the August elections in Missouri.

We have but little news here. Our ticket for Canal Commissioner, Auditor General & Surveyor General is popular throughout the State & I think there can be little doubt of its election by a handsome majority.

Our friend William Mathias has taken his bride to his own house & they live very snugly. He is an amiable & excellent man & is highly esteemed by the whole community.

You ask my opinion whether you ought to purchase the paper in Iowa. On this subject I am incapable of giving you advice. Generally speaking it is but a poor business in this State, so far as profit is concerned, to become the editor of a County newspaper. Every young man when settling in life ought to look to the end & select such a position as would promise him eventual independence. I have no doubt that with industry & experience, your talents would enable you to edit a respectable & useful paper.

With sentiments of regard, I remain sincerely

Your friend James Buchanan

Mr. Charles G. Gonter