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**Title:** Letters from James Buchanan to Jacob Halderman

**Date:** 1822-1824

**Location:** MC 1998.10

#### **Contact:**

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Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 21. Instant I will communicate to you all the information which I could obtain on the subject to which it refers. When this information I think you may vely as it comes from an authentic source.

Colonel Thomas is reported on this years list of balances due the Communication the United States to be in arrear \$20.000. This accounts are however not finially settled that is expected that upon a final Settlement that balance with be reduced but now much is very uncertain. It is believed at the War office that Col. Thomas with be able to pay any balance which may be found against him. all. Davis his father in-law is nich: I from all the information which I can obtain it is night in formation of the world however my openior you are not in much danger. It would however certainly be proper for you to urge a final Settlement.

The report of the Second auditor of Treasury containing a list of balances due the United States has this moment been placed in my hand. I will make a copy of that part of it which relates to Col. Thomas for your use.

"James Thomas, late contractor \$ 20.829.90

not retrieveled god by him. He stood changed, as contractor during the last three years, with considerable sums on

the books of This office, which, by the properts his credit of most of his accounts, & certain sures paid ento the Treasury by him; has reduced the balance to this seem, against which he exhebits cutain claims for provisions lost at Green Bay, for want of Juster store houses, to which have been suspended for further evidence from the Michigan territory.

Please to print my best respects to M. Haldeman & believe me to bed your sincere friend James Buchanan M. Jacob. M. Haldeman.

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Washington 29th. January 1822

Dear Sir/

In answer to your letter of the 21st. Instant I will communicate to you all the information which I could obtain on the subject to which it refers. Upon this information I think you may rely as it comes from an authentic source.

Colonel Thomas is reported on this years list of balances due the Government of the United States to be in arrears \$20.000. His accounts are however not finally settled & it is expected that upon a final settlement that balance will be reduced but how much is very uncertain. It is believed at the War Office that Col. Thomas will be able to pay any balance which may be found against him. W. Davis his father-in-law is rich: & from all the information which I can obtain it is my opinion you are not in much danger. It would however certainly be proper for you to urge a final settlement.

The report of the second auditor of the Treasury contains a list of balance due the United States has this moment been placed in my hand. I will make a copy of that part of it which relates to Col. Thomas for your use.

"James Thomas, late contractor \$20.829..90 } "Not acknowledged by him. He stood charges, as contractor during the last three years, with considerable sums on

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the books of this office, which, by the passage to his credit of most of his accounts, & contains sums paid into the Treasury by him, has reduced the balance to this sum, against which he exhibits certain claims for provisions lost at Green Bay, for want of proper store houses, &c. which have been suspended for further evidence from the Michigan Territory".

Please to present my best respects to Wm. Haldeman & believe me to be your sincere friend

James Buchanan

W. Jacob. M. Haldeman.

Dear Sir & Sanuary 1824 In obedience to the request contained in yours of the 2. instant I called this morning on the fifth reditor of the Treasury to ascerbain the balance due by Colonel Thomas to the Government. I found that he had rettled his accounts on the I April last & that the balance now remaining due is \$15 " 258 " 94. These accounts have been placed in the hands of the fifth anditor (Ill. Peasonton) with instructions to bring Suit goutte balance against Col. Thomas & his directies. As all the surction except yourself have become insolvent I the Colonel is worth nothing , I fear you will eventually be compelled

I would suggest to you whether you should not vesil this cety in Tebruay. The Supreme Court well then be in of son I all. Surgeant of Muladelphea well be here. you may then got him to examine the case thoroughly; If if you find no define can be made I am persuaded the Snessury department well make an arrangement with you that you may have time to have got the promote of Mr. Theresont that has the money. But the me are time no sent shall be brought against you till I have got the promote of Mr. Theresonton that

You will be compelled qually if you contest the case to

employ counsel in Pheladelphia & I thenk you had better at once retain M' Ingeant. He will direct you with honors cabelety. Heave to present my best respects to Mr. Haldeman & belive The to be your verice freed. M. J. M. Haldemans Suchanan N.B. I shall be in Laucaster on the first Monday of Jebruary ? remain these two weeks. If you will vist Washington on the 3, Mondas of that Month, I thenk I can arrange the business in Such a manner that no suit will be isistetated against you before that time . I shall expect to hear from you soon . of injusted any part to you which you report and to the second and the second to Williams of Metadaphies with to pass, for may the has a exercise the case theory if it is good in different in different in the second second in the second s exposed you like I have from your

#### Washington 9 January 1824

Dear Sir/

In obedience to the request contained In yours of the 2d. instant I called this morning on the fifth auditor of the Treasury to ascertain the balance due by Colonel Thomas to the Government. I found that he had settled his accounts on the 1 April last & that the balance now remaining due is \$15"258"94. These accounts have been placed in the hands of the fifth Auditor (W. Pleasonton) with instructions to bring suit for the balance against Col. Thomas & his sureties. As all the sureties except yourself have become insolvent & the Colonel is worth nothing, I fear you will eventually be compelled to pay the money.

I would suggest to you whether you should not visit this city in February. The Supreme Court will then be in session & W. Sergeant of Philadelphia will be here. You may then get him to examine the case thoroughly; If if you find no defense can be made I am persuaded the Treasury department will make an arrangement with you that you may have time to pay the money. In the mean time I have got the promise of W. Pleasonton that no suit will be brought against you till I hear from you.

You will be compelled finally if you contest the case to

#### [Page Break]

employ counsel in Philadelphia & I think that you had better at once retain W. Sergeant. He will direct you with honesty and ability.

Please to present my best regards to Mrs. Haldeman & believe me to be your sincere friend.

James Buchanan

#### Mr. J. M. Haldeman

N. B. I shall be in Lancaster on the first Monday of February & remain there two weeks. If you will visit Washington on the 3d. Monday of that month, I think I can arrange the business in such a manner that no suit will be instituted against you before that time. I shall expect to hear from you soon.

Dear Sir

Washington 29 March 1824

I have received your letter of the 22. Inst. & communicated its contents to all. Pleasorton. He informed me that he would proceed against Col; Thomas according to your request; the is willing to stay all proceedings against you until that stut Shall be belanced; provided you will write to him that the balance found due shall be paid. Whather you should write such a letter or not I can give row your afour the subject. Must defend altagether when the advice of all vergeant. It. must defend altagether when the advice of all vergeant. It. Pleasonton would have required nothing more, if I had permetted him Pleasorton would have required nothing more, if I had permetted him I take I gile your letter to me. This however of declined doing.

I do not think IV. Pleasonton whends to proceed against your immediately whather you wante to him or not

I have nothing more to add but that it will always afford me pleasure as a friend to interpose my good offices believes you & the fifth Acceptor.

from your friends
Sames Ruchanan

M. Sweed. M. Haldeman . -

#### Washington 29 March 1824

Dear Sir/

I have received your letter of the 22nd Inst. & communicated its contents to Mr. Pleasonton. He informed me that he would proceed against Col. Thomas according to your request; he is willing to stay all proceedings against you until that suit shall be determined; provided you will write to him that the balance found due shall be paid. Whether you should write such a letter or not must depend altogether upon the advice of Mr. Sergeant. I can give you none upon the subject. Mr. Pleasonton would have required nothing more, if I had permitted him to take and file your letter to me. This however I declined doing.

### Whether you

I do not think Mr. Pleasonton intends to proceed against you immediately whether you write to him or not.

I have nothing more to add but that it will always afford me pleasure as a friend to interpose my good offices between you & the fifth Auditor

from your friend James Buchanan

Mr. Jacob M. Haldeman