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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to James Humes

Date: October 13, 1832

Location: MC 1998.10, B1, F12

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My dear Sir /

S^t. Petersburg 13 October 1832.

In reviewing the history of my past life in which I have often indulged since my arrival in this City, how often have I had occasion to remember your kindness & that of your father's family. You were one of my earliest acquaintances in Lancaster, thanks to the Little Britain Disquisition, & from that day until this you have been my steady friend. A stranger here in a strange land my heart often seeks its own Country & memory recalls many of those past scenes which I had almost forgotten. The most unpleasant circumstance attending my departure from Lancaster was the coolness which existed between General Porter & myself. On my part it is only remembered to be regretted. Through Silas E. Burrows of New York I received the kind compliments of M^{rs}. Porter on her way to Detroit & I have since written her a long letter giving her an account of my situation here. I trust that it may please a kind Providence to enable us all to meet once more in peace & in friendship. - I have heard of the marriage of your daughter with M^r. Hamilton & most sincerely do I hope that it may be a source of happiness to M^{rs}. Hunter & yourself.

You will have heard through M^r. Reynolds almost every thing of importance in relation to my situation here. It is daily becoming more agreeable & I am constantly receiving new attentions; but yet I feel that I shall soon be altogether reconciled to a residence in S^t. Petersburg. Every thing is such a perfect contrast with what exists in my native land, that when I return I am convinced I shall be a much more

enthusiastic if not a better Republican than ever.

I have much reason to be thankful for the kindness which I have experienced here. The Russian Nobility are slow in making an acquaintance with strangers generally, & I can assure you it is no passport to their favor to be the Representative of the greatest & freest Republic upon earth; but yet without having made any humiliating advances I believe I am now a favorite in several of their first families. All my official relations have been of the most amicable character, & I am induced to believe that I am generally acceptable ^{here} as the Minister of My Country. I see hope I shall be able to advance her interests. At least nothing shall be wanting on my part to attain so desirable an object.

One may almost say that the winter has commenced in this climate. We had a fall of snow about two weeks ago, which however soon melted away. I can now readily conceive that we shall suffer but little from the cold. The walls of the houses are very thick & double windows are universal. Besides we have a species of stove which I think ought to be introduced into our own country. It is large & ornamental & is built of tile. Fires are made in them but once a day & often but once in two days & the quantity of wood which they consume is comparatively small. The flues are left open until the wood is completely converted into coal & then the stove is entirely closed so that no heat can escape. In this manner the Russians preserve their houses in a uniform temperature generally regulated by a Thermometer. Indeed it is perfectly astonishing to a stranger. The expense of heating my whole house in this extravagant Capital will not be greater than that of many families in Lancaster. — I have ~~not~~ ^{neither time nor} space to give you a description of the clothing at present.

From letters recently received but not from Lancaster I entertain some apprehensions concerning the re-election of Governor Wolf; but none concerning that

of General Jackson. How any man professing to be a Democrat & a friend
of Jackson can support ~~Wolf~~ Pitner in preference to Wolf I am utterly
at a loss to determine. I shall expect the returns from our State election
with much anxiety. By the bye I was much pleased with the spirit of
your meeting in Lancaster on the 4th of August last. I hope the party
may continue to move harmoniously. Will not the Union between the
~~Anti~~ leaders of the Antislavery & National Republican ~~impair the strength~~
of both parties in our County? I should think it must; because the maps
of both these parties is honest.

I have not received a single letter from any gentleman
in Lancaster since my arrival here except Mr. Reynolds, nor
from the County except Gardner Furness. I expected better things
particularly from Montgomery & Norris. I will not believe that
the proverb "out of sight out of mind" applies to myself. My
friends in other parts of the State & Union have been so few.
I trust that in about three months if not sooner I may expect a letter
from yourself.

They love in Europe to magnify the discontents existing in our Southern
States. No event would so much delight the conservative parts throughout
the world as a dissolution of our glorious Union. God grant that there
may be no danger of such an event. Such an event would be seized upon
every where as conclusive evidence that mankind are not fit for self
Government & it would ^{long} retard the march of Liberty in the old world.

Please to remember me kindly to Mr. Humes & the family, to your
father, Miss Elolly, the Doctor, John & William. When you go to Duchmans
give my compliments to the old lady & James Evans ^{of Henry} & to Moore Cornhill should
you chance to see him. Remember me to all my friends in Lancaster. I have
not space to enumerate them. Tell Mr. Lane & Ogilby I hope ^{yet} to have the pleasure
of sitting tea to tea ~~yet~~ with them before I die: and believe me wherever my
lot may be cast I shall always remain your friend.
James Humes Esquire James Buchanan

St. Petersburg 13 October 1832.

My dear Sir/

In reviewing the history of my past life in which I have often indulged since my arrival in this city, how often have I had occasion to remember your kindness & that of your father's family. You were one of my earliest acquaintances in Lancaster, thanks to the Little Britain Inquisition, & from that day until this you have been my steady friend. A stranger here in a strange land my heart often seeks its own Country & memory recalls many of those past scenes which I had almost forgotten. The most unpleasant circumstances attending my departure from Lancaster was the coolness which existed between General Porter & myself. On my part it is only remembered to be regretted. Through Silas. E. Burrows of New York I received the kind compliments of Mrs. Porter on her way to Detroit & I have since written her a long letter giving her an account of my situation here. I trust that it may please a kind Providence to enable us all to meet once more in peace & in friendship. - I have heard of the marriage of your daughter with Mr. Hamilton & most sincerely do I hope that it may be a source of happiness to Mrs. Humes & yourself.

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Please to remember me kindly to Mrs. Humes & the family, to your father, Miss Molly, the Doctor, John & William. When you go to Dachmans give my compliments to the old lady & James Evans & Henry & Moore Connell should you chance to see him. Remember me to all my friends in Lancaster. I have not space to enumerate them. Tell Mr. Lane & Ogilby I hope yet to have the pleasure of sitting toe to toe ~~yet~~ with them before I die: and believe me wheresoever my lot may be cast I shall always remain, your friend.

James Buchanan

James Humes Esquire.