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**Title:** Letters from James Buchanan to Charles Ingersoll

**Date:** 1837-1847

**Location:** MC 1998.10

#### **Contact:**

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elle dear Sir / Sancaster 12 June 183 y.

I regret that I have already distributed every copy which I had if the Geological Reconsisions and . Had I related even one for myself, I should send it , with pleasure, to M. Soulkrodo. Enter you or I can procuse him a copy when we reach Washington in September; but let him remind one of us that he desires to.

Cox, through the agency of Ford who was an antimasonie member of the Legislature from this County during the last Sepsion, has presented whom a certain Anthony It Glinn to furnish a certificate against me. I knows not exactly what its contains; but no doubt it is full & complete. A certific Ecate from Anthony that he heard me ; at a public meeting, speake the words attended to me by M. Cox would be heated with unisonal devision in This City where he is known. It is possible they may have prevailed whom some other party hack to certify to this falsehood or something like it. I know that ine & a notorious character here, by name John Latshaw, was sent round the lown with some such paper; but I believe be procued no subscribes,

But why should Cox be allowed to degrade the Convention by introducing

his testimony upon this subject against an absent individual who is no member of the Body. Let him, in this respect, place himself on the same footing with me of publish his testimony we the Newspapers. I believe the Rev: ell? Reenan has written to ell? Doron as to the character of Anthony M' Glino. from your friends very respectfully Charles Ingersole Eg James Muchanans the state of the s

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Lancaster 12 June 1837

My dear Sir/

I regret that I have already distributed every copy which I had of the Geological Reconnaissance. Had I retained even one for myself I should send it, with pleasure, to Mr. Foulkrods. Either you or I can procure him a copy when we reach Washington in September; but let him them remind one of us that he desires it.

Cox, though the agency of Ford who was a Antimasonic Member of the Legislature from this county during the last session, has prevailed upon a certain Anthony M'Glinn to furnish a certificate against me. I know not exactly what it contains; but no doubt it is full & complete. A certificate from Anthony that he had heard me, at a public meeting, speaks the words attributed to me by Mr. Cox would be treated with universal derision in this City where he is known. It is possible they may have prevailed upon some other party hack to certify this falsehood or something like it. I know that one s a notorious character here, by name John Latshaw, was sent round the town with some such paper; but I believe he procured no subscribers.

But who should Cox be allowed to degrade the Convention by introducing

[Page Break]

his testimony upon this subject against an absent individual who is no member of the Body? Let him, in this respect, place himself on the same footing with me, & publish his testimony in the Newspapers.

I believe the Rev: Mr. Keenan has written to Mr. Doran as to the character of Anthony M'Glinn.

from your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

Charles Ingersoll Esq

Sancasters 8 Mas 1843.

elly dear Surf

I have been almost in a state of mental

torpor since the adjournment of Congress, and am now just, beginning to rouse myself. I have paped two menths more edly than any of the part two months of my lefe . In looking over the majo of letters which has accumulated on my hands I find a note from you inquiris from whom I look the quotation in my speech on Sech's treal. you suppose corrects. It was Edw?

Vans letter to Indiana in which he opposes all descriminations, individual incidentally to Insteed will render over in a revenue lauff; in favor of domestic industry will render him slite lep popular in this state than he was before. I am sorry he has gone so far ni plaguig for the South. Should be be nominated, we shall be placed in an awhard position in Jenn . So far as the lang is concerned he & Calhaun now practically stand on the same footing, I our heople will more readily apologise for such opinions in a southern than a nothern man.

I shall be at a weddeng at the Woodlands (MM Killeras) I lomonow might; but expect to return the next day. yours sincerele Lames Muhaway

C. J. Ingende E

Lancaster 8 May 1843

My dear Sir/

I have been almost in a state of mental terror since the adjournment of Congress, and am now just beginning to rouse myself. I have passed two months more idly than any of the past two months of my life. In looking over the mass of letters which has accumulated on my hands I find a note from you inquiring from whom I took the quotation in my speech on Peck's trial. You suppose correctly. It was Edwd. Livingston.

Van's letter to Indiana in which he opposes all discriminations., even in a revenue tariff, in favor of intended incidentally to protect domestic industry will render him still less popular in the State than he was before. I am sorry he has gone so far in playing for the South. Should he be nominated, we shall be placed in an awkard position in Penna. So far as the tariff is concerned he & Calhoun now practically stand on the same footing & our people will more readily apologize for such opinions in a southern than a northern man.

I shall be at a wedding at Woodlands (Mr. Kittera's) tomorrow night; but expect to return the next day.

Yours sincerely James Buchanan

C. J. Ingersoll Esq

elly dear Su

of more supercrogation to inderse the statement of such gentlemen. as have signed the paper to which you reper. Besides, I have though this is not asked made I'd a aute through life never to sign a certificate without being personally apprised of the buth of the contents. We are divoledly at work here & my news from defferent parts it the tale is cheering! Nothing can produce an effect upon the from masters of the State. They are perfectly infoluated; and like the out, the more light you cast upon them, the lip they can ver. But they cannot accomplish any our defeat. Ever of funce ai harle James Buchanaw

How: C. J. mgorsole

#### Lancaster 16 October 1844

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor & deem it a work of mere supererogation as well as arrogance to endorse the statement of such gentlemen as have signed the paper to which you refer. Besides I have made it a rule through life never to sigh a certificate though this is not asked without being personally apprised of the truth of the contents. We are devotedly at work here & my news from different parts of the State is cheering. Nothing can produce an effect upon the Iron masters of the State. They are perfectly infatuated; and like the owl the more light you cast upon them, the less they can see. But they cannot accomplish any our defeat.

Ever yr friend in haste James Buchanan

Hon. C. J. Ingersoll

Saratoga Springs 12 September 1846.

My dear Sir/

I have received your of the 9 histants, with its enclosure, which balter I now return according to your request. You ask my wovice whether you ought to Nond it which I shall give in all sincerety e After having carefully examined its contents, I am constrained to answer in the negative. What good could at populs do either to yourself on the Inerident? Thus, I confess, I cannot purcese; whilst I can readily imagine that it may do harm, tindu such cercumstances, I cannot advise you to take a step which may popils alcende the President & yourself from each other. There Seems to have been a misunderstanders between you: I this can always be best corrected by pursonal & friendly explanations: I know not what may have passed between him & yourself on the Subject of the Russian mysion; but of this I am certain that

you ought never to publish the conversalism without his convent, or at least without first ascertaining that your recollection & his corresponds.

Thus is a delightful shot I has my lime in most agreeable eddeness. The fashionable crowd has dispured; but slite we have much pleasant company remain.

From ace I can learn Governor Torght's renomination is contain; I the prevalence openion seems to be that he will be necleated. I seem him but for a few miscules on one was to this place; I there was so much company possent, that I had no opportunity of helding any prevale conversation with him.

So far as I have observed the measures of the general adminishment are decidedly popular with both branches of the party in this state, I wenture to predict that their members of Congress were eitern to Washington in a better that their members of Congress were eitern

Hon: Charles . J. Biggisole

from your frund vey as freetfully — James Sachanass

## Saratoga Springs 12 September 1846

My dear Sir/

I have received yours of the 9th Instant with its enclosure, which letter I now return according to your request. You ask my advice whether you ought to send it which I shall give in all sincerity. After having carefully examined its contents, I am constrained to answer in the negative. What good could it possibly do either to yourself or the President? This, I confess, I cannot perceive; whilst I can readily imagine that it may do harm. Under such circumstances, I cannot advise you to take a step which may possibly alienate the President & yourself from each other. There seems to have been a misunderstanding between you: & this can always be best corrected by personal & friendly explanation. I know not what may have passed between him & yourself on the subject of the Russian mission; but of this I am certain that

## [Page Break]

you ought never to publish the conversation without his consent, or at least without first ascertaining that your recollection & his correspond.

This is a delightful spot & I pass my time in most agreeable idleness. The fashionable crowd has dispersed; but still we have much pleasant company remain.

From all I can learn Governor Wright's re-nomination is certain: & the prevailing opinion seems to be that he will be re-elected. I saw him but for a few minutes on my way to this place; & there was so much company present, that I had no opportunity of holding any private conversation with him. So far as I have observed the measures of the general administration are decidedly popular with both branches of the party in this sate, & I venture to predict that their numbers of Congress will return to Washington in a better state of feeling than when they left.

From your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

Hon: Charles J. Ingersoll

Washington 24 September 1846.

between your willy it may all be for the to

elly dear Seo /

Jour letter of the 15 histants did

not reach Saratozar before my departure; but has been

forwarded to no here since my seturar e I have destrained

et, as I do the letters of valued friends the publication

of which by any populately could do no good I might be

finaductive of much simuches.

Washington. A personal explanation with the Surident would be far beller than any correspondence. I know to a tertainty that he was much at a loss to find a suitable, person for the Russian Mesion & at the time he held the conversation with your had no other person in view. Should you visit Washington I hope you well come directly to my house. I shall give your a heart welcome I shall be to enjoy your of teats.

In natural temperament I am somewhat of an optimist, Should you be re-elected, as I carnette hope

I believe you will, it may all be for the best, you should make every honorable exection to secure success. Were in your situation I would spare no pairis to accomplish this object. I am very sorry I had not the opportunity of seeing you in Miladeephia, I expected to remain there several days; but the news by the I arrival of the Trenceton which I learned on Sunday evening hunced me awas, from your friends Hon: Charles . J. Ingersole . James Buchanan I.S. I have not alluded to the Julyet in any conversalion with the President & Shall not unlip in compliance with zour exprép request. conventation with your had no other purer in news you much Washington it hope you well come desicht to my house , I shall give you a heart wilcome I what he start to enjoy your starts . In malurate lamper amount of any domewhat of an optimist, Should you be re-dested, as I cannot hope

## Washington 24 September 1846

My dear Sir/

Your letter of the 15th. Instant did not reach Saratoga before my departure; but has been forwarded to me here since my return. I have destroyed it, as I do the letters of valued friends the publication of which by any possibility could do no good & might be productive of much mischief.

I am pleased with your suggestion of visiting Washington. A personal explanation with the President would be far better than any correspondence. I know to a certainty that he was much at a loss to find a suitable person for the Russian mission & at the time he held the conversation with you had no other person in view. Should you visit Washington I hope you will come directly to my house. I shall give you a hearty welcome & shall be glad of to enjoy your society.

In natural temperament I am somewhat of an optimist. Should you be re-elected, as I earnestly hope

[Page Break]

& believe you will, it may all be for the best. You should make every honorable exertion to secure success. Were I in your situation I would spare no pains to accomplish this object.

I am very sorry I had not the opportunity of seeing you in Philadelphia. I expected to remain there several days; but the news by the I arrival of the Princeton which I learned on Sunday evening hurried me away.

from your friend very respectfully, James Buchanan

Hon. Charles J. Ingersoll

P.S. I have not alluded to the subject in any conversation with the President & hall not unless in compliance with your express request.

Washington 2 October 1846.

ely dear sie

I have received your letter Las the merchants say, noted its contents. I do not intend to interpose believes two such high degnatures as yourself I the Inerident except on one condition. This is, that after the election, you shall come, with carpet bag in hand I pass at least 48 hours under my roof d'as much longer as you please, The longer the more agreeable. You do the Incident no more than justice when you sas you really believe he means to be kind. As your friend, though of make but few proposions, I shall hearlits rejoice that you were not appointed minister to Russia, should you be re-cleeted. I feel the deepert interest mi the result: I my inquiries in different quarters

have all been answered as I could desire. God send you a safe deliverance. I four friends should not relay their efforts lete the balter is work.

The war is going on swining & I there is no danger of a dishonorable peace. We must at least have New Meyico & upper California.

Your I deffer entirely in regard to the course of the Incident on the Oregon question. It was places direct L Statisman like throughout. Had it not been for the interference of the Senate we should have got much beltio lerms than we obtained: I had longrep I the Country stood up for the whole of bregon, he was prepared to maintain our lette to 54° 40' at any hazard. If our Envoy meant to day, which I cannot believe, that he was obeying The wishes of the Incrident in urging 49° when the Bulish Government, my instructions L believe to him, every word of which has

been published prove that he was mislation. The Surident never wrote him a private letter embaning defferent sentements.

The Sacrident is an honest, able, furni Lenengelee man: L it is impropoble that you I he shall not understand each other. Your letter unquestionably ought to have been answered; L get I have given Senous offence to several of my best friends from the Same cause. It is ultilly emplopible for one to keep up my prevate correspondences

With my most ardent wisher for your reclection, I armani senerely Laisheelfully your friend

Hon: Charles J. Ingersole

P.S. I hope you will forward me the earliest returns of

## Washington 2 October 1846

## My dear Sir/

I have received your letter & as the merchants say, noted its contents. I do not intend to interpose between two such high dignitaries as yourself & the President except on one condition. This is, that after the election, you shall come, with carpet bag in hand & pass at least 48 hours under my room & as much longer as you please. The longer the more agreeable. You do the President no more than justice when you say you really believe he means to be kind. As your friend, though I make but few professions, I shall heartily rejoice that you were not appointed Minister to Russia, should you be re-elected. I feel the deepest interest in the result: & my inquiries in different quarters

#### [Page Break]

have all been answered as I could desire. God send you a safe deliverance! Your friends should not relax their efforts till the battle is won.

The war is going on swimingly & there is no danger of a dishonorable peace. We must at least have New Mexico & upper California.

You & I differ entirely in regard to the course of the President on the Oregon question. It was plain, direct & statesman like throughout. Had it not been for the interference of the Senate we should have got much better terms than we obtained: & had Congress & the Country stood up fro the whole of Oregon, he was prepared to maintain our title to 54° 40' at any hazard. If our Envoy meant to say, which I cannot believe, that he was obeying the wishes of the President in urging 49° upon the British Government, my instructions & letters to him, every word of which has

#### [Page Break]

been published prove that he was mistaken. The President never wrote him a private letter containing different sentiments.

The President is an honest, able, firm & energetic man: & it is improbable that you & he shall not understand each other. Your letter unquestionably ought to have been answered; & yet I have given serious offence to several of my best friends from the same cause. It is utterly impossible for me to keep up my private correspondence.

With my most ardent wishes for your re-election, I remain sincerely & respectfully

Your friend James Buchanan

Hon: Charles J. Ingersoll

P.S. I hope you will forward me the earliest returns of your election.

Washington 15 November 1847, elle dear Sir / I have received your two favors of the 8 to Instant): L was rejoiced to receive letters bearing. your well known superscription. However were & politice your suggestions may be un regard to our mijsions, &! shale be glad to converse with you in this subject when I have the pleasure of meeting you, what chance think you there would be for carrying such reforms, through a Whig House of Representations, during the last year of M. Joth's land. I have sent estimates to the Treasury for Charges to Rome, Gualemala, Equador & Bolivia; because I consider such missions indispensable to the public service; but of Confest Consider de doubtful whether Congress well grant the necessary appropriations. If without increasing the outful or salary a dollar, the denomination of Charge could be changed to that of minister Resident; a great point would be gained especially in Europe.

We have been derecting much of our altendion to the increase of our hade week the Continent I especially with Germany, I not welhout succepts. How far it would be expedient, or even practicable to reduce our dulies by Treaty, for similar advantages granted by other mations may will be questioned.

The principus of Congress are beginning to arrive. Holmes has been here for a week or ten days as busy as a bee, according to report in pursuit of the Speaker's chair.

Oracle of Ashland. Narrows are the conjectures as to what he has said. I think from the nevelations of his friends it is now beyond a doubt that the aged course has determined to run another race. So moto it be!

I should be most happy if you would has one a new for this purpose. I shall promise you good meat, dunk, was hing I lodging. But, purhaps, you would not accept an invitation from one Lyet I am, as for many years hast I have been, sincerely I respectfully your friends

Hon: Charles I Ingersoll. I mentage I among Suchanano

Washington 15 November 1847.

My dear Sir/

I have received your two favors of the 8th. Instant: & was rejoiced once more to receive letters bearing your well known superscription. However wise & polite your suggestions may be in regard to our missions, & I shall be glad to converse with you on this subject when I have the pleasure of meeting you, what chance think you there would be for carrying such reforms, through a Whig House of Representatives, during the last year of Mr. Polk's term? I have sent estimates to the Treasury for Chargés to Rome, Guatemala, Equador & Bolivia; because I consider such missions indispensable to the public service; but I eonfess consider it doubtful whether Congress will grant the necessary appropriations. If without increasing the outfit or salary a dollar, the denomination of Chargé could be changed to that of Minister Resident, a great point would be gained especially in Europe.

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We have been directing much of our attention to the increase of our trade with the continent & especially with Germany, & not without success. How far it would be expedient, or even practicable to reduce our duties <u>by Treaty</u> for similar advantages granted to us by other nations may well be questioned.

The members of Congress are beginning to arrive. Holmes has been here for a week or ten days as busy as a bee, according to report in pursuit of the Speaker's Chair.

We are all anxious to obtain the response of the Oracle of Ashland. Various are the conjectures as to what he has said. I think from the revelations of his friends it is new beyond a doubt that the aged courses is his determination to run another race. So mote it be!

Why dont you come on & secure comfortable lodgings? I should be most happy if you would pay one a visit for this purpose. I shall promise you good meat, drink, washing & lodging. But, perhaps, you would not accept an invitation from one & yet I am, as for many years past I have been, sincerely & respectfully your friend

James Buchanan

Hon: Charles J. Ingersoll