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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from James Buchanan to Samuel Ingham

**Date:** 1827-1841

**Location:** MC 1998.10

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Lancaster 9 August 1827.

Dear Sir,

Ere this can reach you - you will have seen General Jackson's letter to the Public in which he has given up my name. It will at once strike you to be a most extraordinary production so far as I am concerned. My statement will appear in the Lancaster Journal tomorrow, <sup>which I shall send you</sup> I have not suffered my feelings to get the better of my judgment but have stated the truth in a calm & temperate manner. If General Jackson - & our editors should act with discretion the storm may blow over without injury. Should they on the contrary force me to the wall & make it absolutely necessary for the preservation of my own character to defend myself; I know not what may be the consequence.

I have stated the conversation between Markley & myself in as strong terms as the truth would justify; but no stronger. It is in your power to do much to give this matter a proper direction. Indeed I would suggest to you the propriety of an <sup>immediate</sup> visit to Philadelphia for that purpose. My friends here are very indignant but I believe I can keep them right.

You will perceive that General Jackson has cited Major Eaton as a witness. I have treated this part of his letter with great mildness. In a letter to me which I received the day before yesterday - the General intimates that George Fremont would confirm his statement. This letter is an <sup>in my opinion an improper</sup> ~~most~~ unprudent one. It is well it has fallen into the hands of a political friend. I

You will discover that your knowledge concerning my conversation with General Jackson was nearly correct. The friend who wrote me the letter of the 27 December 1824 referred to in my communication was Judge Rogers then <sup>Secretary of State.</sup> From your sincere friend  
Samuel D. Ingham Esq. James Buchanan

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From your sincere friend  
James Buchanan

Samuel D. Ingham Esqr



Dear Sir,

Soncasted 29 August 1827.

I have received yours of the 22 Instant & thank you for the trouble which you have taken in my behalf. In this County, & in York County & indeed in all the Counties with which I am well acquainted the letters have done no harm but rather the reverse. The Jackson papers generally have managed the subject very discreetly. I saw a letter yesterday from Baldwin, or rather heard it read, which states that the friends of Jackson in the West are perfectly satisfied with my letter & believe it confirms all the material facts stated by the General. He ~~writes~~ evidently writes in high spirits.

I have not a single apprehension upon the subject, unless the General or Major Eaton should render it necessary for me again to appear before the Public. This I can scarcely anticipate. Nothing but absolute necessity shall compel me to adopt this course.

I presume you know me too well to suspect for a moment, that the allusions which Binns has been making to create discord between us can produce the slightest effect upon my mind. So far from it, that I think you have but few friends in the world who would be better pleased with your elevation than myself. This has not always been the case; but it has been so, ever since my conduct towards you manifested the appearance of friendship.

The Hon: Samuel D. Ingham

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From your friend  
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The Hon: Samuel D. Ingham



Senate Chamber 20 July 1841.

My Dear Sir/

Whilst a dull speech "is being" made in the Senate, I avail myself of the opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your letter. I am much gratified that you approve my Mr Lead speeches. *Sans est a te laudare.* The decision of the Supreme Court of New York will go far to preserve the National honor & save the Country from war. Our right to try him will be vindicated & he will doubtless be acquitted. Daniel Webster is unfit for his present situation. He wants moral firmness, he wants practical knowledge & above all personal independence.

The Bank Bill is still before <sup>the</sup> Senate. I think it will be defeated on the question of engrossment; but it by no means follows that no Bill will pass during the present



Session. I consider Ewing's Bill which is believed meets the  
approbation of the President to be even worse than Clay's Bill.  
It is impossible to form any decisive judgment on the things which  
are to come to pass here. <sup>Tyler</sup> ~~Ewing~~ has not moral & intellectual  
strength for the crisis. He must feel & know that, without breaking  
with Clay, he can never be elected President & I believe he has  
the inclination to do so; but yet, he is constantly yielding to  
importunities & the work of proscription still progresses rapidly.  
He is still alienating the feelings of those who might become his  
friends by the reckless course which he suffers Ewing & Granger  
to pursue.

By the by, Tyler ~~for~~ on Saturday last, manifested a symptom  
of independence. Huntington, the new Commissioner of the Land  
office with the approbation of Ewing gave thirteen of his clerks  
notice to quit. Tyler heard of it, sent for Huntington,  
arrested the proceedings & directed nine of them to be restored.  
The rumor is that Ewing threatens to resign; but the news is  
too good to be true.

P.S. I shall attend to the rays, if need be.

J.  
L.  
P.  
1800





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Bye the bye, Tyler, ~~has~~ on Saturday last, manifested a symptom of independence. Huntingdon, the new Commissioner of the Land Office with the approbation of Ewing gave thirteen of this clerks notices to quit. Tyler heard of it, sent for Huntingdon, assisted the proceeding & directed nine of them to be restored. The rumor is that Ewing threatens to resign; but the news is too good to be true.

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*[The top half of the third page is missing]*

[Samuel D. Ingham]

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