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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to Mr. Lane and James L. Reynolds

Date: 1853-1854

Location: MC 1998.10

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717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Similarion, qua Lancaster 30 July 1853.

Geneliment I believe I do not owe a debt in the world, except those mentioned in page 11 of my Receipt Book. Should claims be made, Mip letty can give you the necessary information.

I have given IN. Hazer a wrillow authority
to pay the interest who will be due on his Bond
for \$10.000
dellostsage on the I April next to Sames B. Hong.
elly brother Edwards is to receive 7 for cond
believest semi-annually on my Bond to him
for \$8000.

Pages 6 & 7. I pages 8, 9 & 10 of my Receiped Book, are the only malural pages in regard to my stocks, Loans, Bonds, Mortgages & &.
Whatever may be deemed proper for the cultivation of improvements of the land at Wheatland & repairs of the house in to be advanced by your to Must Hetty.

to be part from this date.

To be part from this date.

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Jay. Harriets tay is to be part without charge to here. James B. Henry's is to be part without charge to here. James B. Henry's is to be part with order to B. H. Longenecher the Collecter that James. B.

Henry resides in Thela deephier to no longer to be layer in this county. Please to look to this.

Also, to the can of Married who write not in the same of the s

Wheatland, near Lancaster 30 July 1853.

Gentlemen/

I believe I do not owe a debt in the world, except those mentioned in page 11 of my Receipt Book. Should claims be made, Miss Hetty can give you the necessary information.

I have given Mr. Hager a written authority to pay the interest wc will be due on his Bond & Mortgage for \$10.000 on the 1 April next to James B. Henry. My brother Edward is to receive 7 per cent Interest semi-annually on my Bond to him for \$8000.

Pages 6 & 7 & pages 8, 9 & 10 of my Receipt Book, are the only material pages in regard to my Stocks, Loans, Bond, Mortgages &c &c. Whatever may be deemed proper for the cultivation & improvement of the land at Wheatland & repairs of the house are is to be advanced by you to Miss Hetty.

My pew Rent in the Presbyterian Church is to be paid from this date.-

My State & County Tax for 1853 as well as Harriets, & James B. Henry's have been paid; but I believe not my School & Road Tax. Harriets tax School & Road Tax is to be paid without charge to her. James B. Henry's is to be paid & charged to him in page 2. I have given notice to B. H. Longenecker the Collector that James B. Henry resides in Philadelphia & is no longer to be taxed in this county. Please to look to this. Also, to the case of Harriet who will not reside at Wheatland

James Buchanan

Messrs Lane & Reynolds

Segation of the United States, Sondon 10 November 1854. ely dear Six I have received your favor of the 23° Instant & that of M. Sanderson of the 24. entend the letter to be un answer to both. Our defeat has indeed been overwhelming; but it could not have been unexpected. There are always consolations no misfortune Les hurt that Col: Frazer has unetrievably gone over to the Whigs of No Knothings. What a relief this will be, It is impossible that a Secret political South founded on religious persecution I histolity to the equal rights of our frage Edward can long continue powerque. It may, however, in the mean time, do great injury. I feel proud to the course of the Democratio party no opposing this new isno vizorous & from the commencement. That great harts well surely rese again. Nothing can ever long heep it down

cyce/to a defeasture from its ofsential of time honored principles. I have received any number of letters on the Subject of the next heridence I have answered all of thene that I was not I would not be again a Candidate for that office. In this declaration, I have been uniform was since the election of General Succe. Some ask one if I would refuse to be the nomine of the National Convention in care the Country should full I voluntaries cale upon me to assume this position, all answer is that such an event is so improbable, that it hopethe, I that we such are almost empopethe contingency, Then again some write to me advising me to return home next year I others advise most strongly that I should remain abroad, - all with a view to the Presidences. Now from my very heart I say - that I shall not be a Candidate for the Turidence, I would not wish to become Therident, even if the office were voluntarily lendered to me by the Dimocracy. For me it has lost its chains.

In answer to a leller from M. Sidele my much valued friend I wrote have wrillen by this Sleamen, as follows? "My principal reason for writing you at present is to answar your enquire as to whether I "entend returning to the Unded Slates next Summer, Such is certainly my intention. I shale the have performed the duties of this Legation, according to my engagement with the Truckent, two years on the 23° August next; I should my lefe be spared, it is my purpose, shortly afterwards, to return home. Were I a candidate for the Ireridences which you have long since known I would not be, to had the most semole idea of again placing myseef in this most unenveabled disagreeable position, your advice would doubtless be sound. As it is I feel no apprehensions from breathers the "malareous almosphere which you have so graphically described. Besides, I am hearless lines of my viluation. It is one of great & incepant labor theefly in small mallers, weehout the probability of rendering important derveces to my Country. I mught mention the inadequacy of my salary to my suffere; but the would not weigh a feather against a fair prospect of being essentially useful to the American people. In huther I long for the guid & reterement of Wheatland.

I was sufty three years if age on the 23 April Cast; I Shale, therefore, Thould Inovidence prolong my days, have nearly completed my seventieth year at the ond to the next Irendentead line. I do not spring from a long leved family, but the everse; & I now begin to ful that my health is yelding. In my upinem, to would be expremely hazardows to select any man of my age as Instident. Our carles Theredents completed thew service at Sufty sig; I this, under ordering circumstances, furnishes a Salutary precedent. I do trust that valued friends like grancely who have slood by me in the worst of limes, I especially gourself, will be Satesfield with my decision. I have never concealed it from you or them since the election of General Surce Thus have I written to Millidell & I have Hought that you Sanderson I Swan ought to know it. There are my real Sentements. The profile here are uniformly kinds in my Intercourse with them

Hurret is to leave New York for Levapore, in the Allantic, under the special charge of Capitain West, either on Salunday the 15. or Salunday the 29th of April. The Capitain, when last in Liverpool, ded not know on which of these two days he would leave; but was to inform Harried of it immediately on his return to New York. I wrote to her that I would request you to lake & hais for her passage; but upon second Moughto shall apply to M. Corcoran of Washington for the purpose, in whose hands, I have the necessary funds.

I do not know what to make of our friend Joines.

What think you? Poes he resire to quarrel with me? In this

surely he could have no object benefician to himself in any

manner, as I am not I shall not be in any hisons was.

My those wall a quotation from his last shange little to may

as the name of old. They notas is mentioned in the.

Speaking of his ne-election, he says, "you would be surpressed to see how I have been congratulated. Hundredo of

letters have been sent to me, - from are parts of the unionfrom many parts of Europe, from every boy excepte James Buchauau. What a lest that would be for the Lancasteries & Kystone. I made Regnolds & ellathed who were here yesterdas Stare when I lota them you had not congrabulated me on my election & were sorely opercised about Sarhus umovae Justifi Now I cannot believe that Regnolds & Matheot would have quened their ges very widely write astonishment of I even had omilled to speak specially of Col: Formers succept to hum in the course of our correspondences, But I made no such omission. The following is the introduction of a very friendly letter to him daled on the 13. December. ely dear die | " Long looked for come at last". I have received your wilcome letter of the 28. wleme: I now feel the greated angests to learn that you had been re-cleated Clark. I buil & believe we shall receive this gratifying intelligence with the President's message on ellonday next. I thus congrabulated lot: Sorner in advance. We did receive the gralifing intelligence on the succeeding Monday; I the burden of his complaint against one is that I ded

not set down immediales I write him a second letter, after upon the same subject.

I was very much annoged & mortefued at Sarker's removal. He was appointed by lit: Fornes on my special request; + for years has been my sleady, active & influential friend we Durgines. He is a good writer L on linns of intimacy with Wise L my other leading friends in that State. I know him to be a thorough geneleman. He may have become deprepalet in his hatels since I left home, & he may not have well performed his dulies as Librarian. about there theres I know nothing. Ily offence in this maller is, that I have expressed no openion whether Jorney was right or wrong we the removal. I have avoided this to Augunia frunds I have avoided it to lot: Forney. Why should I be called upon at the distance of 3000 miles from the sence of action, upon contradictor statements, to voluntee au opinion export facto. Why should I thus be asked to offend a body of green's we Dusinea as every any man could boart of. But enough of this.

he the Same beller, in reference to the establishment of the new paper at Harrisburg, - he asks me, - Do you thenth I am to be busted as the Editor of a Buchanan paper? If ye ge with other matters in the same spire.

Jo this I answer: If you mean by a Buchanan paper,

In this I answer: If you mean by a recention paper, one that is to advocate me as a candidate for the Transferrer, I should regret its establishment. You have been early of

Consistently informed, without reserve, of my determination never again to become a candidate for that office; I every days reflection, if this were popula, adds strength to my resolution. If, on the other hand, the new paper wellout reference to myself, is to be an organ of the line Chemocracy of the State, I have its establishment & Congratulate that Democracy in having entisted your eminent editorial abelilies in their Support. Whelet my own public & official life well terminate with my present impion, I Shall even, so long as I may live feel the deepert entered in the cause I be always ready I willing to sorve my friends individuely Whenever circumstances may place this we my power. Though of as confiding lemper I could not fact to have desuved a change in lot: Joines since my advocaces of Campbell for a scal in the Cabenet. I own him many obligations I have ever bealed him with the ulmost kindness, I Shall never beat him in a different manner. I confess however, I should be very glad to know your opunor as to whether it is his intention to break with me. He is under many obligations to President Seeres who, I thenk, deserves his support for a renomination to thes, he knows, I have no objections. I have not teme at the present moment to write you any more. Please to remember me, we kind firms, to all our freends not forgetting sleep Hetty, IV. Reigart i di Tallus met figure Britain. amed Suchauau P.S. Please to resucces on, we the very kinded terms, to my good & value grund, Jonas Bachman Meps Law & Regnoted.

Legation of the United States London 10 November 1854

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor of the 23d Instant & that of Mr. Sanderson of the 24th.& intend this letter to be an answer to both.

Our defeat has indeed been overwhelming; but it could not have been unexpected. There are always consolations in misfortune & I trust that Col: Frazer has irretrievably gone over to the Whigs & No K Nonothings. What a relief this will be! It is impossible that a secret political Society founded on religious persecution & hostility to the equal rights of our foreign Citizens can long continue powerful. It may, however, in the mean time, do great injury. I feel proud of the course of the Democratic party in opposing this new issue vigorously from the commencement. That great party will surely rise again. Nothing can ever long keep it down

[Page Break]

except a departure from its essential & time honored principles.

I have received any number of letters on the subject of the next Presidency & have answered all of them that I was not & would not be again a candidate for that office. In this declaration, I have been uniform ever since the election of General Pierce. Some ask me if I would refuse to be the nominee of the National Convention in case the Country should freely & voluntarily call upon me to assume this position. My answer is that such an event is so improbable that it would be the most extravagant vanity in me to deem it possible, & that in such an almost impossible contingency therefore in I have waived any answer on the subject. Then again some write to me advising me to return home next year & others advise most strongly that I should remain abroad, all with a view to the Presidency. Now from my very heart I say – that I shall not be a candidate for the Presidency, & would not wish to become President, even if the office were voluntarily tendered to me by the Democracy. For me it has lost its charm.

[Page Break]

In answer to a letter from Mr. Slidell my much valued friend I write have written to day by this Steamer, as follows:

"My principal reason for writing you at present is to answer your inquiry as to whether I "intend returning to the United States next Summer". Such is certainly my intention. I shall then have performed the duties of this Legation, according to my engagement with the President, two years on the 23d August next; & should my life be spared, it in my purpose, shortly afterwards, to return home. Were I a candidate for the Presidency, which you have long since known I would not be, or had the most remote idea of again placing myself in this most unenviable & disagreeable position, your advice would doubtless be sound. As it is I feel no apprehensions from breathing the "Malareous atmosphere" which you have so graphically described. Besides, I am heartily tired of my situation. It is one of great & incessant labor chiefly in small matters, without the probability of rendering important services to my country. I might mention the inadequacy of my salary to my support; but this would not weigh a feather against a fair prospect

of being essentially useful to the American people. In truth, I long for the quiet & retirement of Wheatland.

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I was sixty three years of age on the 23d April last; & shall, therefore, should Providence prolong my days, have nearly completed my seventieth year at the end of the next Presidential term. I do not spring from a long lived family, but the reverse; & I now begin to feel that my health is yielding. In my opinion, it would be extremely hazardous to select any man of my age as President. Our earlier Presidents completed their service at sixty six; & this under ordinary circumstances furnishes a salutary precedent. I do trust that valued friends like yourself who have stood by me in the worst of times & especially yourself will be satisfied with my decision. I have never concealed it from you or them since the election of General Pierce"

This I have written to Mr. Slidell & I have thought that you Sanderson & Swarr ought to know it. These are my real sentiments.

The people here are uniformly kind in my intercourse with them.

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Harriet is to leave New York for Liverpool, in the Atlantic, under the special charge of Captain West, either on Saturday the 15th. or Saturday the 29th. of April. The Captain, when last in Liverpool, did not know on which of the these two days he would leave; but was to inform Harriet of it immediately on his return to New York. I wrote to her that I would request you to take & pay for her passage; but upon second thoughts shall apply to Mr. Corcoran of Washington for this purpose, in whose hands, I have the necessary funds.

I do not know what to make of our friend Forney. What think you? Does he desire to quarrel with me? In this surely he could have no object beneficial to himself in any manner, as I am not & shall not be in any persons way. I shall make a quotation from his last strange letter to me on the 12th. ultimo as the name of Mr. Reynolds is mentioned in it.

Speaking of his re-election, he says,- "you would be surprised to see how I have been congratulated. Hundreds of

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letters have been sent to me,- from all parts of the union-from many parts of Europe-<u>from every body except James Buchanan</u>. What a text that would be for the Lancasterian & Keystone"!

"I made Reynolds & Mathiot who were here yesterday stare when I told them you had not congratulated me on my election & were sorely exercised about Parker's removal" &c &c &c

Now I cannot believe that Reynolds & Mathiot would have opened their eyes very widely with astonishment if I even had omitted to speak specially of Col: Forney's success to himself in the course of our correspondence. But I made no such omission. The following is the introduction of a very friendly letter to him dated on the 13th. December.

"My dear Sir/

"Long looked for come at last". I have received your welcome letter of the 28th. ultimo: & now fell the greatest anxiety to learn that you had been re-elected Clerk. I trust & believe we shall receive this gratifying intelligence with the President's message on Monday next".

I thus congratulate Col: Forney in advance. We did receive the gratifying intelligence on the succeeding Monday; & the burden of his complaint against me is that I did

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not sit down immediately after my first letter & write him a second letter, afte upon the same subject!

I was very much annoyed & mortified at Parker's removal. He was appointed by Col: Forney on my special request; & for years has been my steady, active & influential friend in Virginia. He is a good writer & on terms of intimacy with Wise & my other leading friends in that State. I know him to be a thorough gentleman. He may have become dissipated in his habits since I left home, & he may not have well performed his duties as Librarian. About these things I know nothing. My offence in this matter is, that I have expressed no opinion whether Forney was right or wrong in the removal. I have avoided this to Virginia friends & have avoided it to Col: Forney. Why should I be called upon at the distance of 3000 miles from the source of action, upon contradictory statements, to volunteer an opinion ex post facto. Why should I thus be asked to offend a body of as good friends in Virginia as ever any man could boast of. But enough of this.

In the same letter, in reference to the establishment of the new paper at Harrisburg,- he asks me,- "Do you think I am to be trusted as the Editor of a Buchanan paper"? &c &c. with other matters in the same spirit.

To this I answer: "If you mean by a 'Buchanan paper', one that is to advocate me as a candidate for the Presidency, I should regret its establishment. You have been early &

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consistently informed, without reserve, of my determination never again to become a candidate for that office; & every days reflection, if this were possible, adds strength to my resolution. If, on the other hand, the new paper without reference to myself, is to be an organ of the true Democracy of the State, I hail its establishment & congratulate that Democracy in having enlisted your eminent editorial abilities in their support. Whilst my own public & official lips will terminate with my present mission, I shall ever, so long as I may live feel the deepest interest in the cause & be always ready & willing to serve my friends individually whenever circumstances may place this in my power.

Though of a confiding temper, I could not fail to have observed a change in Col: Forney ever since my advocacy of Campbell or a seat in the Cabinet. I owe him many obligations & have ever treated him with the utmost kindness, & shall never treat him in a different manner. I confess, however, I should be very glad to know your opinion as to whether it is his intention to break with me. He is under many obligations to President Pierce who, I think, deserves his support for a renomination. to this, he knows, I have an objection.

I have not time at the present moment to write you any more. Please to remember me, in kind terms, to all our friend not forgetting Miss Hetty, Mr. Reigart & Mr. James Patterson of [one word illegible] Little Britain.

Ever your friend James Buchanan

Messrs Lane & Reynolds

P. S. Please to remember, in the very kindest terms, to my good & valued friend, Jonas Bachman