Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

Documents Online

Title: Letter from Benson Lossing to James BuchananDate: July 19, 1865Location: MC 1998.10, B1, F17

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Dear Vi: The newspapers, form time to time, have assured us that a Kisting of Mon Chelministration, preparet under your owneys, would be putlished very soon, under your authority. I have made dillegent inquisis, but cannot obtain positive infomation concerning the matter. I therefore take the liberty of arking you whether such a Kisting has been prepared, and of so, when I will be published. My object will be manifest when I say that I am et hernely deserves of ascertaing and recording the butter in my Kistory Atte Sheat Civil

Har, J which the inclosed Cu-Cular speaks. The first bolume i nearly ready for the press. In that, of course, is in childred the history of the latter part of you administration which has aperence to the abellion . M.I should be wenting in center light of all the information at my command that Seems trutteful, your character for patriotism and Seganty, which I had borne through a long life Leens much impaired, I need not say that A would gue me pleasure to find that Such conclusion to erronens of which, I have thinght it to anyfut give positive port. It

the friend inquery. I trust you will recen this letter in the spirit in which it is written. While I toathe the Selfish men who raised the arm of yeand especially the for con-Sperators who, for years, frepand the way for whillion Share no party projudices to Servicor obey. I am a Simple searcher after truth, and with to be a Chromiter only of truthe. If I fail, it. will and he for want of deligener in the search Vin respectfully your fillow Citizen Henry James Burkannan

Poughkeepsie N. Y. July 19, 1865

Dear Sir:

The newspapers, from time to time, have assured us that a History of your Administration, prepared under you own eye, would be published very soon, under your authority. I have made diligent inquiries, but cannot obtain positive information concerning the matter. I therefore take the liberty of asking you whether such a History has been prepared, and if so, when it will be published?

My object will be manifest when I say that I am extremely desirous of ascertaining any History of the Great Civil

[Page Break]

War, of which the inclosed Circular speaks. The first volume is nearly ready for the press. In that, of course, is included the history of the latter part of your Administration which has reference to the rebellion. ¶ I should be wanting in candor if I did not say to you that in the light of all the information at my command, that which seems truthful, your character for patriotism and sagacity, which it you had borne through a long life seems much impaired. I need not say that it would give me pleasure to find that such conclusions are is erroneous of which, I have thought it possible probable the publication referred to might give alone positive proof. It is for that reason alone that I make

[Page Break]

the present inquiry.

I trust you will receive this letter in the spirit in which it is written. While I loathe the selfish man who raised the arm of rebellion against their country government, and especially the few conspirators who, for years, prepared the way for rebellion, I have no party prejudices to serve or obey. I am a simple searcher after truth, and wish to be a Chronicler only of truth. If I fail to find it: it will not be for want of diligence in the search

Very respectfully Your fellow Citizen, Benson J. Lossing

Hon. James Buchanan