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**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to George McClellan

**Date:** February 27, 1842

**Location:** MC 1998.10, B2, F1

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Washington 27 February 1842.

My dear Sir,

It was not necessary for you to have

got your friends to write letters to me to support your application.

If Doctor Sturgeon & myself had the power to nominate a cadet,

your son should be the nominee; but unless the present Secretary of

War should change the rule which has existed for a number of

years, the Senators possess no such power. Dr. Sturgeon has

promised to inquire into this matter.

I have not interfered, either directly or indirectly, in any appointment

since Mr. Van Buren retired; but if I have a right to nominate a cadet,

your son shall be appointed.

Yours very respectfully,

James Buchanan

D. George McCallan

Washington 27 February 1842

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Dr. George M'Clellan