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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to Francis W. Pickens

**Date:** June 6, 1845

**Location:** MC 1998.10, B2, F10

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Washington 6 June 1845

My dear Sir,

I was pleased with the tone of your letter of the 27 ultimo & gladly presented it to the President. It was in good taste & good keeping with your character. I was personally disappointed at your refusal to accept the English mission; but you were the best judge. You do not mistake my feelings towards you. Your friendship for me has ever been warmly & respectfully reciprocated. I shall always rejoice to hear of your health & prosperity.

To be Secretary of State is not "what it has is cracked up to be". Here am I sitting in a hot room, engaged from morning till night & often after night at a season of the year when I ~~have~~ had ever been so free as mountain breezes. I never much fancied a Cabinet appointment & now less than ever; but I must & shall do my duty according to my best ability.

The administration is I think proceeding smoothly as well as firmly. Colonel Polk will make himself known

to his Country as an able & honest President before the close  
of his term: & Mrs. Polk is winning golden opinions  
from all who approach her. In truth she performs  
her duties with an ease, dignity & grace which deserve  
all the commendations she receives.

from your friend  
very respectfully

James Buchanan

Hon: J. W. Pickens

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