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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Stephen Pleasonton

Date: September 10, 1847

Location: MC 1998.10, B2, F16

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Department of State,
Washington, Sept 10^B, 1847.

Stephen Pleasonton Esq^B
Fifth Auditor

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 9^B instant, transmitting to me at his request, a copy of a letter addressed to you by Mr John Randolph Clay, late United States Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg, dated the 6^B Inst. explanatory of certain items in his account, which have been rejected by you; and asking to be informed to what period the Salary of Mr. Clay as such Secretary is to be credited to him;

I have carefully considered Mr. Clay's letter, and as it appears that the copy of the Russian Tariff, which was purchased by him, was necessary ^{in conducting its business} to the U. S. Legation at St. Petersburg, and was left by him with the Legation, its cost, viz: 2.40 Silver Rubles, may be allowed.

With regard to the presents, they have been constantly allowed, and are not at all embraced in the Circular from this Department of the 25th of July 1845.

In respect to carriage hire. Mr. Clay kept no carriage himself at the time, and as he assures me, was unable to keep a carriage. He was then acting in the character, and incurring all the expenses of a chargé d'affaires, upon the salary of a Secretary of Legation, at one of the most expensive Courts in the World. Peterhoff is 26 versts from St. Petersburg, and he was obliged to attend the fetes there on give offence. Under these circumstances, and whilst no carriage hire can be allowed to him within the City of St. Petersburg; the carriage hire to Peterhoff may be allowed: and this without departing from the principle of the above circular.


The Salary of Mr. Clay as Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg, is to be credited to him to the 17th of August last, inclusive.

I am, Sir, respectfully

Your obedient servant
James Buchanan

Dept. State 10. Sept. 1847.

From Mr. Buchanan who
allows the charge in Mr.
Blays account for expenses
to Peterhoff at the marriage
of the Emperor's daughter in
1856 &c. — & termination of his
salary.



Department of State
Washington, Sept 10th, 1847

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I am, Sir, respectfully
Your obedient Servant
James Buchanan

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[the following is written on the back of the letter:]

Dept. State 10. Sept. 1847.

From Mr. Buchanan who allows the charges in Mr. Clays accounts for expenses to Peterhoff at the marriage of the Emperors daughter in 1836 &c. - & termination of his salary.]