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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Joel R. Poinsett

Date: 1838-1839

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Dear Sir,

Washington 6 July 1838.

I again repeat my earnest recommendation
 of the appointment of William S. Ramsey Esquire of Carlisle,
 Penn^a, as a Paymaster in the Army. I have already written
 & said so much in his favor; that I deem it unnecessary to add
 more on that subject.

Should there be no vacancy in the office of Paymaster,
 I should be glad if you would confer upon him any other
 appointment of a similar nature; provided it would not
 interfere with his appointment as Paymaster.

Yours very respectfully,

James Buchanan

Hon: Gen. R. P. Ross

Washington 6 July 1838

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Yours very respectfully
James Buchanan

Hon: Joel R. Poinsett

Dear Sir,

Washington 20 December 1839

When, upon your suggestion, I left Mr. Moorhead's letter with you, on Wednesday last, you were good enough to inform me that you would, on the next day, answer the three questions contained in it. This information I immediately communicated to Mr. Moorhead & stated that from my conversation with you, "the prospect was favorable"; but that he ought not to come on to Washington until I should forward him your answer.

This answer, which I received yesterday evening, applies only to the third question. The two first are, "would there be any probable chance of all things to myself getting the contract provided we would produce the strongest kind of recommendations & give good security for the performance?" "Will the contract be given at the same prices it is now held at?" These questions you have doubtless overlooked in the hurry of business.

I had no idea that in any branch of the public service; & particularly in one so important & where the expenditure has been so large, that the work was done by a simple order from the Ordnance Department, without any contract. I presume you will not suffer this practice to continue; - but if you should, is there any prospect that Messrs Moorhead & Birney might receive orders upon the same terms with Messrs McChung & Co, or has ^{the Ordnance Department} Col. ~~Brown~~ determined to give their orders to some other persons?

Mr. Moorhead is a gentleman of very high character, as well as great capacity for business; and I am desirous of giving him the information which I promised him after my interview with you on Wednesday last. I should not wish to bring him here, without any prospect of success.

Yours very respectfully

Wm: Joel. N. Poinsett

James Buchanan

Washington 20 December 1839

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I had no idea that in any branch of the public service; & particularly in one so important & where the expenditure has been so large, that the work was done by a simple order from the Ordnance Department, without any contract. I presume that you will not suffer this practice to continue;- but if you should, is there any prospect that Messrs Moorhead & Birney might receive orders upon the same terms with Messrs McClung & Co, or has ~~Col: Burnford~~ the Ordnance Department determined to issue their orders to some other persons?

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