

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Letters from James Buchanan to James L. Reynolds

Date: 1853-1856

Location: MC 1998.10

Contact:

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

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Clarendon Hotel, Bond Street London,
Monday evening 22 August 1853.

My dear Sir / I had intended to spend tomorrow
morning in writing letters to my friends by Wednesday's
Steamer; but I have been summoned to Osborne, in
the Isle of Wight to be presented to Her Majesty
tomorrow at 2 O'Clock; & Mr. Ingersoll & myself
will leave here tomorrow morning at 7, he to have
his audience of leave & I to be presented. On
Wednesday, I shall take possession of the Legation,
Deo volente. Ingersoll has behaved extremely well.

Every body is now out of Town; & by this they
mean the Nobility & gentry. It is an ill wind,
however, that blows nobody good; & this is the very
best season to obtain a furnished house, at what
they call here a moderate rent. I think I shall be
well accommodated; & I am anxious to get into my
own house as soon as possible.

There are a number of Americans here; but they are rapidly taking their flight across the Atlantic. I dined yesterday at Richmond with Slidell, Robt of Orleans & Ward of Boston for many years a resident of this City. We visited Hampton Court six miles beyond on the Thames, - the magnificent palace for that age, erected by Cardinal Wolsey & the favourite residence of William the 3^d, - the last King of England. The grounds are extensive & fine. The rooms are now appropriated to decayed ladies of quality. The Marchioness of Wellesley occupied a suite of them.

The best mode of directing letters, ^{I newspapers & documents} to me is to ~~send~~ direct them to me at London, care of the U.S. Despatch Agent at New York & pre pay them at the common rate of Postage to that City. Thus, His Excellency James Buchanan, Minister of the U.S. at London, care of the U.S. Despatch Agent, New York. - ~~By Post~~ or U.S. Despatch agent at Boston as the care may be. He will then put them in the Despatch Bag which is sent by every Steamer.

It might be well to make a little publication of this kind in the Lancaster Intelligencer, saying nothing about His Excellency.

The Eleven Thousand Bonds of the New York & Erie R. Road Company enumerated in my Book are in the hands of Wm & Jno O'Brien, Brokers, No 33, Wall Street, New York: - The Certificate for \$11,000 of Virginia Loan & the Certificates for \$15,000 California Loan are in the hands of W. W. Corcoran of Washington City. I write merely to give you this information, without desiring you to do any thing in the matter.

Harriet writes that you are all worrying my good friend Henry de Reizart because he did not return from Bedford in time to take leave of me. He is too good & values a friend to be worried for any such cause. Please to remember me to him in the very kindest terms. In the same terms, remember me to Marshall, Swan & Sanderson & all other friends. Do not forget Jordan & Hager.

They say here that the Turkish question is settled; but I doubt it. That is a strange settlement which

does not provide for the withdrawal of the Russian
forces from Moldavia & Wallachia; but they say this
will follow as a matter of course after the settlement.
Nous verrons, as father Ritchie says. The English
Newspapers are now lauding Louis Napoleon as much
as they abused him a year ago.

Miss Wilcox is a very nice & pretty girl & has
made a favorable impression. There is no truth in
the rumor about her & Mr. Peabody. He is 58 years
of age & gouty or rheumatic at that; but is a fine
looking man & I should judge an excellent fellow.

I remember Whealland & Lancaster with
deep regret; but shall endeavor to cure this feeling
as soon as possible for my own comfort.

Please to remember me, in the kindest terms, to
Kate & your other sisters, to Harriet, should she still
be in ~~the~~ at Whealland, - to Miss Hilly & to Col:
Lane & believe ^{me} always ^{to} be sincerely & respectfully.

Your friend
James L. Reynolds Esq James Buchanan

James Buchanan
22 May -
1839

Clarendon Hotel, Bond Street London,
Monday evening 22 August 1853

My dear Sir/

I had intended to spend tomorrow morning in writing letters to my friends by Wednesday's steamer; but I have been summoned to Osborne, in the Isle of Wight to be presented to Her Majesty tomorrow at 2 O'Clock; & Mr. Ingersoll & myself will leave here tomorrow morning at 7, he to have his audience of Leave & I to be presented. On Wednesday, I shall take possession of the Legation, Deo volente. Ingersoll has behaved extremely well.

Every body is now out of Town; & by this they mean the nobility & gentry. It is an ill wind however, that blows nobody good; & this is the very best season to obtain a furnished house, at what they call here a moderate rent. I think I shall be well accommodated; & I am anxious to get into my own house as soon as possible.

[Page Break]

There are a number of Americans here; but they are rapidly taking their flight across the Atlantic, I dined yesterday at Richmond with Slidell, Robb of N. Orleans & Ward of Boston for many years a resident of this City. We visited Hampton Court six miles beyond on the Thames, - the magnificent palace for that age, erected by Cardinal Wolsey & the favorite residence of William the 3d, - the last King of England. The grounds are extensive & fine. The rooms are now appropriated to decayed ladies of quality. The Marchioness of Wellesly occupies a suite of them,

The best mode of directing letters & newspapers & documents to me is to direct them to me at London, care of the U. S. Despatch Agent at New York & pre pay them at the common rate of Postage to that City. Thus; His Excellency James Buchanan, Minister of the U. States at London, care of the U. S. Despatch Agent, New York. - ~~Or Bos~~ Or U. S. Despatch Agent at Boston, as the case may be. He will then put them in the Despatch Bag which is sent by every Steamer.

[Page Break]

It might be well to make a little publication of this kind in the Lancaster Intelligencer saying nothing about His Excellency.

The Eleven Thousand Bonds of the New York & Erie R. Road Company enumerated in my book are in the hands of Wm. & Jno. O'Brien, Brokers, No 33, Wall Street, New York: - The Certificate for \$11.000 of Virginia Loan & the Certificates for \$15.000 California Loan are in the hands of W. W. Corcoran of Washington City. I write merely to give you this information, without desiring you to do anything in the matter.

Harriet writes that you are all worrying my good friend Henry M Reigart because he did not return from Bedford in time to take leave of me. He is too good & valued a friend to be worried for any such cause. Please to remember me to him in the very kindest terms. In the same terms, remember me to Mathiot, Swar & Sanderson & all other friends. Do not forget Fordney & Hager.

They say here that the Turkish question is settled; but I doubt it. That is a strange settlement which

[Page Break]

does not provide for the withdrawal of the Russian forces from Moldavia & Wallachia; but they say this will follow as a matter of course after the settlement. Nous verrons, as father Ritchie says. The English Newspapers are now lauding Louis Napoleon as much as they abused him a year ago.

Miss Wilcox is a very nice & pretty girl & has made a favorable impression. There is no truth in the rumor about her & Mr. Peabody. He is 58 years of age & gouty or rheumatic at that; but is a fine looking man & I should judge an excellent fellow.

I remember Wheatland & Lancaster with deep regret; but shall endeavor to lose this feeling as soon as possible for my own comfort.

Please to remember me, in the kindest terms, to Kate & your other sisters, to Harriet, should she still be ~~in Lanea~~ at Wheatland, - to Miss Hilly & to Col: Lane & believe me always to be sincerely & respectfully,

Your friend
James Buchanan

James L. Reynolds, Esq.

U. S. Legation London 11 Nov: 1853

My dear Sir /

We are all hands busy in moving the Legation to day; & in the midst of noise & confusion, I address you a few lines to let my friends know that I am still in the land of the living & thank God! in the enjoyment of good health. The daily duties of the mission are laborious; & besides those, I am now tied as to with Lord Clarendon. I have never met any person with whom it was more pleasant to transact business; but what may be the end of our conference, I cannot yet predict.

I attended the great show dinner of the Lord Mayor on Wednesday evening last: & certainly was treated with great consideration, more especially by the Lord Chancellor & Lord Chief Justice Campbell,

6681 vol. 11
died ridiculously enough in their appropriate robes
with immense, unbecoming wigs. The Lord Chancellor
complimented both my Country & myself very highly in
his speech; but they do not repeat the speeches delivered
by him on such occasions.

What was probably significant is the remarks
of Lord Palmerston, now considered the first man in
England. They are not well reported in the Times, a copy
of which I now send you; but in his own papers,
the Post, they are fully reported. Heretofore, he has been
considered rather unfriendly to our Country,

I have been much disappointed, in not having
received from any of you a notice of the Lancaster
County election. I doubt the policy was much of your
having united with the Woolly heads in supporting
Mr. Bright. With all my heart, I desired to see
him elected, on account of my personal regard for

the man, but I dislike the principles. I presume
you are now all on belling & coing terms with the
war horse, judging from the Lancaster Examiner; but
I do not understand how Brawley ran so far behind,
if he played fair.

I am getting more & more reconciled to my
situation here; though my heart is still with you all
at Lancaster. When I see the difficulties & shape
of the party at home, I sometimes felicitate myself
that I am removed from the scene.

I wish you to give my benediction to Estlin,
Atchison, Swar, Sanderson, ^{Jordan, Hager} Kautz, Amos if he has
remained true & all the rest of my friends.

Please to remember me very kindly to Kate
& your younger sisters & believe me ever to be

truly your friend

James A. Reynolds Esq James Buchanan

U. S. Legation London 11 Nov: 1853

My dear Sir/

We are all hands busy in moving the Legation today; & in the midst of noise & confusion, I address you a few lines to let my friends know that I am still in the land of the living & thank God in the enjoyment of good health. The daily duties of the mission are laborious; & besides these, I am now hard at it with Lord Clarendon. I have never met any person with whom it was more pleasant to transact business; but what may be the end of our conferences, I cannot yet predict.

I attended the great show dinner of the Lord Mayor on Wednesday evening last: & certainly was treated with great consideration, more especially by the Lord Chancellor & Lord Chief Justice Campbell,

[Page Break]

clad ridiculously enough in their appropriate robes with immense, unbecoming wigs. The Lord Chancellor complimented both my Country & myself very highly in his speech; but they do not report the speeches delivered by him on such occasions.

What was probably significant is the remarks of Lord Palmerston, now considered the first man in England. They are not well reported in the Times, a copy of which I now send you; but in his own paper, the Post, they are fully reported. Heretofore, he has been considered rather unfriendly to our Country,

I have been much disappointed, in not having received from any of you a notice of the Lancaster County election. I doubt the policy very much of your having united with the Woolly heads in supporting Mr. Boughter. With all my heart, I desired to see him elected, on account of my personal regard for

[Page Break]

the man, but I dislike the principle. I presume you are now all on billing & cooing terms with the war horse, judging from the Lancaster Examiner; but I do not understand how Brawley ran so far behind, if he played fair.

I am getting more & more reconciled to my situation here; though my heart is still with you all in Lancaster. When I see the difficulties & strife in the party at home, I sometimes felicitate myself that I am removed from the scene.

I wish you to give my benediction to Eskridge, Mathiot, Swar, Sanderson, Fordney, Hager, Kantz, Ammey if he has remained true & all the rest of my friends.

Please to remember me very kindly to Kate and your younger sisters and believe me ever to be

truly your friend
James Buchanan

James L Reynolds Esq

U. S. Legation, London 10 January, 1854.

My dear Sir,

I have received your very ~~interesting~~
acceptable letter of the 19th ultimo. It contains much
information highly interesting to myself. All I fear is
that it has cost you so great an effort, you will require
much time to collect your forces for a repetition. Now,
my Dear Sir, if it should ever chance to be your fate to be
banished to a foreign land from the home you love, you will
then feel how interesting to you is every little incident ^{that occurs} among
~~the~~ the friends & acquaintances you have left behind. ^{What} I
desire from my personal friends in Lancaster is not that they
should put themselves to the trouble of writing me formal letters;
but merely that, currente calamo, they should give me the news
in the most slip shod & familiar manner.

Then first as regards business:— I am entirely satisfied
with your purchase of the Camden & Amberg Bond & consider it
a perfectly safe security. Indeed, I entertain full confidence
that Esbridge & yourself will do quite as well for me as I could

do for myself. What I desire, during my absence is safe not speculative investments. My calculation is that I shall get along with my outfit & salary for the first year & that I shall have, during the second, to draw upon you for a considerable sum.

I am now comfortably fixed in a well furnished house No 56 Harley Street for which I pay £700 per annum, & £40⁰⁰.0 for a stable, making together the nice little sum of exactly \$3581⁶⁰. I desired very much to obtain what is called "Foley House," though neither the property nor the residence of Lord Foley; but that of a briefless Barrister, the most troublesome, whimsical & suspicious man with whom I have ever had dealings. At length, I found it impossible to get along with him, & affording me a fair opportunity of being off, I embraced it much to his regret as I have since had occasion to know.

"The season," as it is called in London will not fairly commence until after Easter; but the assembling of Parliament has brought many of the grandees from the Country. My dinner & evening engagements are greater than I shall be able to endure. The fashionable hour for dinner

among the "Big Wigs" is 8 O'Clock & for parties about 11. This
was not the fashion of my neighbour John, Baer, etc. Here
or of myself. The Duke of Somerset is 80 years of age &
in feeble health. In a note from the Duchess inviting me
to dinner for to day she makes ~~me~~ me an apology for dining
at ^{1/2 past 6} ~~an earlier hour~~ & says, "The Dear Duke's delicate ^{state of} health
obliges us to ~~come~~ there at that early hour."

When you pass the magic line which divides in the
higher classes of society in this country, you find a simplicity
& unpretending manners without the slightest affectation of
aust & grace. Thus far I have been very kindly treated by
them & have not dined at a single ^{house} ~~table~~, with one exception,
~~to which where the part of honor has not been assigned to~~
me of leading the Lady of the Manors to table: & with
this exception, no other foreign minister has been present.
If there had been, they could not thus have distinguished me
because being the latest comer, I am the lowest in rank;
^{of the same grade.}

All this may change, should I have serious
difficulties about my Court dress. There I do not now
anticipate, though I am not yet out of the woods. I begin
to be attached to the Circular. It is surely not becoming
in the Representative of a Republic to wear a coat stiff

with gold lace & embroidery, not to speak of other ridiculous
 & grotesque appendages. Besides, thank Heaven! he could not
 have his coat emblazoned with
~~wear~~ the Stars & stripes of the Representatives of Royalty, & as
 for diamonds, but few American Ministers could afford to
 wear them unless hired for the occasion. My absence from
 the opening of Parliament has unexpectedly to myself brought
 out the English ^{Generals} Press in favor of my conduct & not one of them
 so far as I know, against it: I have had great difficulty
 in preventing the incident from being brought before the House of
 Commons. Still if I had time & space to explain all the
 antecedents to you, it would appear ^{partly} clearly, that the
 printed Circular which was doubtless sent ^{by the Master of Ceremonies} to all the other
 Ministers could not have been intended as an indignity to
 my Country ^{or} myself; & I trust this view of the matter will
 be taken in the United States. It is not my purpose to
 wear a black coat & pantaloons with a white waistcoat &
 cravat at Court; because this being the precise dress of the
 Court Servants, it would render me ridiculous, besides as
 well as offensive. My purpose is to wear a plain blue coat,
 just such as I wore in Lancaster except the color, & as they
 are desirous I should have some badge about me of my official
 character, I may, instead of plain felt buttons wear a United
 States button with the impression of the Eagle.
 I have not time before the closing of the Despatch Bag to write
 you more; though I have much more to say. Remember me most kindly
 to all our particular friends. With my best regards to your sisters,
 I remain as ever yr. friend

P. S. I should be sorry to learn that Sir Frederick Stanborough had taken charge of the
 from being insufferable.
 Jan 1854
 Feb 10/54
 Feb 27/54

James L Reynolds Esq

James Buchanan

U. S. Legation, London 10 January 1854

My dear Sir,

I have received your very ~~interesting~~ acceptable letter of the 19th. ultimo. It contained much information highly interesting to myself. All I fear is that it has cost you so great an effort, you will require much time to collect your forces for a repetition. Now, My Dear Sir, if it should ever chance to be your fate to be banished to a foreign land from the home you love, you will then feel how interesting to you is every little incident that occurs among ~~the~~ the friends & acquaintances you have left behind. ~~All~~ What I desire from my personal friends in Lancaster it not that they should put themselves to the trouble of writing me formal letters; but merely that, *currente calamo*, they should give me the news in the most slip shod & familiar manner.

Then first as regards business;- I am entirely satisfied with your purchase of the Camden & Amboy Bond & consider it a perfectly safe security. Indeed, I entertain full confidence that Eskridge & yourself will do quite as well for me as I could

[Page Break]

do for myself. What I desire, during my absence is safe not speculative investments. My calculation is that I shall get along with my outfit & salary for the first year & that I shall have, during the second, to draw upon you for a considerable sum.

I am now comfortably fixed in a well furnished house No 56 Harley Street for which I pay £700 per annum, & £40⁰⁰.0 for a stable, making together the nice little sum of exactly £3581⁶⁰. I desired very much to obtain what is called "Foley House," though neither the property nor the residence of Lord Foley; but that of a briefless Barrister, the most troublesome, whimsical & suspicious man with whom I have ever had dealings. At length I found it impossible to get along with him, & affording me a fair opportunity of being off, I embraced it much to his regret as I have since had occasion to know.

"The season," as it is called in London will not fairly commence until after Easter; but the assembling of Parliament has brought many of the grandees from the Country. My dinner & evening engagements are greater than I shall be able to endure. The fashionable hour for dinner

[Page Break]

among the "Big Wigs" is 8 O'clock & for parties about 11. This was not the fashion of my neighbours Johnny Baer, Mr. Herr or of myself. The Duke of Somerset is 80 years of age & in feeble health. In a note from the Duchess inviting me to dinner for to day she makes ~~many~~ me an apology for dining at ~~an earlier hour~~ 1/2 past 6 & says, "The Dear Duke's delicate state of health obliges us to dine at that early hour"!

When you pass the Magic line which hedges in the higher classes of Society in this Country, you find simple & unpretending manners without the slightest affectation of airs & grace. Thus far I have been very kindly treated by them & have not dined at a single ~~table~~ house with one exception, ~~to which~~ where the post of honor had not been assigned to me of leading the lady of the Mansion to table: & with this exception, no other foreign minister has been present. If

there had been, they could not thus have distinguished me because being the latest comer, I am the lowest in rank of the same grade.

All this may change, should I have serious difficulties about my Court dress. These I do not now anticipate, though I am not yet out of the woods. I begin to be attached to the Circular. It is surely not becoming in the Representative of a Republic~~an~~ to wear a coat stiff

[Page Break]

with gold lace & embroidery, not to speak of other ridiculous & grotesque appendages. Besides, thank Heaven! he could not wear have his coat emblazoned with the Stars & orders of the Representatives of Royalty, & as for diamonds, but few American Ministers could afford to wear them unless hired for the occasion. My absence from the opening of Parliament has unexpectedly to myself brought out the English Press generally in favor of my conduct & not one of them so far as I know, against it: & I have had great difficulty in preventing the incident from being brought before the House of Commons. Still if I had time & space to explain all the antecedents to you, it would appear pretty clearly, that the printed Circular which was doubtless sent by the Master of Ceremonies to all the other Ministers could not have been intended as an indignity to my Country & or myself: & I trust this view of the matter will be taken in the United States. It is not my purpose to wear a black coat & pantaloons with a white waistcoat & Cravat at Court; because this being the precise dress of the Court Servants, it would render me ridiculous, besides as well as offensive. My purpose is to wear a plain blue coat just such as I wore in Lancaster except the color, & as they are desirous I should have some badge about me of my official character, I may, instead of plain gilt buttons wear a common United States button with the impression of the Eagle.

I have not time before the closing of the Despatch Bag to write you more; though I have much more to say. Remember me most kindly to all our particular friends. With my best regards to your sisters,

I remain as ever yr friend,
James Buchanan

James L. Reynolds Esq

P. S. I should be sorry to learn that our friend Sanderson had taken charge of the Pennsylvanian on any other terms than of a fixed salary well secured. Pecuniarily it is far from being prosperous.

U.S. Legation, London 2 May 1854.

My dear Sir /

Some week or ten days ago, I received the enclosed letter from J. J. Fox Alden of Pittsburg, with the enclosed Bill which will sufficiently explain themselves.

I also, send you a copy of my answer to Mr. Fox, - together with a copy of a letter to Mr. Hamilton. I desire that you should have the whole matter before you & do the best you can to secure the debt either in whole or in part.

I am somewhat disappointed in not having heard from Eskridge or yourself since the first of April. We have our letters & papers from New York till Wednesday 19th April.

Harriet had a long passage. I met her at Liverpool on Friday afternoon last & we reached here on Saturday. She is in fine health & spirits. I have had all the news from her which she could give & this is no little.

Poor Mathews death, I cannot get over. I think of him every day.

I cannot imagine how the report came to prevail in the United States that I had made a Treaty with the British Government concerning our neutral rights. No such thing ever was attempted; but perhaps I may say I was chiefly instrumental in getting them to adopt the principle "free ships, free goods". They did it with

great reluctance & hesitation. It is a curious fact;

that ^{what} the Supreme Court of the United States have followed the British Admiralty Courts & decided that

under the law of nations, a belligerent has the right to capture the goods of his enemy on board the

veffel of a friend; our ^{Executive} Government have always

been opposed to this principle & have been endeavouring

to establish "free ships free goods". The law of nations

is construed differently by Russia, France, Prussia,

Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium &c. Were

Suppose the United States were at war, could the

President do, what Queen Victoria has done & relay the

law of nations as decided by our Courts in favor of

Neutrals. Without an Act of Congress, could the President prohibit ^{friend} our Cruisers & Privateers from capturing the goods of an enemy on the veffel of a

What they call the season is now at its

fairly commencing. I often have three four &

five dinner invitations for the same day, - quite too
much of a good thing. This not because I am a
popular dinner out; but simply because it is the
fashion for every body to invite every body to dinner
from this time till the end of July when it is
supposed Parliament will adjourn.

I have expressed no opinion to any person
on the Nebraska Bill. I have thought that in a
foreign land & with a desire to part from public
life in peace with all my friends, I might be
justified in my silence.

Please to remember me in the kindest terms
to Sanderson, Swaz, Ekridge, alas! that I cannot
say Marshall. Remember me affectionately to
Kate & your sisters & believe me always to be

Sincerely of. friend
Jas L'Raynolds { James Buchanan

U.S. Legations, London 2 May 1854.

My dear Sir/

Some week or ten days ago, I received the enclosed letter from J. T. Fox Alden of Pittsburg, with the enclosed Bill which will sufficiently explain themselves,

I, also, send you a copy of my answer to Mr. Fox, - together with a copy of a letter to Mr. Hamilton. I desire that you should have the whole matter before you & do the best you can to secure the debt either in whole or in part.

I am somewhat disappointed in not having heard from Eskridge or yourself since the first of April. We have our letters & papers from New York till Wednesday 19th. April.

[Page Break]

Harriet had a long passage, I met her at Liverpool on Friday afternoon last & we reached here on Saturday. She is in fine health & spirits. I have had the news from her which she could give & this is no little.

Poor Mathiots death, I cannot get over. I think of him every day.

I cannot imagine how the report came to prevail in the United States that I had made a Treaty with the British Government concerning our neutral rights. No such thing ever was attempted; but perhaps I may say I was chiefly instrumental in getting them to adopt the principle "free ships, free goods". They did it with

[Page Break]

great reluctance & hesitation. It is a curious fact, that whilst the Supreme Court of the United States have followed the British Admiralty Courts & decided that under the law of nations* a belligerent has the right to capture the goods of his enemy on board the vessel of a friend our Executive Government have always been opposed to this principle & have been endeavoring to establish "free ships free goods". The law of nations is construed differently by Russia, France, Prussia., Sweden, Denmark, Holland., Belgium &c &c. Quere- Suppose the United States were at war, could the President do what Queen Victoria has done & relax the law of nations as decided by Courts in favor of neutrals? Without an Act of Congress, could the President prohibit our Cruisers & Privateers from capturing the goods of an enemy on the vessel of a friend?

What they call the Season is now ~~at its height~~ fairly commencing. I often have three four &

[Page Break]

five dinner invitations for the same day,- quite too much of a good thing. This not because I am a popular diner out; but simply because it is the fashion for every body to invite every body to dinner from this time till the end of July when it is supposed Parliament will adjourn.

I have expressed no opinion to any person on the Nebraska Bill. I have thought that in a foreign land & with a desire to part from public life in peace with all my friends, I might be justified in my silence.

Please to remember me in the kindest terms to Sanderson, Swar, Eskridge, alas! that I cannot say Marthiot. Remember me affectionately to Kate & your sister & believe me always to be

Sincerely yr. friend
James Buchanan

Jas. L. Reynolds Esq

Legation of The United States.

London 4 September 1854.

My dear Sir,

I have received from Messrs Gaw, Macalester & Co a Bill for £400 Sterling, drawn by Messrs Baines & Bowen on Messrs Brown, Shepley & Co, Liverpool, at 60 days after sight. For this I thank you, & believe it will be sufficient to carry me to the end of the two years when added to my other resources. Perhaps you had better inform Messrs Gaw & Macalester & Co, that it has arrived safely.

I have received your favor of the 21st ultimo.

The sums mentioned by you as not having been included in the statement sent by Eschwege to me, I find, are all embraced in it.

I wrote to Eschwege by the last Steamer & informed him that I desired the sale of the property which I purchased for brother Edwards.

In regard to the Lucinda estate, I thought I had written you fully in my letter of the 14th July, though I have retained no copy. I shall do nothing in this matter which can prejudice the interest ^{or violate the wishes} of the children of my friend. Mr. Evans may, therefore, remain for another year. Six months before its termination, God willing, I shall be at home & then we can make some final arrangement satisfactory to all parties in regard to the property. I have a good opinion of it. You may inform Mr. Evans, to use your own language that "the present arrangement is to continue for another year"

I am glad that you are having a business like statement made of the lands sold by Mr. Evans & Co.

I shall set out tomorrow with Miss Harriet on a flying visit to Scotland accompanied by Mr. Mac Gregor M.P. for Glasgow & of the Kinross of Rob. Roy. I have been much confined during the past year; & thought

I would have this month to myself & be able to spend
some time at the "Big Houses" of the nobility & gentry in North
Britain; but the administration have thought proper to
send Col: Seckles to Paris & Madrid upon the purest wild
Goose chase that can be imagined. I gave him permission
to go home on his own ^{private} business; & not for any public
object whatever. I do not intend to be absent longer than
until Saturday week, - & not that long should we meet
Mr. & Mrs. Gifford at Glasgow who would take Harriet in tow.

It is a matter wholly immaterial to me whether the
House at Whealland be painted this Autumn or next
Spring. After consulting Miss Betty, adopt the one course or
the other as may be deemed best. I desire that her wishes
should be consulted as she will have the responsibility of
seeing that the work is well done.

Most ~~heartily~~ do I wish Kate health, prosperity &
happiness in her marriage with Mr. Lander. He has
secured a prize & I trust he may prove himself worthy

of it. I am truly glad to learn from you that he
is so far as you know unexceptionable & have no doubt
will secure her happiness. Please to remember me to her
in the kindest manner & give my best regards to your sisters
& Samuel.

I am sorry to learn that a County which is to
be selected for Lancaster County. This will prove to be
a new hoop for the whig band after it had begun to
fall in pieces.

I have much to do to day preparatory to my
departure & must, therefore, cut my letter short.

Please to remember me to Erskine, Sanderson, Swan,
H. M. Reigate Kautz & all the rest I believe me
to be always truly your friend.

James Buchanan

James L. Reynolds Esq

Legation of the United States.
London 4 September 1854

My dear Sir/

I have received from Messrs Gaw, Macalester & Co a Bill for £400 Sterling, drawn by Messrs Bevins & Bowen on Messrs Brown, Shipley & Co. Liverpool, at 60 days after sight, For this I thank you, & believe it will be sufficient to carry me to the end of the two years when added to my other resources. Perhaps you had better inform Messrs Gaw & Macalester & Co. that it has arrived safely.

I have received your favor of the 21st. ultimo. The sums mentioned by you as not having been included in the Statement sent by Eskridge to me, I find, are all embraced in it.

I wrote to Eskridge by the last Steamer & informed him that I desired the sale of the property which I purchased for brother Edward.

[Page Break]

In regard to the Lucinda estate, I thought I had written you fully in my letter of the 14th. July, though I have retained no copy. I shall do nothing in this matter which can prejudice the interest or violate the wishes of the children of my friend. Mrs. Evans, may, therefore, remain for another year. Six months before its termination, God willing, I shall be at home & then we can make some final arrangement satisfactory to all parties in regard to the property. I have a good opinion of it. You may inform Mr. Evans, to use your own language that "the present arrangement is to continue for another year"

I am glad that you are having a business like Statement made of the lands sold by Mr. Evans & &c.

I shall set out tomorrow with Miss Harriet on a flying visit to Scotland accompanied by Mr. MacGregor M. P for Glasgow & of the Kindred of Rob Roy. I have been much confined during the past year; & thought

[Page Break]

I would have this month to myself & be able to spend some time at the "Big Houses" of the nobility.& gentry in North Britain; but the administration have thought proper to send Col: Sickles to Paris & Madrid upon the purest wild Goose chase that can be imagined. I gave him permission to go home on his own pressing private business; & not for any public object whatever. I do not intend to be absent longer than until Saturday week,- & not that long should we meet Mr. & Mrs. Gilpin at Glasgow who would take Harriet in tow.

It is a matter wholly immaterial to me whether the House at Wheatland be painted this Autumn or next Spring. After consulting Miss Hetty, adopt the one course or the other as may be deemed best. I desire that her wishes should be consulted as she will have the responsibility of seeing that the work is well done.

Most heartily do I wish Kate health, prosperity & happiness in her marriage with Mr. Landis. He has secured a prize & I trust he may prove himself worthy

[Page Break]

of it. I am truly glad to learn from you that he is so far as you know unexceptionable & have no doubt will secure her happiness. Please to remember me to her in the kindest manner & give my best regards to your sisters & Samuel.

I am sorry to learn that a County ticket is to be settled for Lancaster County. This will prove to be a new hoop for the Whig barrel after it had begun to fall in pieces.

I have much to do to day preparatory to my departure & must, therefore, cut my letter short.

Please to remember me to Eskridge, Sanderson, Swar, H. M. Reigart, Kantz & all the rest & believe me to be always truly your friend.

James Buchanan

James L Reynolds Esq

Legation of the United States,

London 9 March 1855.

My dear Sir,

Long looked for come at last - Yours
without date received by the last Steamer was
a welcome stranger. And although I have
but little time to answer it to day; yet I must
not deny it the welcome due to a stranger. I
sincerely hope that your anticipations may have been
verified by the result that I may receive by
the next Steamer the agreeable news that Cambrin
has been defeated. I still, however, doubt.

I do not participate in your opinion
concerning the Know Nothings: It is impossible that
such an organization can long maintain its
ascendancy in our free & happy Country. It may

in the mean time do much injury, though its fall
cannot be long delayed. My advisers from Virginia
speak with ^{much} confidence of Wise's election; & so must
it be!

I do not like a dividend of stock by
the Michigan C.R.R. Company; & yet I shall
have much confidence in the concern. It must be
better managed & by the next steamer I intend
to write to Boston on the subject.

I desire to pay Edward off as soon as
funds may be in your hands.

The death of the Emperor Nicholas & the
peaceful accession of Alexander are great events.
It was at first believed that they were the harbingers
of peace & then the stocks rose. Afterwards
opinions changed & then stocks fell. I have

not time to give you my opinion. I shall not
be astonished if Louis Napoleon should be the
obstacle in the way of peace. Having sent such
a magnificent army to the Crimea, he's safely
required that it should return with glory. England
keeps quite ~~is quite~~ a secondary part. Louis Napoleon will,
I believe go to the Crimea *in person*, notwithstanding
the earnest appeals of the B. Govt against the
proceeding.

My time is out. I shall write you at
much greater length in answer to your announcing
Cameron's defeat. Remember me most kindly to
all my friends & especially to your sisters.

James L Reynolds,

from your friend
as ever

James Buchanan

P.S. When I get the stamps from N.Y. I shall send
you English papers.

Legation of the United States,
London 9 March 1855

My dear Sir/

"Long looked for come at last" - Yours without date received by the last Steamer was a welcome stranger. And although I have but little time to answer it to day; yet I must not deny it the welcome due to a stranger. I sincerely hope that your anticipations may have been verified by the result & that I may receive by the next Steamer the agreeable news that Cameron has been defeated. I still, however, doubt.

I do not participate in your opinion concerning the Know Nothings. It is impossible that such an organization can long maintain its ascendancy in our free & happy Country. It may

[Page Break]

in the mean time do much injury, though its fall cannot be long delayed. My advices from Virginia speak with much confidence of Wise's election: & so mote it be!

I do not like a dividend of stock by the Michigan C. R. R. Company; & yet I still have much confidence in the concern. It must be better managed & by the next Steamer I intend to write to Boston on the subject.

I desire to pay Edward off as soon as funds may be in your hands.

The death of the Emperor Nicholas & the peaceful accession of Alexander are great events. It was at first believed that they were the harbingers of peace & then the stocks rose. Afterwards opinions changed & then stocks fall. I have

[Page Break]

not time to give you my opinion. I shall not be astonished if Louis Napoleon should be the obstacle in the way of peace. Having sent such a magnificent army to the Crimea, his safety requires that it should return with glory. England ~~is quite~~ plays quite a secondary part. Louis Napoleon will, I believe go to the Crimea in person, notwithstanding the earnest appeals of the B. Govt againat the proceeding.

My time is out. I shall write you at much greater length in answer to your announcing Camerons defeat. Remember me most kindly to all my friends & especially to your sisters.

from your friend
as ever
James Buchanan

James L Reynolds.

P. S. When I get the stamps from N.Y. I shall send you English papers.

Legation of the United States,

London 23 March 1855.

My dear Sir,

Greatly to my relief, Mr. Appleton arrived here on Monday last. I shall now, I doubt not, have an easier time of it during the remainder of my term.

I have not seen the new Diplomatic & Consular Law; but from what Mr. Appleton tells me of it, I shall be worse by ^{just} \$1000 under it than I would have been under the old. This arises from the fact that it will not go into operation until the first of July, & for the quarter between that day & the first of October, I shall have to pay out of my own pocket the contingent expenses of the mission amounting for the quarter to \$750, whilst deprived of the infu equal to three months salary.

I would thank you, therefore, on or before the first
day of May, to deposit to my credit with Messrs
Reggs & Co of Washington City, ^{& immediately inform me of it} the sum of \$1000.
This will be more convenient both for you & myself
than to purchase another Bill. I can draw upon
them from London & I have already some money
in their hands.

I desire to make an enquiry of you, in the
strictest confidence. Is there any thing wrong with
Esbridge? It is so very long since I have heard
from him, that I have become quite uneasy: & upon
enquiry I find that his sister has not heard from
him since by a letter dated in January.

I do most devoutly hope that my apprehensions
are without foundation. & there is no foundation for
them except his long silence.

It is impossible to predict the result of the
Vienna Conference. The war has been so woefully
misconducted by the governing class, ^{of this Country} as greatly to
shake their prestige in the opinion of the people.
Thus class is extremely anxious for peace; whilst
the British people, mortified at the disasters in the
Crimea, insist that Sebastopol shall first be taken.
Louis Napoleon is of the same opinion. Indeed, it
might cost him his empire, after sending such a
magnificent army to the Crimea, to withdraw it,
without some splendid exploit to dazzle the French people.
Thus, I think, will prove to be the "kitch". The capture
of Sebastopol might render peace easy. It is certainly the
interest of the Czar, under existing circumstances, to make peace
"bede his time". He cannot, however, with honor consent to demolish
the fortifications of Sebastopol himself.

With my kind remembrance to all friends, I remain as ever
Your friend

James L. Reynolds Esq. James Buchanan

Legation of the United States,
London 23 March 1855.

My dear Sir/

Greatly to my relief, Mr. Appleton arrived here on Monday last. I shall now, I doubt not, have an easier time of it during the remainder of my term.

I have not seen the new Diplomatic & Consular Law; but from what Mr. Appleton tells me of it, I shall be worse by just \$1000 under it than I wuld have been under the old. This arises from the fact that it will not go into operation until the first of July, & for the quarter between that day & the first of Octobers I shall have to pay out of my pocket the contingent expenses of the Mission amounting for the quarter to \$750, whilst deprived of the infit equal to three months salary.

[Page Break]

I would thank you, therefore, on or before the first day of May, to deposit to my credit with Messrs Riggs & Co of Washington City & immediately inform me of it the sum of \$1000. This will be more convenient both for you & myself than to purchase another Bill. I can draw upon them from London & I have already some money in their hands.

I desire to make an inquiry of you, in the strictest confidence, Is there any thing wrong with Eskridge? It is so very long since I have heard from him, that I have become quite uneasy: & upon inquiry I find that his sister has not heard from him since by a letter dated in January.

I do most devoutly hope that my apprehensions are without foundation & there is no foundation for them except his long silence.

[Page Break]

It is impossible to predict the result of the Vienna Conference. The war has been so wofully misconducted by the governing class of this Country as greatly to shake their prestige in the opinion of the people. This class is extremely anxious for peace; whilst the British people, mortified at the disasters in the Crimea, insist that Sebastopol shall first be taken. Louis Napoleon is of the same opinion. Indeed, it might cost him his empire, after sending such a magnificent army to the Crimea, to withdraw it, without some splendid exploit to dazzle the French people. This, I think, will prove to be the "hitch". The capture of Sebastopol might render peace easy. It is certainly the interest of the Czar, under existing ciroumstances to make peace & "bide his time". He cannot, however, with honor consent to demolish the fortresses of Sebastopol himself.

With my kind remembrance to all friends, I remain as ever

your friend
James Buchanan

James. L. Reynolds Esquire

Legation of the United States,

London, 15th February 1856.

My dear Sir,

After long & vain entreaties
my successor has been appointed & Mr. Dallas
is expected here at the end of the month. I
shall receive him & treat him courteously. After
this I shall determine whether to return home
immediately or pass a few weeks on the continent
& return early in April. Should I not be home
on the 1st I shall want \$3500 deposited with
Riggs & Co, by the middle of April but about this
I shall write hereafter.

Governor Bigler has written me such a
letter as you perhaps have scarcely ever read.

Several mutual friends had informed me he would
write & begged me to meet his advances. I had
much to forgive; but under all the circumstances,
I deemed it best to hold out no longer. I,
therefore, wrote to him on Wednesday last &
met his overtures in a frank & forgiving spirit.
When you resolve to do such a thing, you ought
to do it handsomely. I have, therefore, said to
him that I would meet him as though no
estrangement had ever existed between us & it
should not be my fault if we would not remain
friends as long as we both may live.

Will the 4th March Convention is at hand
& I hope it may pass off, properly & in a good
spirit. If my friends expect success, they must


Select able & true Delegates to the National Convention. Thus far I have kept myself entirely free from the contest. Both my principles & my feelings dictated this course. Should I ever be President, about which I care but little, I shall go into office unpledged & uncommitted to any human being. Indeed this is taken for granted in all the numerous letters I have received on the subject.

There is one consolation which I value more than the honor of being President; & that is that the Democracy of my beloved State have remained faithful & true to me to the last. They have not deserted me in my age & grey hairs. May God forever bless them!

I have yet much to do before the Bag closes
& I send this by Mail.

With my kindest regards to Esbridge Swann
Sanderson & the rest, I remain always gratefully

A truly your friend

James L Reynolds Esq.  James Buchanan

Legation of the United States,
London 15th. February 1856

My dear Sir/

After long & vain entreaties my successor has been appointed & Mr. Dallas is expected here at the end of the month. I shall receive him & treat him courteously. After this I shall determine whether to return home immediately or pass a few weeks on the continent & return early in April. Should I not be home on the 1st. I shall want \$3500 deposited with Riggs & Co. by the middle of April but about this I shall write hereafter.

Governor Bigler has written me such a letter an you perhaps have scarcely ever read.

[Page Break]

Several mutual friends had informed me he would write & begged me to meet his advances. I had much to forgive; but under all the circumstances, I deemed it best to hold out no longer. I, therefore, wrote to him on Wednesday last & met his overtures in a frank and forgiving spirit. When you resolve to do such a thing you ought to do it handsomely. I have, therefore, said to him that I would meet him as though no estrangement had ever existed between us & it should not be my fault if we would not remain friends as long as we both may live.

Well the 4th. March Convention is at hand & I hope it may pass off properly & in a good spirit. If my friends expect success, they must

[Page Break]

select able & true Delegates to the National Convention. Thus far I have kept myself entirely free from the contest. Both my principles & my feelings dictated this course. Should I ever be President, about which I care but little, I shall go into office unpledged & uncommitted to any human being. Indeed this is taken for granted in all the numerous letters I have received on the subject.

There is one consolation which I value more than the honor of being President; & that is that the Democracy of my beloved State have remained faithful & true to me to the last. They have not deserted me in my age & grey hairs. May God forever keep them!

[Page Break]

I have yet much to do before the Bag closes & I send this by mail.

With my kindest regards to Eskridge Swarr Sanderson & the rest, I remain always gratefully

& truly your friend
James Buchanan

James L. Reynolds Esq