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**Title:** Letter from James Buchanan to John Reynolds

**Date:** 1827-1842

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#### **Contact:**

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Sear Suit I shall enclose to you a report made to the Flower of Perfusionalives by the Secretary of the Navy whom the subject of water rotted hemp which I thenh you ought to publish. As I have laken a great deal of trouble in this matter I would thank you to member my name as the member on where motion the resolution was adopted which gave both to the report.

Mr. Adam From of Salisbury Township furnished between 7 & 8 cut of hump numbered by the Commissioners of the navy of the person at whose instance they

agreed to make the purchase was myself. It is somewhat strunge they did not

mention my name, you may do so, together with that of all. Hoar it you think

proper.

I was of the Sachson dinner yesterday I have a bad head acke this mining: of which I suppose you can readed conjecture the cause. It paper of one well. Indigning from the news we have from every quarter, the Suidenteal contest is ended-unlift some cause should ause to produce a se-action. It is now by no means contain that Mr. Adams well receive the entire note of New England.

The administration over Seemed to be in a state of dispondency until a ray of hope bust upon them zesteday from Pennylvania. The proceedings of the Adams Familiary convention has had a visible effect upon their

Species. It was well calculated to have an imposing effect abroad. A word for your private car. Suchson will containly be elected, but it will be by a party which has no common bond of Union but his name: & Opposition to the administration. It will probably fall to pieces a short time after the Puridential election; and then "the Swil take the hindmost". Our only danger is that we have got strong too soon - I may act infundently during the present Separi. Colorel Diagton went a great length in debate on ellowday last, without the least cause. To got up are excelement on the slave question al present would be to play wito the hands of our enemies in Tenny leaves. I Shall frewent it if possible. I believe the best interests of the Country require that Mr. Adams should not be re-clocked; get I think we may calculate upon storms foliused toping for a few years to come. I have to present my best respects to all injuries fruits not fagetting At ellontyomery. I my most respectful complements to elen Reynolds & believe me to be your venere freend. John Regnolder Esq Junes Suchanan the contest is ended - until your cause thought and to have

### Washington 9 January 1827

Dear Sir/

I shall enclose to you a report made to the House of Representatives by the Secretary of the Navy upon the subject of water rotted hemp which think you ought to publish. As I have taken a great deal of trouble in this matter I would thank you to mention my name as the member on whose motion the resolution was adopted which gave birth to the report. Mr. Adam Hoar of Salisbury Township furnished between 7 & 8 cwt. of hemp mentioned by the commissioners of the navy & the person at whose instance they agreed to make the purchase was myself. It is somewhat strange they did not mention my name. You may do so, together with that of Mr. Hoar if you think proper.

I was at the Jackson dinner yesterday & have a bad head ache this morning: of which I suppose you can readily conjecture the cause. It passed off very well. Judging from the news we have from every quarter, the Presidential contest is ended - unless some cause should arise to produce a re-action. It is now by no means certain that Mr. Adams will receive the entire vote of New England.

The administration men seemed to be in a state of despondency - until a ray of hope burst upon then yesterday from Pennsylvania, The proceedings of the Adams Harrisburg convention has had a visible effect upon their

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spirits. It was will calculated to have an imposing effect abroad.

A word for your private ear. Jackson will certainly be elected, but it will be by a party which has no common bond of union but his name: & [two words illegible] opposition to the administration. It will probably fall to pieces a short time after the Presidential election: - and then "the Devil take the hindmost". Our only present danger is that we have got strong too soon - & may act imprudently during the present Session. Colonel Drayton went a great length in debate on Monday last, without the least cause. To get up an excitement on the Slave question at present would be to play into the hands of our enemies in Pennsylvania. I shall prevent it if possible. I believe the best interests of the country require that Mr. Adams should not be re-elected; yet I think we may calculate upon stormy political times for a few years to come.

Please to present by best respects to all enquiring friends not forgetting Mr. Montgomery - & my most respectful compliments to Mrs. Reynolds & believe me to be your sincere friend.

James Buchanan

John Reynolds Esq

Washington 23 March 1832 Dear Sie I arrived here yesterday morning after a pleasant L speedy journey from Lancaster. Richard himself again. I had no idea of should feel so much in leaving Lancastes. I am better satisfied with my mission the more of know of it. I met Commodore Morres yesterday at dennie at the Presidents. He spoke on the very highest terms of William I said his wife had become so much interested in him, that she wanted to invote him to their house during the very cold weather I relieve him from duty but the Commodore would not consent. He vays the Boxen well louch at the Coast of Africa - L the northern Coast of Brazil I meet the Ocabeh at Ris Janeiro. The will then sail for the Falhlando. In the openion of the Commodore it is The very eninge we The friends of wom ought to have discred. He will return a scamaw. I shall hope to hear from you wi Philadelphia where I expect to arrive on Thursday next. Remember me to Mr. Regnotes der Raymahen & one other friends. In said haste your sinearily James Suchavair John Regardes Eg.

#### Washington 23 March 1832

Dear Sir/

I arrived here yesterday morning after a pleasant & speedy journey from Lancaster. "Richard's himself again." I had no idea I should feel so much in leaving Lancaster. I am better satisfied with my mission the more I know of it.

I met Commodore Morris yesterday at dinner at the Presidents. He spoke in the very highest terms of William & said his wife had become so much interested in him, that she wanted to invite him to their house during the very cold weather & relive him from duty but the Commodore would not consent. He says the Bosen will touch the Coast of Africa - & the northern Coast of Brazil & meet the [one word illegible] at Rio Janeiro. She will then sail for the Falklands. In the opinion of the Commodore it is the very cruize we the friends of Wm. ought to have desired. He will return a seaman.

I shall hope to hear from you in Philadelphia where I expect to arrive on Thursday next. Remember me to Mr. Reynolds Mr. Slaymaker and any other friends.

In great haste Yours sincerely James Buchanan

John Reynolds Esq

Dear Sir /

yours of the 3 Sune arrived here on the 30 . Suly . I

have not get received any Newspapers through the Department of State. with the expertion of a few sent to me by friends in wefsels sailing direct from that to this tely, I have received more since my arrival. I have taken such means to correct this evil as I have no doubt will be effectual. The greatest heat which could now be offered me would be a fele of the Lancaster Sournal for the last four months.

I fear from your letter that It. Senrose has not been as allentive as I had expected to my businiff in Cumberland. He should have given you the earliest notice of the time at which the admor intended to sile . W. Ramses proporty in that County mot bound by my mortgage . Upon these , vales the securely of my debt defended, I care ought to have been latters to prevents a sacrifice of the property. - There was one small Judgment in Perry, before my mortgage; but ell'ell'Intero had made an arrangement with the owner of the motor of the surent him from interfering with my mortgage. Without this, if the Berry Institute, has been got of the Sudgments in Cumberland wither with you or ell.

Penroso, with remarks as to which of these had been paid.

If with the lost of the interest of \$1000 of the principal of this debt, I could make the remainder absolutely seems I would be satisfied. I confu full power on the Doctor & yourself to do with it as if it were your own. I hope you may be able to secure the whole of it. I was fully under the improfision I could have done is when I left the Country).

I think it will be in my power to and you & \$2000 or propolly \$2500

before the first of April next to pay afist in paying for the house, I will of course transmit it by a Bill of Eychange. If I should be able to do this, I ellefor Reigast & Raymaha wile reduce their dett to \$3000 as I suggested in my last, you will have but little difficulty in making the payment.

The Summer here still continues cold of wet. Such a season has not been experienced by the statest inhabitants. It has however been health, of whilst other portions of Europe are suffering with the cholera we have been exempted from this dreadful sounge. I fear that one this, it has reached our happy country.

Menghaned for home. But Country I the institutions are wellout any thing the a parallel on the face of the earth. Would that we were justly somithe of our our happenist of the before we enjoy over all other nations! The situation of a foreign minister from our Country although it may be an object of ambilian to many, coloring cannot promote the happenist of the succeptul candidate. I would nother my own part occupy a seat on the Sonale or we the House. I say this not from despondency, for that assult be welfare tearns but swift, from the circumstance that a man. devoted to few principles tearns to happen the from the standard to the happen that a sould be welfare to me the standard to few principles that a man. devoted to few principles tearns to happen in the medit of Stanony.

In far as it regards my own person I shall not drep so as not to compro and the Republican Simpleals of my Country. Four my equipage I have in a manner no control. I must submet to the established custom or forfeel many of the most epenhal provileges of a foreign minister. If I were to nive through the Sheets of Lancarles in the same stife I do here, I should soon have a most of moment of children in my hair. I must drive four horses; otherwise I could not go to Court. My driver like the rest is a Rupean with a long

flowing black beard, drefsed in the Juculiar costima of his Country. There is a postilion on the leader; but what is the most rediculous of all is the Chapseur who stands behind. He is deched out in his uniform mongandily than that of our militia Generals with a sword by his side I a large chapean on his head surmounted by a plume of feathers. It is this dup which constitutes the paculiar badge of a foreign minister. It is to this they are known & se other persons have no right to away their servants in similar Ityle. The voldiers at their stations present arms to the carriage, on the sheet they take off their hats to it, I it is every where acceived with so much defuence, that I feel askamed of myself whenever I haf through the lely. It is sidiculous fluresney. How Harry would be pleased to rede in this Hyle! And how I should be delighted to have him with me for a week to give me the news! I expected he would have written me the this; but except from yourself I have not received a line from Lancaster. What a dience I was not to have learned the German language! would have been almost as unful to me here as the French. I now u -dersland the latter toterably well; but it well be long before I shall speak it fluently. When you write, do not was any thing which would be offensive to this Government. They no not very delicate about spening letters here. I we write fully when all offer subjects had better perhaps give this caution to my other friends. We can vend out what we please by American Captains, but every thing which comes in must haps through the Post office. I have every reason to be pleased with the Conduct of Court Nepelsode to this Good ne of to think that I am quite acceptable as a minister. I still have good reason to hope I shall be successful al . If Heaven should crown me offals with success, it will be against difficulties of a farmedable character.

Remember me to all my friends, I have not space left to enumerate them. They live in any heart of my affections, of the happut day of my life will be that on which, with the bliping of Inovidence of Shall meet them all again. Ever your friend Semes Buchanan

Dear Sir/

Yours of the 3d June arrived here on the 30th. July. I have not yet received any newspapers through the Department of State. With the exception of a few sent to me by friends at New York in vessels sailing direct from that to-this City, I have received none since my arrival. I have taken such means to correct this evil as I have no doubt will be effectual. The greatest treat which could now be offered me would be a file of the Lancaster Journal for the last four months.

I fear from your letter that Mr. Penrose has not been as attentive as I had expected to my business in Cumberland. He should have given you the earliest notice of the time at which the admor intended to sell Mr. Ramseys property in that County not bound by my mortgage. Upon these sales the security of my debt depended, & care ought to have been taken to prevent a sacrifice of the property. - There was one small Judgement in Perry, before my mortgage; but Mr. M'Intyre had made an arrangement with the owner of it to prevent him from interfering with my mortgage. Without this, if the Perry property covered by the mortgage first has been sold, I might lose the amount of this prior Judgement.

I left a list of the Judgements in Cumberland either with you or Mr. Penrose, with remarks as to which of them had been paid.

If with the loss of the interest of \$1000 of the principal of this debt, I could make the remainder absolutely secure I would be satisfied. I confer full power on the Doctor & yourself to do with it as if it were your own. I hope you may be able to secure the whole of it. I was fully under the impression I could have done so when I left the country.

I think it will be in my power to send you to \$2000 or possibly \$2500

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before the first of April next to pay assist in paying for the house. I will of course transmit it by a Bill of Exchange. If I should be able to do this, & Messrs. Reigart & Slaymaker will reduce their debt to \$5000 as I suggested in my last, you will have but little difficulty in making the payment.

The summer here still continues cold & wet. Such a season has not been experienced by the oldest inhabitants. It has however been healthy, & whilst other portions of Europe are suffering with the cholera we have been exempted from this dreadful scourge. I fear that ere this, it has reached our happy country.

No American of good feelings can visit any part of Europe without having his attachment strengthened for home. Our country & its institutions are without any thing like a parallel on the face of the earth. Would that we were justly sensible of our own happiness & the blessings we enjoy over all other nations! The situation of a foreign minister from our country although it may be an object of ambition to many, certainly cannot promote the happiness of the successful candidate. I would rather much rather for my own part occupy a seat in the Senate or in the House. I say this not from despondency, for that would be without reason; but simply from the circumstance that a man devoted to free principles cannot be happy in the midst of slavery.

So far as it regards my own person I shall not dress so as not to conpromit the Republican simplicity of my country. Over my equipage I have in a manner no control, I must submit to the established custom or forfeit many of the most essential privileges of a foreign minister. If I

were to drive through the streets of Lancaster in the same style I do here, I should soon have a mob of men women & children in my train. I must drive four horses; otherwise I could not go to Court. My driver like the rest is a Russian with a long

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flowing black beard, dressed in the peculiar costume of his country. There is a position on the leader; but what is most ridiculous of all is the Chasseur who stands behind. He is decked out in his uniform more gaudy than that of our Militia Generals with a sword by his side & a large chapeau on his head surmounted by a plume of feathers. It is this dress which constitutes the peculiar badge of a foreign minister. It is by this they are known & no other persons have no right to array their servants in similar style. The soldiers at their stations present arms to the carriages on the street they take off their hats to it, & it is every where received with so much deference, that I feel ashamed of myself whenever I pass through the City. It is ridiculous flummery. How Harry would be pleased to ride in this style! And how I should be delighted to have him with me for a week to give me the news! I expected he would have written me ere this; but except from yourself I have not received a line from Lancaster.

What a dunce I was not to have learned the German language! It would have been almost as useful to me here as the French. I now understand the latter tolerably well; but it will be long before I shall speak it fluently.

When you writes do not say anything which would be offensive to this Government. They are not very delicate about opening letters here. You had better perhaps give this caution to my other friends. Write freely upon all other subjects We can send out what we please by American Captains, but every thing which comes in must pass through the Post Office.

I have every reason to be pleased with the conduct of Count Nesselrode towards me & to think that I am quite acceptable to this Govt as a minister. I still have good reason to hope I shall be successful. If Heaven should crown my efforts with success, it will be against difficulties of a formidable character.

Remember me to all my friends. I have not space left to enumerate them. They live in my heart & my affections; & the happiest day of my life will be that on which, with the blessing of Providence I shall meet them all again.

Ever your friend James Buchanan

John Reynolds, Esq.

Although literally fagged out, having been who lile after 2.0' Clock for several nights I must snatch time before Sancarte that I am well. Thank God, I concluded the Freak on Tuesday last with Count Nepselsode which our Government have been anywais to obtain for the last livertly years. The difficulties which I had to encounter were very great tal one time I had lost all hope; but that good Thoridence which has always throughout my life made the sun shine to succeed with success the cloud has crowned my efforts. There were some visidents in the course of the negotialion of a very extraordinary nature which however ought not I will not be published for the present. I need not say to you that in accomplishing this perfere so long desired by our Government neether the dignite now the honor of our country was in the slightest degree survivied in my person. Rupe a has no such treats with any other communical nation, - I am gradually I think becoming a famile among this extraordinary people; though I am too much of a Republican ever to be pleased with a residence in this Country. At the tale feter at Court which I was obliged to attend very much against my own feelings on account of the mulanchely death of my butter I was noticed in a special manner both by the Emperor & Empers. This was somesting in a coul, the members of which observe every was I every motion of His Majesty almost as if he were a Deventy. I see now have the jostful and expense

which I hope may be realised of some more seeing the show of my native land in the course of the next wenter. I need not caution you to keep the conclusion of the Treats, except among a few If my most confidential friend, a profound secret until it shall be published at Washington I coun there all that relates to the circumstances allending it.

It is so very long since I have heard from Lancastic that I am becomes quite uneary. Had it not been for the letter from M. Maymaker How from ellep Hubby of the date of the 28 Sep I should have been almost we despair. If you know my anguely you would take the trouble of writing me a few lines at least once a month. I confil I have had some hand thoughts of Sample, Novis & Montyoners on whom I depended for information. I have in consequence of their neglect ofuned a correspondence with other persons; but until this day you of Eardner Jumps are the only present in the lity on County of Lancaster from whom I have received letters. I am happy to day that my friends in other places have left there promises better. thatile this day I do not know even who was our candidated for Congress in Lauratio County. We have had good news Concerning the Presidente al election from Pad N. York. The communication between New York L this City is very regular I the time generally does not exceed that five days - sometimes several days sooner.

Has Me Plane to haid the Bond? Is Ramseys affair settled? I fein I shall not be able to send you any money, except the proceed if the two drafts on Mayor Barry; but shall get try. I am now pleased with your purchase.

I must despatch W. Clay to day so that he may leave Liverpool by the hacket of the 8th of January in fine for the Treaty to be submitted to the Senate.

Give my hundert respects to Novis Montgomery L Sample I lette them I remember them more in sorrow of in freends het than in anga. Remesorber me to cl. Jonhin I family - the two M. Slas maken Lall my Harry I all my other Jundo . Tell me something about William. Give my hundert Whet to My Regnotes - you mother & Sister & believe one could be your friend I to have my heart fixed we Lancaster Imas Buchanan

John Rynolds Eng

P.S. I shall give you il. Clay a letter to you home to G. S. Maya Eng, the has promised me to spend a day or two in Lancaster. luco to percent. there so the lonor

#### Dear Sir/

Although literally fagged out, having been up till, after 2 o'clock for several nights I must snatch time before the departure of Mr. Clay to inform you & my other friends in Lancaster that I am well. Thank God, I concluded the Treaty of Commerce on Tuesday last with Count Nesselrode which our Government have been anxious to obtain for the last twenty years. The difficulties which I had to encounter were very great & at one time I had lost all hope; but that good Providence which has always throughout my life made the sun shine to succeed the cloud has crowned my efforts with success. There were some incidents in the course of the negotiation of a very extraordinary nature which however ought not & will not be published for the present. I need not say to you that in accomplishing this purpose so long desired by our Government neither the dignity nor the honor of our country was in the slightest degree sacrificed in my person. Russia has no such treaty with any other commercial nation. - I am gradually I think becoming a favorite among this extraordinary people; though I am too much of a Republican ever to be pleased with a residence in this Country. At the late fêtes at Court which I was obliged to attend. very much against my own feelings on account of the melancholy death of my brother I was noticed in a special manner both by the Emperor & Empress. This was something in a court, the members of which observe every word & every notion of His Majesty almost as if he were a Divinity. I ha now have the joyful anticipation

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which I hope may be realised of once more seeing the shores of my native land in the course of the next winter. I need not caution you to keep the conclusion of the Treaty, except among a few of my most confidential friends, a profound secret until it shall be published at Washington & even then all that relates to the circumstances attending it.

It is so very long since I have heard from Lancaster that I am becoming quite uneasy. Had it not been for the letter from Mr. Slaymaker & one from Miss Hubley of the date of the 28 Sep I should have been almost in despair. If you knew my anxiety you would take the trouble of writing me a few lines at least once a month. I confess I have had some hard thoughts of Sample, Norris & Montgomery on whom I depended for information. I have in consequence of their neglect opened a correspondence with other persons; but until this day you & Gardner Furness are the only persons gentlemen in the City or County of Lancaster from whom I have received letters. I am happy to say that my friends in other places have kept their promises better. Until this day I do not know even who was the was our candidate for Congress in Lancaster County. We have had good news concerning the Presidential election from Pa & N. York. The communication between New York & this city is very regular & the time generally does not exceed thirty five days - sometimes several days sooner.

Has Mr. Kline Jr. paid the Bond? Is Ramseys affair settled? I fear I shall not be able to send you any money, except the proceeds of the two drafts on Mayor Barry; but shall yet try. I am now pleased with your purchase.

I must despatch Mr. Clay to day so that he may leave Liverpool by the packet of 8th of January & be in time for the Treaty to be submitted to the Senate.

Give my kindest respects to Norris Montgomery & Sample & tell them I remember them more in sorrow & in friendship than in anger. Remember me to Mr. Jenkins & family the two Mrs. Slaymakers & all my, Harry & all my other friends. Tell me something about William.

Give my kindest respects to Mr. Reynolds your mother & sister & believe me ever to be your friend & to have my heart fixed in Lancaster

James Buchanan

John Reynolds Esq.-

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P. S. I shall give Mr. Clay a letter to you & one to G. L. Mayor Esq. He has promised me to spend a day or two in Lancaster.

My dear Su / Petersburg 3 July 1833. I wrote to you on the 22 May last in answer to yours by W. Clay . On the 24 June I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 26 April. - On Saturday Past Groups, readordon the Hamburg Reporter wie South wo had news from New York of tile the 1. of June . . For Randolph is dead at tast. all his faulle will now be forgotten, I his ments well be blazoned forth through soul the United States. The death of washington Hopkins has made a strong infression upon mo. How many of my friends & acquaintances shall I mis from the social circle after an absence of lefs than two strol years! For Wager! I have fearful forebadings of his fale. God grant thes may not be realised. Truly this is not our abeding place. I need scarcely say What I approve entirely of this manner in which you & the Toctor have managed my private concerns. It always affords me pleasure to hear of the health of prosperily of your Son Welliam. I hust be is distined to be an ornament to the Mary I a comfort to his family. I returned from Moscow on the 24 witimo after an absence of three weeks. It was truly an interesting excursion. Petersburg is a comopolite city but at Moscow you see Rufsia. I shall not fourtall myself by allemping to give your use account of my havils. I have taken notes;

but faith Ill - not print them. Whilst at Moseon, I made a fil = greniage to the Shrine of f. Sierge at the distance of 40 miles form found I returning I suppose we met to thousand fellow pelgrenis. They were threefy of the fair day & nearly all on foot. This shrine is at the monasters of Troitse - a son place famous in Rupian history. It was a convent, a palace & a fortification at the same time. There the family of the czans have often found refuge. In paping round the top of the walls with the archimandule (which are about I mile & /4 in circumference) he said in a love of brumph L of national antipaths - that they more had been taken by the Toles. I have never seen a man who had so much Christian benevolence we his countinance to his flowing beard det off his appearance to advantage. On lating leave he presented me with a consecrated prelue of It Surge, & from him I submitted to the speration of being heped girst on the right check, there on the life - I finally plump on the mouth. It is the general custom among the nations. I forgot to mention that The prois Catharine after seizing ale the land I the present of this monastery for the use of the crown made a fulgresnage on fost from Moscou to the Shrine of F. Singe . God I do not get perior preciole when I shall be able to leave how? but I but I believe it well not be take those the 10 . of August . In the mean time I hope you will not fail to write as all. Vail well

The conspercies which has been firmed by a number of Poles has to apapenate the Empern has treated no lettle ancessary in the P.S. I when to calebrate the 4th homorrow by swing a denner to all the respectable americans now have.

Send your letters to me wherever I may be.

My dear Sir/

I wrote to you on the 22 May last in answer to yours by Mr. Clay. On the 24 June I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 26 April.- On Saturday last through the Hamburg Reporter via London we bad news from Now York via London up till the 1st of June!! Poor Randolph is dead at last. All his faults will now be forgotten, & his merits will be blazoned forth throughout the United States.

The death of Washington Hopkins has made a strong impression upon me. How many of my friends & acquaintances shall I miss from the social circle after an absence of less than two short years! Poor Wager! I have fearful forebodings of his fate. God grant they may not be realized. Truly this in not our abiding place.

I need scarcely say that I approve entirely of the manner in which you & the Doctor have managed my private concerns.

It always affords me pleasure to hear of the health & prosperity of your son William. I trust he is destined to be an ornament to the Navy & a comfort to his family.

I returned from Moscow on the 24 Ultimo after an absence of three weeks. It was truly an interesting excursion. Petersburg is a cosmopolite city but at Moscow you see Russia. I shall not forestall myself by attempting to give you an account of my travels. I have taken notes;

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but faith I'll – not print them, Whilst at Moscow, I made a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Sierge at the distance of 40 from miles. Going & returning I suppose we met ten thousand fellow pilgrims. They were chiefly of the fair sex & nearly all on foot. This shrine is at the Monastery of Troitza - a place famous in Russian history. It was a convent, a palace & a fortification at the same time. There the family of the Czars have often found refuge. In passing round on the top of the walls with the archimandrite, (which are about 1 mile & 1/4 in circumference) he said in a tone of triumph & of national antipathy, that they never had been taken by the Poles. I have never seen a man who had so much Christian benevolence in his countenance & his flowing beard set off his appearance to advantage. On taking leave he presented me with a consecrated picture of St. Sierge, & from him I submitted to the operation of being kissed first on the right cheek, then on the left - & finally plump on the mouth. It is the general custom among the natives I forgot to mention that the pious Catharine after seizing all the lands & the peasants of this monastery for the use of the crown made a Pilgrimage on foot from Moscow to the shrine of St. Sierge.

I do not yet know precisely when I shall be able to leave here but I trust & believe it will not be later than the 10th of August. In the meantime I hope you will not fail to write as Mr. Vail will send your letters to me wherever I may be.

The conspiracy which has been formed by a number of Poles to assassinate the Emperor has created a little uneasiness In this Capital. Alarm has been excited not only by on account of the veneration in which he is hold by his subjects; but by the apprehension which is felt in regard to his successor in power. The heir apparent is yet a minor. He possesses an amiable disposition, but not much talent nor firmness of character. The Grand Duke Michel who would be the regent is as much detested an his brother is respected. In case of a revolution here no foreigner would

be safe. Such is the lamentable condition of men under a despotism that the prosperity of 40.000.000 of people depend upon the life of a single man. Three of the conspirators have already been taken & every precaution is used. These Poles think they are playing the part of Scaevola. Their sufferings have driven them to desperation. It is said that many of the friends of the Emperor have urged him not to give the great fête of Peterkoff this year on account of the facilities it wd. afford to the conspirators. But he never shows the white feather. He says he will die when his time comes & if that in the day appointed he must submit to his fate. It will take place on the 1/13 of this month,

In regard to the Senate I confess I do not entertain very flattering hopes. The State administration will probably have sufficient power to elect M'Kean. If so, be it so. I am content. The question of Secession will be the touchstone of party for the next 20 years. It is in itself a harmless question, because when a State is ready to secede it will be ready to rebel. It will tend to destroy sectional parties which are always dangerous. It differs entirely from nullification; & is far from being so unreasonable.

Please to give my love to your family & the two Mrs. Slaymakers. Remember me to all my friends I have not room to enumerate them & believe to be ever yr friend

James Buchanan.

I do not think I shall want the house much before the 1st. of April; but do in all things as you please.

P. S. I intend to celebrate the 4th. tomorrow by giving a dinner to all respectable Americans now here.

[John Reynolds Esq]

Senate Chamber 22 February 1842

My desi In / welcomed the agreeable novelte which your lette presented. I receive oceans of letter from all markend, except my personal fuendo of un Lancaster. A ought to rejoice my heart that They are all do busy as not to find time to write.

The practises of his youth & often act when there. No person but me accurlemed in early life to hear good sound outhodox Indyterian Sermons could have devided a letter into such appropriate heads. as yourself. In uplying to you permet me to follow the same order. And First! Sames . M. Hophin's has not fear the interest due on the 1. December last. M. Lightner has paid me between 2 & 3 hundred dollars on account; and I shall need the balance much when I go to Lancartee about the last of March.

"Secondly". The impurcounts of man I especially of from masters, has risen to such a height of nature " that I am not aslowshed at then ignorance of my famer efforts in their favor. Hed they trusted to me I think that the necepary revenue duties might have been so framed as to give them sufficient protection. There effals are destroying themselves & execting the jealouse of the Southern

Representations & the Southern people. If you could in addition to are that his been done get the Legislature to instruct us to vote for "a protective tary" this would be the coup-de-grace. Thirdly! - In regard to the Incidences; - I have heard much of the plot against me & it may have some existence. I do not distrust Governor Porter. Seth Salisburg is, I believe, the great Contribute of it. Col: Johnston has about as much chance of receiving the momentum as I have of being elected Empera of China. The real contest would seem to be between Nan Buren & myself it if the Democracy of Penn would sustain me with an unbroken front I think my chances are fully equal if not superior to his. It! All Col: Johnstons efforts can only aid Nan Buren; & he would as leave help the D-C. Should there be the appearance of a serious devision in Tenn, I shall make my bow & retere. The question would show be sellled in 60 days: and under the flag of Nan Buren & the Sule Treasury, I fear we should again be bestern, Fourthly. I admit that a sound paper currency would be a very good thing; but I have not get found the hower we the Constitution to enable Congress to furnish A. I shall deligently Such after it I I should I delect it linking there, I shall drag it into day; because I feel sensible that we ought to do all we can to relieve the people in their present distrips.

I know nothing we regard to the Cop of the Seasoch expects what you have seen in the propers. Welliam is safe & I suppose this knowledge must satisfy you for the present.

I am glad to learn that Lucinda has done so well & that there is every prospect of her doing better. You fagot to lette me the result of the arbitration which I am anyrous to humo,

I have no comfact for the holders of Indiana Bonds except the conviction which I feel that all the fairly contracted debts of the States well finally be paid if the States are able : d'y not so much of theme, was one half, as they can offend to hay. But I hope to see you in Lancaster I then we shall lath over all there matters.

Clas has actuable resigned, his resignation not to late effect until the 31. March. This has been done to enable the Legislature of Rentucks to elect his succeptor before there adjournment.

Remember me huids to M. Resnolds I the family believe one ever to be sweened your fund I have been been been been been been been to be sweened your fund the legnolds & I have there are

My dear Sir/

I welcomed the agreeable novelty which your letter presented. I receive oceans of letters from all mankind, <u>except my personal friends of in Lancaster</u>. It ought to rejoice my heart that they are all so busy as not to find time to write.

A man as he grows old will, in spite of himself, remember the practices of his youth & often act upon them. No person but one accustomed in early life to hear good sound orthodox Presbyterian Sermons could have divided a letter into such appropriate heads as yourself. In replying to you permit me to follow the same order. "And First." James M. Hopkins has not paid the interest due on the 1st, December last. Mr. Lightner has paid me between 2 & 3 hundred dollars on account; and I shall need the balance much when I go to Lancaster about the last of March.

"Secondly". "The impercevity of man" & especially of Iron masters, "has risen to such a heigth of nature" that I am not astonished at their ignorance of my former efforts in their favor. Had they trusted to me I think that the necessary revenue duties might have been so framed as to give them sufficient protection. Their efforts are destroying themselves & exciting the jealousy of the Southern

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Representatives & the Southern people. If you could in addition to all that has been done get the Legislature to Instruct us to vote for a protective tariff," this would be the coup-de-grace.

"Thirdly". - In regard to the Presidency:- I have heard much of the plot against me in Penna & it may have some existence. I do not distrust Governor Porter. Seth Salisbury is, I believe, the great contriver of it. Col: Johnston, has about as much chance of receiving the nomination of the Nat Con: as I have of being elected Emperor of China. The real contest would seem to be between Van Buren & myself: & if the Democracy of Penna. would sustain me with an unbroken front I think my chances are fully equal if not superior to his. Col: All Col: Johnstons efforts can only aid Van Buren: & he would as leave help the D-C. Should there be even the appearance of a serious division in Penna, I shall make my bow & retire, The question would then be settled in 60 days: and under the flag of Van Buren & the Sub Treasury, I fear we should again be beaten.

"Fourthly." I admit that a sound paper currency would be a very good thing; but I have not yet found the power in the Constitution to enable Congress to furnish it. I shall diligently seek after it & I should I detect it lurking there, I shall drag it into day; because I feel sensible that we ought to do all we can to relieve the people in their present distress.

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I know nothing in regard to the loss of the Peacock except what you have seen in the papers. William is safe & I suppose this knowledge must satisfy you for the present.

I am glad to learn that Lucinda has done so well and that there is every prospect of her doing better. You forgot to tell me the result of the arbitration which I am anxious to know.

I have no comfort for the holders of Indiana Bonds except the conviction which I feel that all the fairly contracted debts of the States will finally be paid if the States are able: & if not so much of them, say one half, as they can afford to pay. But I hope to see you in Lancaster & then we shall talk over all these matters.

Clay has actually resigned, his resignation not to take effect until the 31st. March. This has been done to enable the Legislature of Kentucky to elect his successor before their adjournment.

Remember me kindly to Mrs. Reynolds & the family & believe me ever to be sincerely your friend

James Buchanan

John Reynolds Esq