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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Henry Shippen

Date: 1819-1838

Location: MC 1998.10

Contact:

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Dear Sir

175
Lancaster 10th March 1819.

very early!
I received your letter of the 17th February & have reflected upon its contents. The conclusion at which I have arrived is that I will not make the purchase nor have any thing to do with western lands however profitable to me they might be in the end. My reasons for this determination need not be repeated as they will readily occur to your own mind. It suffices it to say that I do not wish to entangle myself with any business distant from my profession nor ~~do I wish~~ to deprive myself of the use of what little money I make for the benefit either of myself or those who may come after me at a ^{distant} ~~future~~ day. Your proposition I think generous & I should be exceedingly surpris'd if you should find much difficulty in obtaining a purchaser.

As to Shanks suit; he is very impatient as non-suits have already been suffered by the plaintiffs in all the cases similar to his. Nothing however shall be done in it until after the time you propose visiting Lancaster.

Please to present my best respects to Mr. Shippen & believe me to be your sincere friend

Henry Shippen Esq

James Buchanan

Lancaster 10th. March 1819.

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Please to present my best respects to Mrs. Shippen & believe me to be your sincere friend,

James Buchanan

Henry Shippen Esq

Lancaster 22 July 1838.

My dear Sir /

I should have thanked you for your kind
letter before I left Washington; but the press of business & the
excessive heat of the weather prevented.

I was much pleased to hear of the marriage of Frances.
It struck me as a most suitable & proper match; & I am
confident that I can wish ^{her} no better fate ~~perhaps~~ than that
Mr. H. may make her as good a husband as she deserves.

I was very anxious that our friend Thompson should be
appointed a Judge in Iowa & felt assured that I could succeed
in obtaining him the appointment. After my first interview with
the President I found there was no hope. Why he should have
selected Williams to be a Judge I do not know until this
hour. It was without my consent & against my wishes. After
I found that I could not succeed with Thompson I applied

a strong preference for Mr. Elliot of Gettysburg over Williams. Thompson has not yet got over the ^{to} 4. March Convention of 1835; but let him persevere. He will recover from the effects of the mistake which he committed then & there before the end of another year. He fell with George Wolf; but he will rise with David R. Porter. I shall always give him a lift whenever it may be in my power.

I have been accustomed to witness many humbugs; but Governor Ritner's late proclamation exceeds them all. It has ever been the folly of the whig party to undurate the understandings of the people. In this instance the Governor has done himself a serious injury. Several of his former friends in this city & vicinity have deserted him since it made its appearance.

I am gratified that you were pleased with the speech which I made in favor of "the Resurrection note Bill". I did not believe it would have passed the House; but in this I was agreeably disappointed. Although a majority could not be obtained in the House in favor of the Sub-Treasury Bill, it had more votes in its favor than any other plan which was or could have been presented. I think I am not wrong when I say that a clear majority exists in both

Houses against a return to the Pet Bank system & giving the public
money to Banks ^{again on General Report} to be loaned out for their profits to individuals.
The Report Law of 1836 is now virtually at an end by its own
limitations. It expressly declared that no Banks should be employed
as Depositories under it who should, after the 4 July '36, issue or
pay out notes of a less denomination than five dollars; and there
are very few Banks in the Union which have not violated this
provision & forfeited their right to become Depositories. The divorce,
therefore, between the Government & the Banks, exists at this moment.
It is true that Bank notes of specie paying Banks of the denomination of
\$20 & upwards are receivable in payment of the public dues; but ~~they~~
~~are not required~~ no law requires them to ~~have~~ be deposited in Banks.
I presume that at some points where the security of the public money may
render it necessary, the Secretary of the Treasury may use the vaults of
the Bank as places of special deposit; but not otherwise. Of this,
however, I know nothing.

Please to remember me kindly to Mr. Shippen, The Doctor & Maria - &
Judge & Mr. Barlow. Present my best wishes to your son-in-law & daughter
I believe me ever to be sincerely your friend

Hon: Henry Shippen,

James Buchanan

Lancaster 22 July 1838

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