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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from James Buchanan to Daniel Sturgeon

**Date:** 1844-1849

**Location:** MC 1998.10

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3911  
Lancaster 12 November 1844.

My dear Sir,

I have just received yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst: & it gave me the first intimation that Jesse Mellei would be a Candidate for the U.S. Senate. I do not believe that he has any such intention. His location would not suit: & if he <sup>had</sup> thought of such a thing some of his Lancaster friends <sup>most probably</sup> would have heard of it.

So far as I can learn the Democrats <sup>in the East</sup> are generally friendly to your <sup>re</sup> election: and my own impression is that <sup>they</sup> will ~~be re-elected~~ <sup>support you</sup> unless it may be necessary to rally upon some other person to defeat Porter. This necessity can only be ~~known~~ <sup>known</sup> to exist, if it should exist at all, after the meeting of the Legislature. If the Western members should unite in your favor, there would probably be but little difficulty.

I expect to leave for Washington, via Philadelphia, early next week. If I should hear that Mellei is a Candidate I will inform you of it: and if you do not hear from me on that subject, you may conclude that your information is unfounded. In haste Ever yr. friend

Sincerely & respectfully

D. Sturgeon.

James Buchanan

Lancaster 12 November 1844

My dear Sir/

I have just received yours of the 9th. Instant: & it gave me the first intimation that Jesse Millet would be a candidate for the U. S. Senate. I do not believe that he has any such intention. His location would not suit: & if he had thought of such a thing some of his Lancaster friends would most probably have heard of it.

So far as I can learn the Democrats in the East are generally friendly to your reelection: and my own impression is that they will ~~be re-elected~~ support you unless it may be necessary to rally upon some other person to defeat Porter. This necessity can only be ~~exist~~ known to exist, if it should exist at all, after the meeting of the Legislature. If the Western members should unite in your favor, there would probably be but little difficulty.

I expect to leave for Washington, via Philadelphia, early next week. If I should hear that Miller is a candidate I will inform you of it: and if you do not hear from me on that subject you may conclude that your information is unfounded. In haste

Ever yr. friend  
Sincerely & respectfully  
James Buchanan

D. Sturgeon.

very fine 6000  
sold 1/2

Wheatland 24 December 1849.

My dear Sir /

I have received your very acceptable letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> Instant & deeply regret with you the state of feeling on the Slavery question at Washington. On this subject, the South have always been indiscreet & sometimes ungrateful towards their friends in the North; but when we consider that the lives & personal security of those they hold most dear are endangered by the incessant agitation of this question, we ought to make many allowances. This agitation to my knowledge has been incessantly kept up at the North & by Northern Members of Congress in every shape which ingenuity could devise for the last fifteen or sixteen years. At length it has reached the Slaves themselves & the alternative before the close of the Session may be the defeat of the Wilmot Proviso, (at all times a mere humbug except for the purpose of agitation) & the dissolution of the Union. Should this be the alternative, the Yankees themselves will be the first to back out.

It is not certain that I shall visit the South during the present winter; but I shall be in Washington, God willing, about the middle of January. Whether or when I shall publish a letter on the question of Slavery I have not yet determined. Should I perceive that such a letter would be likely to do good, it shall be forthcoming. I have reduced my views to writing; but they are in my own desk & may be modified according to events.

Two valued Democratic friends, Samuel Edwards & Samuel Seifer  
of Delaware County, have urged me to write to you in favor of  
the confirmation of Mr. Lewis, the Collector of the Port of Philadelphia.  
This I shall not do; because I know not how I would vote myself  
were I a member of the Senate. One thing is certain, that the  
Democratic party will gain nothing by his rejection. On the contrary,  
it will enable the President to appoint a more popular & a  
more proscriptive Whig in his place. But there may be good  
cause for his rejection, independently of party considerations & in  
that event it would not be proper to regard political consequences.

As a general rule the true policy appears to me to be to  
confirm the President's nominations, when the nominee is a man  
of good character & nothing can be alleged against him except  
that he is a Whig.

I shall rely upon your friendship to send me the important  
documents.

Hon: Daniel Sturgeon

from your friend  
very respectfully  
James Buchanan

Wheatland 24 December 1849

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