Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

Documents Online

Title: Letter from James Buchanan to James Tallmadge

Date: January 5, 1845

Location: MC 1998.10, B2, F9

Contact:

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

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Washington 5 Sancary 1845

ely de ar Sir j

I have delayed to answer your very

kend bellev until I could find tomo to read your address;
but I must delay no longer. I have kept a before me for
the purpose of giving it a careful perusal, as I have no doubt
the purpose of giving it a careful perusal, as I have no doubt
of sichly deserves; but my public engagements are so incepant,
that I have not yet enjoyed thus pleasure. The buth is That
that I have not yet enjoyed thus pleasure. The buth is That
my life is that of a gally slave. I have not read thirts
consecutive pages in any book since I came into the Department

I am greatly gratified by your approbation of my bregon correspondence. Laws est a to laudari. I endeavoued to conduct the negotiation with discretion as well as firmings. To conduct the negotiation with discretion as well as firmings. Constitutionally I despise all bluster. This is not an evidence of courage but of cowardice. To unite our Country we our our our fountry's cause has been my object. This is the best mode of Country's cause has been my object. This is the best mode of preserving please which every patriot must desire: I if is the best preparation for war shoulds thus be inevitable.

The number of falsehoods we regard to the Oregon question which are vent over the union from thes tity exceeds what I have ever witnessed in regard to any other public question. ell.

M'Sano never had any instructions to megation a Treaty on this subject. Although he propers eminent abelilies I the entire Confidence of the President, it was deemed the wisest to keep the Oregon negotiation on this side of the water.

It. Pakenham has never made to this Government any Insporition to compromise the question by establishing any line between the two Countries except that which was so promptly I properly that which was so promptly I properly rejected by ell. Calhouro. But all this is for yourself alone.

the state of the s

General James Tallmadga

from your friends very respectfully Sames Sheekan an

Private

Washington 5 January 1845

My dear Sir/

I have delayed to answer your very kind letter until I could find time to read your address; but I must delay no longer. I have kept it before me for the purpose of giving it a careful perusal, as I have no doubt it richly deserves; but my public engagements are so incessant that I have not yet enjoyed this pleasure. The truth is that my life is that of a galley slave. I have not read thirty consecutive pages in any book since I came into the Department of State.

I am greatly gratified by your approbation of my Oregon correspondence. Laus est a te laudari. I endeavored to conduct the negotiation with discretion as well as firmness. Constitutionally I despise all bluster. This is not an evidence of courage but of cowardice. To unite our Country in our Country's cause has been my object. This is the best mode of preserving peace which every patriot must desire: & it is the best preparation for war should this be inevitable.

The number of falsehoods in regard to the Oregon question which are sent over the Union from this city exceeds what I have ever witnessed in regard to any other public question. Mr.

[Page Break]

M'Lane never had any instructions to negotiate a Treaty on this subject. Although he possesses eminent abilities & the entire confidence of the President, it was deemed the wisest to keep the Oregon negotiation on this side of the water.

Mr. Pakenham has never made to this Government any proposition to compromise the question by establishing any line between the two countries except that which was so promptly & properly rejected by Mr. Calhoun. But all this is for yourself alone.

from your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

General James Tallmadge