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**Title:** Letters from James Buchanan to Robert Tyler

**Date:** 1851-1857

**Location:** MC 1998.10

#### **Contact:**

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My dear Sir/

I have necessed your favor, I must dens
myself the pleasure of givens is an answer we extenso, as
I leave for washington tomorrow morning on a breef visited
have many things to do before my departure.

I most cordially rejoice at Campbell's success. I have done all for him I could t consider his success was certain. Black, Woodward & Plumer have all visited me since their defeat of I think they will also support him: I Plumer activity. I think Judge Campbelle might for my sale be it is shown in favor of Rounfort. He will be removed that I think bigons a doubt. It is a left of death matter with me in my own County. Besides, the business men of hanshoters was Rounfort is wholly unfit.

Throateas, during M. Tolk's administration, was my sleady personal & political of cond whenever I have met him since has always expressed the same sentements. I have no reason to doubt him, nor do I doubt him, though I have not heard from him since his election. I wrote to him two days ago; but have not yet had time to receive his answer. It is impossible that he can attach himself to the lad of lameron who is now a stench we

the mostriles of the honest Democracy Unoughout the State. If you can carry the City & County for mo the State will go it with a rush. I am glad, but glad that ell? elleller has changed his sentements. What can Kneaps & the Hoins, who are honest & independent politicians expect from Cap should be be nominated & elected celler of which I consider impossible. He would fall into far defferent Resolutiones have passed in Hunlingdon County in favor of Cap: I probably he could obtain this I male whis County. Me friend David Lynch, however, informs me that when in Harrisburg he saw a delegate to the Convention who assured him that no Cap resolution had paped I that it must have been prepared I published by the Commillee after the delegates had left. This is the work of red headed John Anderson" as great a scamped Scoundrel ies there is in the State (I I don't often indulge in hank terms ) who is as appointed by the late Board a superintendent on the Canal for no other reason of which I can conceived than that like all his tribe, he is my better enemy, Junes well be involveable at Reading on the Lancarder dispute. He was himself Chairman of our County Committee for several years I would be perfectle at home in the matter.
Ever 3 sur friend bey respectfully Robert Tyler Engl - James Buckanan

Wheatland 24 Jan: 51.

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor, & must deny myself the pleasure of giving it an answer in extenso, as I leave for Washington tomorrow morning on a brief visit & have many things to do before my departure.

I most cordially rejoice at Campbell's success. I have done all for him I could & consider his success [one word illegible] certain. Black, Woodward & Plumer have all visited me since their defeat & I think they will all support him: & Plumer actively. I think Judge Campbell might for my sake be less strenuous in favor of Roumfort. He will be removed & Baker appointed I think beyond a doubt. It is a life & death matter with me in my own County. Besides, the business men & transporters say Roumfort is wholly unfit.

Brodhead, during Mr. Polk's administration, was my steady personal & political friend & whenever I have met him since has always expressed the same sentiments. I have no reason to doubt him, nor do I doubt him, though I have not heard from him since his election. I wrote to him two days ago; but have there has not yet had been time to receive his answer. It is impossible that he can attach himself to the tail of Cameron who is now a stench in

[Page Break]

the nostrils of the honest Democracy throughout the State.

If you can carry the City & County for me the State will go it with a rush. I am glad, truly glad that Mr. Miller has changed his sentiments. What can Kneass & the Horns, who are honest & independent politicians expect from Cass should he be nominated & elected either of which I consider impossible. He would fall into far different hands.

Resolutions have been published as passed in Huntingdon County in favor of Cass: & probably he could obtain this small Whig County. My friend David Lynch, however, informs me that when in Harrisburg he saw a delegate to the Convention who assured him that no Cass resolution had passed & that it must have been prepared & published by the Committee after the delegates had left. This is the work of "red headed John Anderson" as great a scamp & scoundrel as there is in the State (& I dont often indulge in harsh terms) who was appointed by the late Board a superintendent on the canal for no other reason of which I can conceive than that, like all his tribe, he is my bitter enemy.

Forney will be invaluable at Reading on the Lancaster dispute. He was himself chairman of our County Committee for several years & would be perfectly at home in the matter.

Ever your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

Robert Tyler Esq

Wheatland, mendancaster le Occumber 1857.

Ily dear Siof I did not receive your kind letter of the 30 from Washington until after I learned by Selegraph that the question had been decided by the House I we had resied the wickers. I am glad, sintenely glad you went to Washington of have no doubt you contributed much to the glorious result. Other leller from Washington, as will as your own, Speak in most encouraging lunes of my prospector; but what of that. A Swep Band of letter writers are those, at the head of weshout contradiction so far as I have observed. The Jubles Ledger circulates cong whereof the misreforesculations of "Hiserver" pap for buth among thousands. No contradiction of them , and that I have noticed to the sonnight ane at the have observed, has appeared in the Sonnight ane are I at the Journal moment they are calculated to do me much injury,

I feel at the presents moments deeply solicitous about the County of Philadeephia. Its lop would nearly wine one I the evening will expend upon a any amount of money I unparalleled exertions, Should I curry to, I shall consider

myself almost well of the woods. I know my opposite are calculating largely reported. I have do appreciate the explicit of my solications from a cause. I know I appreciate the explicit of my solications to you already; I whatever may be the result, I shall can hold theme we gestiful remembers to prove sest itseles feet united I shall theme we gestiful remembers to prove sest itseles feet united I shall receptive at your knowing, Cameron pursues me with the malignet receptive at your knowing, Cameron pursues me with the malignet of a Common. He spends tome I money well out stant t is watering in his effects. He can do nothing himself density but amples in his effects. He can do nothing himself density but amples consult a consult agent, went when who have not lost those condition health all health a consult of the all health and consults to the solicities to the shall be advantages at Odizato cledies.

Even we Clearfield County where I did not know I had an opposite the surface of the Stephensentative were we a small menous. Col. Barrett is the Representative the Aloggo. J. Wilera the Sinatoriae Oclegato, with strong instructions in May Javor. Indiana has cleated a devoted friend in the fund of Major Abover Kelly.

I think not a particle of doubt remains encurron; this Counts: The felings of my friends here are now thoroughly entertained in the cause I thus are at work. This is all that was nearposs, with every feeling of segard, I remain your friends

Noteth every feeling of segard, I remain your friends

Noteth offer left

Wheatland, near Lancaster 6 December 1851

My dear Sir/

I did not receive your kind letter of the 30th from Washington until after I learned by Telegraph that the question had been decided by the House & we had sensed the victory. I am glad, sincerely glad you went to Washington and have no doubt you contributed much to the glorious result. Other letters from Washington, as well as your own, speak in more encouraging terms of my prospects; but what of that. A Swiss Band of letter writers are there, at the head of which is Grund who disseminate the reverse all over the Country without consideration so far as I have observed. It is even denied that Boyd is my friend. The Public Ledger circulates every where & the misrepresentations of "Observer" pass for truth among thousands. No contradiction of them, and have observed that I have noticed, has appeared even in the Pennsylvanian and at the present moment they are calculated to do me much injury.

I feel at the present moment deeply solicitous about the County of Philadelphia. Its loss would nearly ruin me and the enemy will expend upon it any amount of money and unparalleled exertions. Should I carry it, I shall consider

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myself almost out of the woods. I know my opponents are calculating largely upon it. Pray devote some time to your friends cause. I know and appreciate the extent of my obligations to you already; and whatever may be the result, I shall ever hold them in grateful remembrance and never rest satisfied until I shall reciprocate your kindness. Cameron pursues me with the malignity of a Demon. He spends time and money without stint and is untiring in his efforts. He can do nothing himself directly but employs corrupt agents every where who have not lost their credit with the people and instructs them in political trickery and how to take all advantages at Delegate election.

Even in Clearfield County where I did not know I had an opponent in the Democratic party they fought me; thought they were in a small minority. Col: Bassett is the Representative and Alonzo J. Wilson the Senatorial Delegate, with strong instructions in my favor. Indiana Co has elected a devoted friend in the person of Major Abner Kelly.

I think not a particle of doubt remains concerning this County. The feelings of my friends here are now thoroughly enlisted in the cause and they are at work. This is all that was necessary. With every feeling of regard, I remain your friend

James Buchanan

Robert Tyler Esq

James Buchawan to Robert Tyler] Wheatland, near Lancaster 8 June 1852 I have received your favor of yesterday, condoling with me on my defeat. you ought racher to Congrabulate me on the abelly, devotion of energy of my friends. They have fought a good fight I have descrived success. Il was not their fault if they could not command it. For the first line, I have had a fair treat I have been fairly defeated; LI can vas from one head that the only encumstance which now greenes me is that I shall be wellow the power as yourself the benefit such him I valued from its the extent of my wishes. I get mas do them some goods even un a private station. I am truly gratefied that Colone King has been momented as Dice President. He is a pure, honorable & Sound judging man I would make a safe I exallent Invident. I am well acquainted with General Sures, having served with him for four or five Sofrioris in the Sinate. He is a sound of inflequeble Generat Law honest L honorable muso. Should be be the Incident, I fel confident be will give no countenance to the Speculation & correplinaisto which more the like outlines surround the public Treasury. Vergenia has nominated him I must now look after him & heep him shaight. Jackful services but live in the hope that I may get be able to manifest my gratitude to you by something more decisive than Jone your friend James Buchanan Robert Selec &

Wheatland, near Lancaster 8 June 1852

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor of yesterday, condoling with me on my defeat. You ought rather to congratulate me on the ability, devotion & energy of my friends. They have fought a good fight & have deserved success. It was not their fault if they could not command it. For the first time, I have had a fair trial & have been fairly defeated; & I can say from my heart that the only circumstance which now grieves me is that I shall be without the power to benefit such true & valued friends as yourself to the extent of my wishes & their deserts. I yet may do them some good even in a private station.

I am truly gratified that Colonel King has been nominated as Vice President. He is a pure, honorable & sound judging man & would make a safe & excellent President. I am well acquainted with General Pierce, having served with him for four or five Sessions in the Senate, He is a sound & inflexible Democrat & an honest & honorable man. Should he be the President, I feel confident he will give no countenance to the speculators & corruptionists which now at like vultures surround the public Treasury. Virginia has nominated him & must now look after him & keep him straight.

I now give you your final discharge after long, able & faithful services but live in the hope that I may yet be able to manifest my gratitude to you by something more decisive than words.

from your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

Robert Tyler Esq.

P. S. Don't forget to bring Mr. Tyler to see us.

Invate & Sheetly confidential.

Wheatland, near Lancastro 1 April 1853.

elly dear Sir / your letter came apropos. I urged the appointment of Governor Jorde with all my might as Collector; but my strong recommendations were disregarded by the President as they have been in every instance. I expect doubt to hear of the sacrefice of bands he & the appointment of Callas. I now know exactly my position I shall endeavor to sustain to with dignity I delf respect. I neva recommended Wesleoth for the Post office to the Iresident & because this would have been unjust to Campbelle: I of course no person could have expedit me to recommend Miller. - But enough of this. I not only recommended Forter, but opposed Brown. How, there, can I ask Brown for appointments for my friends. I think of him precisely is you do yourself: I after the physical labors which I have endured for the last three weeks, it is unhopele for me to answer all the applications which are flowing in upon mo. If to would not appear like presumption I thenth I shall

I can slate book the deep gratitude which I fee for
my friends in the Coly I County I my anized to serve them.
I can say that this is imporphible became I cannot select
a few of refuse to recommend the vist; Lif I should
recommend also, it would amount precisely to the
Same thing as recommending none. Under these accumulations
I as the Collector is a Clique of the County I knows the
leopter I intend to leave his appointments to him of
them. Builder, I verily believe, though it would not do
to state this, that my recommendation would do the
applicant a piritive injury. How would this do,

What a rare act of political injustice it would be to sacrifice Nan Cyho after having appointed Settle. I have never heard politically of the latter, since he I have never heard politically of the latter, since he I a few others allompted to abolitionize the Cemoerate harts at Setts bury I thus put me down.

Notwethstanding all this I relain absoluted online confidence we Campibele. I shall bear all philosophically 3 but lake an outside seal I observe the grand Drama. With my hindest signeds for M. Izler I kep from for Jones, I remain as our, sincerely your friends. Robert Izler by Suchanan.

S. S. Can you inform me who Caplain Wade is, where he we from I where he now serides. I have been asked there questions liverly learnes; but have been unable to answer them. It is said he served we the obligation was. In what regiment, I we what rank. James Regards heard we regiment, I we what rank. James Regards heard we Ihiladeephia that he was at the map meeting at Greensburg I made a sheech at night we the Court House. This may I made a sheech at night we the Court House. I have I should be. He may be I doubtlep is a good man; but I should be. It may be I doubtlep is a good man; but I should who who to know something of him. I let the people who cylind aslonishment at his appointment, that it cannot be expected that we in the Country should be acquainly with see the worths. Ocmocrats of Sheladeephies.—

### Private & Strictly confidential

Wheatland, near Lancaster 1 April 1853.

My dear Sir/

Your letter came apropos. I urged the appointment of Governor Porter with all my might as collector; but my strong recommendations were disregarded by the President <u>as they have been in every instance</u>. I expect daily to hear of the sacrifice of Vandyke & the appointment of Dallas. I now know exactly my position shall endeavor to sustain it with dignity & self respect. I never recommended Westcott for the Post Office to the President, because this would have been unjust to Campbell: & of course no person could have expected me to recommend Miller. - But enough of this. I not only recommended Porter, but opposed Brown. How, then, can I ask Brown for appointments for my friends. I think of him precisely as you do yourself: & after the physical labors which I have endured for the last three weeks it is impossible for me to answer all the applications which are flowing in upon me. If it would not appear like presumption I think I shall

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address you a brief note upon the subject for publication. I can state truly the deep gratitude which I feel for my friends in the City & County & my anxiety to serve them. I can say this is impossible because I cannot select a few & refuse to recommend the rest; & if I should recommend all it would amount precisely to the same thing as recommending none. Under these circumstances, & as the collector is a citizen of the county & knows the people, I intend to leave his appointments to him & them. Besides, I verily believe, though it would not do to state this, that my recommendation would do the applicant a positive injury. How would this do?

What a rare act of political injustice it would be to sacrifice Van Dyke after having appointed Pettit. I have never heard politically of the latter, since he & a few others attempted to "abolitionise" the Democratic party at Pittsburg & thus put me down.

Notwithstanding all this I retain absolute & entire confidence in Campbell. I shall bear all philosophically, but take an outside seat & observe the grand Drama.

With my kindest regards for Mrs. Tyler & a kiss for Toucy, I remain as ever, sincerely your friend.

James Buchanan

Robert Tyler Esq

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P.S. Can you inform me who Captain Wade is, where he is from & where he now resides. I have been asked these questions twenty times; but have been unable to answer them. It is said he served in the Mexican war. In what regiment, & in what rank. James Reynolds heard in Philadelphia that he was at the mass meeting at Greensburg & made a speech at night in the Court House. This may be. He may be & doubtless is a good man, but I should like to know

something of him. I tell the people who express astonishment at his appointment, that it cannot be expected that we in the Country should be acquainted with all the worthy Democrats of Philadelphia.-

Please give the enclosed to Harriet.

President of the Wis. Legation of the United States, Sondon 1 February 1856. elly kublic dulus at this crisis are so ornous, wellow a Secretary of Legation, that I have bun obliged almost altogether to Suspend my private correspondence; get your letter of the 8. ultimo is of do excellent L friendly a love & charache that I cannot deng myself the gratification of thanking you for it most cordially before the closing of the Bug. I ded expect confidently to hear of the appointment of my successor by the

Allanteo; but her Mails I Despatch Bas have just reached one I the Secretary does not even allude to the subject of my carnest appeals. I am most heartely lived of my situation L must anyour to be relieved from it; but when I shall get away, Heaven only knows, One storm suggest another in the relations between the two loundress, I there is always Something which renders to impossible that I Should lake French leave; I entrust the affairs of the Legation to General Campbell, our worthy Consul. I do not even hear a word as to their sending me a Scoretary of Legalin, though

ell. Applelon has been at home more than two months. Your expressions of freendship for me are most warmly receprocaled. On my hart, there have been of old standing as you well knows LI brust you know me well enough to believe that my friends helps are lasting & I am truly sorry I have not lime to write more I hope you will write often L tile much news. With my affectionale & respectful regards to MM. Tyler, I remain always Robert Ilu & Sames Seulauin

Legation of the United States London 1 February 1856

My dear Sir/

My public duties at this crisis are so onerous, without a Secretary of Legation, that I have been obliged almost altogether to suspend my private correspondence; yet your letter of the 8th. ultimo is of so excellent & friendly a tone & character that I cannot deny myself the gratification of thanking you for it most cordially before the closing of the Bag. I did expect confidently to hear of the appointment of my successor by the

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Atlantic; but her mails & Dispatch Bag have just reached one & the Secretary does not even allude to the subject of my earnest appeals. I am most heartily tired of my situation & most anxious to be relieved from it; but when I shall get away, Heaven only knows. One storm succeeds another in the relations between the two Countries, & there is always something which renders it impossible that I should take French leave; & entrust the affairs of the Legation to General Campbell, our worthy Consul. I do not even hear a word as to their sending me a Secretary of Legation, though

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W. Appleton has been at home more than two months.

Your expressions of friendship for me are most warmly reciprocated. On my part there have been of old standing as you well know & I trust you also know me well enough to believe that my friendship are lasting & sincere.

I am truly sorry I have not time to write more. I hope you will write often & tell me the news.

Trust my affectionate & respectful regards to Mr. Tyler, I remain always,

Your friend James Buchanan

Robert Tyler

75 Brokus Whendand 11 June 1851. Is dear Ser / I returned from Lebanon on wednesday night I have since had a pretty severe louch of Cholera Morbas. I an now for from being week; but an gelling belle very fast. I have read Governor il Conalis letter with cases; Lace no little surprised at the report he has heard concerning misself. I was not in Washington for more than sig months before the paperse of the Compromise measures; Lyon must be will aware that my constant asheren to the ellepour Compromise has been the cause of many allachs against me from the fishes Democrats of our State. Ily was has ever been to leave nothing in doubt regardens my public course: I therefore although there was no necepity for it I would have been police, in my letter to the union meeting in Philadeephia, daled 19 Nov: 1850 I say; - The defeat of the wilnut hoviso I the papage of the Dugitive Slave Law, are all that the South have obtained by the Compromer. They asked for the ellepour Compromise, which it is known that for one I was always welling to concede believers this would be the most eguillable I datisfactors arrangement of the haped moved, so go go.

My course upon the Slave question has always been open I direct. I have suver concealed my views; but have always expressed there whenever are opportunde offered. - of the South had sustained me on the ground which I look in fewer of the ellepoure Compromise, it would have been as eary for there to obtain thes as Mon-Intervention. This abandoned me I my platform 2 went for General Cap I the Micholson teller: I there only where it was too late they were willing to accepte the Suprouri Compromar In the mean little I was denounced as beens more Southern It than the South, In the fe, But more than mough of a would write you a much longer teller, of I were well a besider, I have company which I cannot leave long, I write this to enable you to say, what you thenk proper to for: Il Donald; but do not send hum my letter. It is without we haste; - bender in my dibudian Bught to write no political letters except to confedential friends like zourcef -In harte as ever In any your french Robert Igle En Jumes Jackanan party are in the majority in Mappippi & Alabama: I that a majority of the Comocratic harty in Georgia are State Rights mue, - not decepenish.

#### Wheatland 11 June 1857

My dear Sir/

I returned from Lebanon on Wednesday night & have since had a pretty severe touch of cholera morbus. I am now far from being well; but am getting better very fast. I have read Governor M'Donald's letter with care: & am no little surprised at the report he has heard concerning myself. I was not in Washington for more than six months before the passage of the Compromise measures; & you must be well aware that my constant adhesion to the Missouri Compromise has been the cause of many attacks against me from the fishy Democrats of our State. My way has ever been to leave nothing in doubt regarding my public course: & therefore although there was no necessity for it & I silence would have been policy, yet in my letter to the union meeting in Philadelphia, dated 19 Nov: 1850, I say; - "The defeat of the Wilmot Proviso & the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law are all that the South have obtained by the Compromise. They asked for the Missouri Compromise which it is known that for one I was always willing to concede believing this would be the most just equitable & satisfactory arrangement of the territorial question between the North & the South. But that has passed away". &c &c &c

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My course upon the Slave question has always been open & direct. I have never concealed my views; but have always expressed them whenever an opportunity offered. - If the South had sustained me on the ground which I took in favor of the Missouri Compromise, it would have been as easy for them to obtain this as Non-Intervention. They abandoned me & my platform & went for General Cass & the Nicholson letter: & then only when it was too late they were willing to accept the Missouri Compromise. In the mean time I was denounced as being more Southern than the South, &c &c &c. - But more than enough of this. –

I would write you a much longer letter, if I were well - besides, I have company which I cannot leave long. I write this to enable you to say what you think proper to Gov: M'Donald; but do not send him my letter. It is written in haste; - besides in my situation I ought to write no political letters except to confidential friends like yourself -

In haste as ever sincerely your friend James Buchanan

# Robert Tyler Esq

P. S. I agree with you in believing that the Democratic (States' Right) party are in the majority in Mississippi & Alabama; & that a majority of the Democratic party in Georgia are State Rights men. - not secessionists.