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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Roberts Vaux

Date: November 18, 1835

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My dear Sir /

Lancaster 18 November 1835.

Allow me to express my cordial satisfaction with your appointment as Judge. In this case the usual order of things has been reversed & the office, instead of adding dignity & respectability to the office, has received it from the person selected to discharge its duties.

The Democratic Committee of Correspondence for this County have held a meeting to day & have passed resolutions recommending to the Democrats of the different Boroughs & Townships to elect delegates for the purpose of assembling in County Convention & selecting delegates for the proposed 4th of March Convention. Whilst they have spoken in the strongest terms of Governor Wolf & expressed their approbation of the present Electoral Act; they have recommended to the Democrats of the County, ^{for the sake of conciliation} to yield to the friends of Abolition the selection of electors, if they should think proper to ^{make the} change ^{at} ~~then~~, in those ^{eight} Congressional Districts where he received a majority over Governor Wolf. Thus they have made the recent election the rule & the standard of compromise.

This recommendation I may truly say has, I believe, been the effect of spontaneous public opinion. For my own part I did not even know that

The Committee were about to be assembled until I saw the notice in the public papers. I believe what chiefly gave the impulse ^{at this time} ~~to the Committee~~ was the general apprehension entertained that if the Whigs & Antislaverys should obtain a majority in the Convention to amend the Constitution, they would make "sad work". We are all afraid of the consequences which might result from a meeting of the Ellkenburgers on the 8th of January. If they should not make some changes in the ticket they might be asked "pray what the D - C brought you here". They would be compelled to do some mischief - if for no other reason - to prevent themselves from appearing ridiculous.

I most sincerely wish that your friend Hay would recommend the adoption of the course proposed by the Lancaster County Committee. By doing so, he would acquire for himself the gratitude of the Democracy throughout the State & at once restore the party to harmony. I should think that such men as he, Judge King & Alderman Barber would concur in this proposition. From the numerous letters I have received from different parts of the interior, I have no doubt the people have determined to reunite on some terms. The leaders who oppose their wish will not be regarded. For myself, I have always expressed the opinion to the Ellkenburgers that the majority had decided & they must yield: yet I feel that a forced submission, if that could be effected - would be a very unwise union. It is better to receive them cordially at once & have an end of it.

I shall be in Philadelphia on Saturday & go from thence to New York on Monday. I hope thus to have the pleasure of seeing you. In haste I remain

Your friend
James Buchanan

Lancaster 18 November 1835.

My dear Sir/

Allow me to express my cordial satisfaction with your appointment as Judge. In this case the usual order of things has been reversed & the office, instead of adding dignity & respectability to the Officer, has received it from the person selected to discharge its duties.

The Democratic Committee of Correspondence for this County have held a meeting to day & have passed resolutions recommending to the Democrats of the different Boroughs & Townships to elect delegates for the purpose of assembling in County Convention & selecting delegates for the proposed 4th. of March Convention. Whilst they have spoken in the strongest terms of Governor Wolf & expressed their approbation of the present Electoral ticket; they have recommended, to the Democrats of the County for the sake of conciliation to yield to the friends of Muhlenberg the selection of electors, if they should think proper to make the change ~~them~~, in those eight Congressional Districts where he received a majority over Governor Wolf. Thus they have made the recent election the rule & the standard of Compromise.

This recommendation I may truly say has, I believe, been the effect of spontaneous public opinion. For my own part I did not even know that

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the Committee were about to be assembled until I saw the notice in the public papers. I believe what chiefly gave the impulse ~~to the Committee~~ at this time was the general apprehension entertained that if the Whigs & Antimasons should obtain a majority in the Convention to amend the Constitutions they would make "sad work". We are all afraid of the consequences which might result from a meeting of the Muhlenbergers on the 84th. of January. If they should not make some changes in the ticket they might be asked "pray what the D-C brought you here". They would be compelled to do some mischief – if for no other reason – to prevent themselves from appearing ridiculous.

I most sincerely wish that your friend Ray would recommend the adoption of the course proposed by the Lancaster County Committee. By doing so, he would acquire for himself the gratitude of the Democracy throughout the State & at once restore the party to harmony. I should think that such men as he, Judge King & Alderman Barker would concur in this proposition. From the numerous letters I have received from different parts of the interior, I have no doubt the people have determined to reunite on some terms. The leaders who oppose their wish will not be regarded.

For myself I have always expressed the opinion to the Muhlenbergers that the majority had decided & they must yield: yet I feel that a forced submission, if that could be effected - - would be a very insincere union. It is better to receive them cordially at once & have an end of it.

I shall be in Philadelphia on Saturday & go from thence to New York on Monday. I hope then to have the pleasure of seeing you. In haste I remain

Your friend
James Buchanan

[Roberts Vaux]