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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Robert J. Walker

Date: May 5, 1851

Location: MC 1998.10, B3, F3

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Wheatland, near Lancaster 5 May 1851.

My dear Sir /

I have received your favor of the 2^d Instant; & am highly gratified to learn that you have at length devoted yourself to the settlement of your own private affairs. I trust you may accomplish this praiseworthy task successfully & so as to leave for yourself a comfortable independence.

I expected our good friend W. Johnson here to day; but I presume the rain will prevent. I deeply regret that the physicians ^{near Pittsburg} can do nothing for ~~that~~ ^{his} excellent ~~woman's~~ wife. They return home, much dejected after passing a single day with me. I shall not fail to communicate to them your kind message.

I feel the same anxiety which you do concerning South Carolina. Heaven alone can foresee all the evils to our Country, ^{& to herself} which may follow her secession. And yet strange to say her movements seem to attract but little attention & to produce no alarm at the North. I would to Heaven that some plan could be devised to prevent her from taking this fatal step.

I fear you will find it too late to make all things O K in Philadelphia. W. D. himself has always behaved like a gentleman; but some of those who are (as I believe unnecessarily) supposed to speak his sentiments have been very violent.

I need not say I shall be most happy to see you. Please to drop me a line a few days before your arrival so that I may certainly be at home.

Hon. Robert J. Walker.

from your friend
very respectfully
James Buchanan

Wheatland near Lancaster 5 May 1851

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I have received your favor of the 2d. Instant; & am highly gratified to learn that you have at length devoted yourself to the settlement of your own private affairs. I trust you may accomplish this praiseworthy task successfully & so as to leave for yourself a comfortable independence.

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I feel the same anxiety which you do concerning South Carolina. Heaven alone can foresee all the evils to our Country & to herself which may follow her secession. And yet strange to day her movements seem to attract but little attention & to produce no alarm at the North. I would to heaven that some plan could be devised to prevent her from taking this false step.

I fear you will find it too late to make all things OK in Philadelphia. Mr D. Himself has always behaved like a gentleman; but some of those who are (as I believe erroneously) supposed to speak his sentiments have been very violent.

I need not say I shall be most happy to see you. Please to drop me a line a few days before your arrival so that I may certainly be at home.

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Hon: Robert J Walker