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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Christopher L. Ward

Date: September 20, 1853

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Legation of The United States. London 20 September 1853. 350 ve

I am very song to give you the bouble; but really I could not require Ladies Wellesly I Stafford.

They are bothe very decided Roman Catholies, as you will precious from the letter of the latter, informers suc that she has devised her Bradford properly to the latholie Bishop of Sennylvania.

Sady Wellesly, though in wretched health, still relains traces of her former beauty I her mansies are perfect. Lady Stafford, 'erst Betz Calon, - The bette of better we America is very fat, has a of you would not suppose she have ever been handsome. The fate of these those American feels has been distinguished; I got I feel betwee, they guls has been distinguished; I got I feel manual independent would have been more happy had they manual independent of the three has a respectable gentlement at home. Neither of the three has ever had a child.

I am very soins I did not see you before I left the Country. I had no heart for this mijsion; but I had sot myself so enlarged in the maller, that it was danser of myself on me at last to decline it, weekout an open impossible for me at last to decline it, weekout an open

Shall endeavor, to make the best of to & render myself as comfortable & happy as possible. I heartely rejoice to see that Slambaugh has got an appointment. I but it may be one of value. Poor fellow! He mids & deserves it.

Soudon is at pursent dule of I am glad of it. Alle the world, that is to say we the fashionistic language here, the Mobilety of gently are now we the Country or on the Country or on the Continent, of well not return until about the meeting of Inliament in February next. The fashionistic reason close with the adjournment of Sastiament.

I have not yet succeeded in procures a hour,

though I have looked at many. You will be aslonished
which I have vien
to learn that most of there left by the mobile I commones
are very, I might almost way felling, - the furniture old of
decayed of not fit for the residence of an American minister.

The sent asked is from I 600 to I 800 studing. I shall not
ful at home until I can procure a hour. I am much
pleased both with Col: Sechles of all. Welsh.

at Osborne in the Isle of Wight. IV. Sizersoll & myself

letter of credence. et Ingersoll's conduct lowerds me hus bun every thing of could have descrete. He delless Welcox are now in Jaris. They will return homes by the Steamer from Liverpool of the 5. October.

The manners of the queen are graceful & degreeped of her reception of me was graceous. The does not propose fursional beauty, being low & inclined to confudence. The hus almost universally propular of the logally of her the logally of her the English people lowards her is inchaineastee. This she owes English people lowards her is inchaineastee. This she owes to his excellent private character of the fundance of property to his excellent private character of the fundance of however, is in the hands of the responsible menistry. Income Albert of the hands of the responsible menistry. I will interview with victoria.

The absorbery public question now here is; - well there be war between Refria & Susky. It is certain that I have be war between Refria & Susky. It is certain that I have the England will explain every effort of deplomacy to prevent was. They are much disturbed at the prospect. The brush was, - there is a prestize about the Empiror Meholas which gives him an almost commanding influence in the

affairs of Europe. Sele I think the danger of war proceeds meanly from the Sultan. He has explainted the resources of his empire in preparing for its defences I he will never again be in such an alletude to meet the inevitable Sluggle as at the present moment. Bender, the fanalicism of the Surles has been raise a to the highest putch; & should the Sullan now recede from his modefications to the note of the mediating powers, his head would be in danger I am get stelle inclined to believe we shall not have war, though it may commence any day. Occupied we new dulies, I feel that my interest has amunished in political wents at home, though my allachment to my personal friends has encuared. How often do I think of you all with kindness! May the Almighty prolong my days I enable me to meet you all again in my beloved native land. Please to sive my kindest love to Eller. May she

be prosperous of happy. Remember me very kendy to elle. Ward & believe me eva to be sincered of gratefully C.L. Ward Esque. James Buchando

P.S. When you write to me you care dence your letters to me under blates degation London & you much not pre-pay the purlago, - or you may direct to me - u.S. Legation London, - to the care of I Franklin you may direct to me - u.S. Legation London, - to the last we the Distract Bas. Do write often & letters will then be fut no the seshalch Bas. Do write often & lette me all the news.

Legation of The United States London 20 September 1853

My dear Sir/

I am very sorry to give you the trouble; but really I could not refuse Ladies Wellesley & Stafford. They are both very decided Roman Catholics, as you will percieve from the letter of the latter, informing me that she has devised her Bradford property to the Catholic Bishop of Pennsylvania.

Lady Wellesley, though in wretched health, still retains traces of her former beauty & her manners are perfect. Lady Stafford, 'erst Betsy Caton,- the belle of belles in America is very fat, has a & you would not suppose she had ever been handsome. The fate of these three American girls has been distinguished; & yet I firmly believe, they would have been more happy had they married independent & respectable gentlemen at home. Neither of the three has ever had a child.

I am very sorry I did not see you before I left the Country. I had no heart for this mission; but I had got myself so entangled in the matter, that it was impossible for me at last to decline it, without danger of an open

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rupture with the administration. I shall endeavor, however, to make the best of it & render myself as comfortable & happy as possible. I heartily rejoice to see that Stambaugh has got an appointment. I trust it may be one of value. Poor fellow! He needs & deserves it.

London is at present dull & I am glad of it. All the world, that is to say in the fashionable language here, the Nobility & gentry are now in the Country or on the Continent, & will not return until about the meeting of Parliament in February next. The fashionable season closes with the adjournment of Parliament.

I have not yet succeeded in procuring a house, though I have looked at many. You will be astonished to learn that most of those which I have seen left by the nobles & commoners are dirty, I might almost say filthy,- the furniture old & decayed & not fit for the residence of an American Minister. The rent asked is from £600 to £800 Sterling. I shall not feel at home until I can procure a house. I am much pleased both with Col: Sickles & Mr. Welsh.

My presentation to the Queen was entirely private at Osborne in the Isle of Wright. Mr. Ingersoll & myself

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went together,- he to take his leave & I to deliver my letter of credence. Mr. Ingersoll's conduct towards me was has been every thing I could have desired. He & Miss Wilcox are now in Paris. They will return home by the Steamer f from Liverpool of the 5th October.

The manners of the queen are graceful & dignified & her reception of me was gracious. She does not possess personal beauty, being low & inclined to corpulence. She is un almost universally popular & the loyalty of her the English people towards her is enthusiastic. This she owes to her excellent private character & the prudence & propriety of her public conduct. The

real power, however, is in the hands of the responsible ministry. Prince Albert & Lord Clarendon were alone present at our my interview with Victoria.

The absorbing public question now here is;- will there be war between Russia & Turkey? It is certain that France & England will exhaust every effort of diplomacy to prevent war. They are much disturbed at the prospect. The truth is,- there is a prestige about the Emperor Nicholas which gives him an almost commanding influence in the

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affairs of Europe. Still I think the danger of war proceeds mainly from the Sultan. He has exhausted the resources of his empire in preparing for its defence & he will never again be in such an attitude to meet the inevitable struggle as at the present moment. Besides, the fanaticism of the Turks has been raised to the highest pitch; & should the Sultan now recede from his modifications to the vote of the mediating powers, his head would be in danger. I am yet still inclined to believe we shall not have war, though it may commence any day.

Occupied in new duties, I feel that my interest has diminished in political events at home, though my attachment to my personal friends has increased. How often do I think of you all with kindness! May the Almighty prolong my days & enable me to meet you all again in my beloved native land!

Please to give my kindest love to Ellen. May she be prosperous & happy! Remember me very kindly to Mrs. Ward & believe me ever to be sincerely & gratefully

Your friend James Buchanan

C. L. Ward Esquire

P.S. When you write to me you can direct your letter to me United States Legation London & you need not pre-pay the postage.- or you may direct to me- U. S. Legation London,- to the care of I. Franklin Pierce, Despatch agent, New York & the letters will then be put in the dispatch bag. Do write often & tell me all the news.