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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Eliza Watterston

Date: December 28, 1855

Location: MC 1998.10, B3, F20

Contact:

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250 87 Legation of The United States. Senden 28 December 1855. ely dear Miss Watterston , I was Gratifica to receive your letter of the 5. Instant by the last sleaner; because et aprures me that I she live in low regard of a lady whom I highly esteem. I buit that we shall muit again before the opening of the spring. The death of M. Baher whom I lenderly loved was a sudden & sovere blow to me. I have lived long enough to have lost many dear relatives anost of them goinger than my very; but get age has not

rendered my heart callous. I Sincerely sympathered with your in the loss of your excellents father whom I highly esteemed. But is it popular that a lass of your cultivation &

accomplishments can believe in dreams. Can believe that the all-wire rules of the Universe would adopt this mode of fore - Shadowing events, in a dem, manner, to obscure & uncertain method, to his intelligent acaluics. In the evhole course of my lefe, I have never had a dream which, in the Mighlest degree, fourhadowed a fulure event. I pras you abandon

this delusion, because it will ing lind to under you unhappy. I am now, by every Sleama, expecting to hear of the appoint - ment of my successor & this lo me will be josque news. I Cannet complain of the breakment which I have received in England. Tome I to do so, I should be ungrateful. And yet a Court lese is not so agreeable to a man at 64, as it would have been liventy years ago. I long to relum to my own country which is the happust land beneath the Sun, Inopuly to appreceate

the blepings we enjoy above all other nations, it is only neeping to bareco into foreign Countries. Would that our people were more sensible of their privileges! It they were so, we should experience fewer violent political contests. But slorms may be necessary to purific the political abnosphere. I hope once more & that ere long to enjoy the pleasure of meeting you in your own snug house n the hile, again to hear some of your music wheir always charmed me L to be scalefied by your 5/rightly & intelligent conversations Touch my hundert regards to your mother, I remain always, sincorely I au pietfully of friend. James Juckanan Mis Eliza Wallerslow.

Legation of the United States. London 28 December 1855.

My dear Miss Watterston/

I was gratified to receive your letter of the 5th. Instant by the last steamer; because it assures me that I shall live in the regard of a lady whom I highly esteem. I trust that we shall meet again before the opening of the Spring.

The death of Mrs. Baker whom I tenderly loved was a sudden & severe blow to me. I have lived long enough to have lost many dear relatives most of them younger than myself; but yet age has not

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rendered my heart callous. I sincerely sympathised with you in the loss of your excellent father whom I highly esteemed.

But is it possible that a lady of your cultivation & accomplishments can believe in dreams? Can believe that the all-wise rules of the Universe would adopt this mode of foreshadowing events, in a dim, obscure & uncertain method manner, to his intelligent creatures. In the whole course of my life, I have never had a dream which, in the slightest degree, foreshadowed a future event. I pray you abandon

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this delusion, because it will only tend to render you unhappy.

I run now, by every steamer, expecting to hear of the appointment of my successor & this to me will be joyful news. I cannot complain of the treatment which I have received in England. Were I to do so, I should be ungrateful. And yet a Court life is not so agreeable to a man at 64, as it would have been twenty years ago. I long to return to my own country which is the happiest land beneath the sun Properly to appreciate

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the blessings we enjoy above all other nations, it is only necessary to travel into foreign countries. Would that our people were more sensible of their privileges! If they were so, we should experience fewer violent political contests. But storms may be necessary to purify the political atmosphere.

I hope once more & that 'ere long to enjoy the pleasure of meeting you in your own snug house on the hill, again to hear some of your music which always charmed me & to be gratified by your sprightly & intelligent conversation.

Wish my kindest regards to your mother, I remain, always, sincerely

& respectfully yr. friend James Buchanan