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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Jacob Weidman

Date: February 6, 1846

Location: MC 1998.10, B2, F11

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Washington 6 February 1846

My dear Sir,

I have received yours of the 3^d Instant, & hasten to give it a brief answer which is all I have time to do. There are as appears from the Blue Book 64 pursers in the Navy of which 13 are Pennsylvanians, thus she has more than twice the number to which she is entitled; according to the rule prescribed by Congress for the appointment of Midshipmen; whilst there are other States who have not a single purser. The applications for ~~that~~ office ~~are~~ are very numerous; & there is not a single vacancy at present, under these circumstances, I do not think the President could be induced to appoint another Pennsylvanian; & if, he were, to fill the next vacancy which may occur, I doubt very much whether ^{he} ~~the~~ ^{nominee} could be confirmed by the Senate. The ^{States} Western ^{are} are insisting very strongly upon their rights to appointments. I should most gladly do any thing in my power to serve you; but the prospect, on the present

occasion is extremely dull.

My time is incessantly occupied with public business & the letters of my best friends are neglected. I hope they will make allowance for me.

I had heard before of the rumour in circulation that I had opposed Judge Woodward's confirmation. I always suffer such reports to pass unnoticed. In this case, those who believe I had acted dishonorably towards the President by opposing one of his nominations, must still continue in ^{until some shall correct the impression} that belief. There is not the shadow of foundation for it.

Please present my kindest respects to your son & believe me ever to be sincerely & respectfully your friend

Jacob B. Wideman } James Buchanan

Washington 6 February 1846

My dear Sir/

I have received yours of the 3d Instant & hastened to give it a brief answer which is all I have time to do. There are as appears from the Blue Book 64 persons in the Navy of which 13 are Pennsylvanians. Thus she has more than twice the number to which she is entitled; according to the rule prescribed by Congress for the appointment of midshipmen; whilst there are other States who have not a single person. The applications for this offices ~~are~~ is are very numerous; & there is not a single vacancy at present. Under these circumstances, I do not think the President could be induced to appoint another Pennsylvanian to fill the next vacancy which may occur; & if, he were, I doubt very much whether the nominee could be confirmed by the Senate. The western states are insisting very strongly upon their rights to appointments. I should most gladly do any thing in my power to serve you; but the prospect, on the present

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