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Title: Letters from James Buchanan to John Wheeler

Date: May 11 ; May 31, 1852

Location: MC 1998.10

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Wheatlands, near Lancaster 11 May 1852.

My dear Sir / I have received your kind favor of the 29 ultimo & heartily rejoice ~~in the success~~ in the success of your History. I wish, with all my heart, we had such a history of Pennsylvania.

I dislike very much to make a request which may injure you in your own canvass; but yet I cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that your presence at Baltimore may be very important. You are well known throughout the Country, & your recent historical labors have greatly added to your reputation. You will count more than one at Baltimore. If your single vote were alone involved, I should not utter a word. Your influence is worth far more. And yet it appears selfish in me to express this wish; but the fault results from your own kindness in offering to attend the Baltimore Convention, should I deem your personal presence imperative.

I am proud to learn that the Democracy of the Old North State will support me. This will contribute much to my nomination; & should I fail, it will be a consolation in defeat. I think my prospects are fairer at present than those of any other candidate; but perhaps I am not a competent Judge. I should esteem the re-nomination of General Cap unfortunate for the party; but this I ought not to say except to a discreet friend. I should fear the result in Pennsylvania between him & General Scott. I think, however, there is but little danger of his nomination, though he & his friends are active beyond any former example.

Yours respectfully,
James Buchanan

Col: John H. Wheeler

Wheatland, near Lancaster 11 May 1852.

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from your friend
very respectfully
James Buchanan

Col: John H Wheeler

Wheatland, near Lancaster 31 May 1852.

My dear Sir /

I have received your two kind letters of the 20th & 27th Instants from Beatties Ford & Washington, & surrounded as I am with company & under the pressure of ^{an} important engagements & overwhelming correspondence, I have only time to reiterate my cordial thanks to you for your able & valuable friendship & support. I know you can render me important services at Baltimore & that you will do it in the best manner.

I would thank you to remember me very kindly to my old friend Mr. Saunders. He is a host within himself, should be thank proper to exert his powers. You may tell him from me that I was disappointed he did not pay me a visit on his way home after his return from Shaw.

"The signs of the times" are I think auspicious; but I shall be prepared for any event better than the Democracy of State who will be grievously disappointed should not the Democracy ^{of the Union} grant them the candidates after waiting for sixty years. The opposition of Cameron, Seager, Lowrey & my other enemies would not produce even a ripple on the surface of public opinion so strongly is the current running. And yet they will go to Baltimore for the deliberate purpose of deceiving, if possible & with full knowledge the delegates to the National Convention.

Col: John H. Wheeler.

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