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**Title:** Letters from James Buchanan to Henry Wise

**Date:** 1852-1857

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#### **Contact:**

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I have received your favor of the 25 which has been as long on the way as it would have been from New Orleans. The cold weather of which you complain has not posen your friendship; I I owe you many gratefue thanks for the kind interest which you feel in my favor.

From the enformation which I daily receive, I am convencia you are right in Supposing that Originia with me & I shall be nominated. Unlip greatly mistaken in the Signs of the lines, they much more to this result. You also, think that I have the voice of point to this result. You also, think that I have the voice of heart of two thirds of Origina's people with me if they can be allowed fair play". with such an able of energetic champion in my favor as yourseef. I know I shall have fair play, despute of the Richmond influence. Why, Since you have changed your Constitution, not follow the example of other States I hold a State Convention, the delegates components which to be clected by the Democracy of the different Sendonal & representative District With us, an allempt on the part of our Legis lature, to interfere with the Princential election would be denounced by the Chemorraes of the whole state. It is the plainest inference from the doctrine Of State rights, that the voice of a Sooneign State should be heard as such in the National Convention, & that its power should not be fullered away in many discordant voices.

New york has elected by longreprine Districts; but this because if they had mut in State Convention, they could not have eneded a common platform on the subject of Slavers.

I would give a Sew's eye to see you'd why may I not ongot thus pleasure? I wrote to Mason last might accepting has invitation given some time since to pass a few days with home with the eleventh wint, I expect to be in Richmond on Wednesday meet, via Washington. I can't have home before The sheet as how to have again on Salunday work. I shale, therefore, May but two or at most three days in Richmond, as I desire to pass a few days in Washington on my returns. Cannot you continue to meet one at Richmonds or Washington?

Them authority which I consider quite reliable, Might elleader, Millson, Averette, Bocock, Carker, Holladay, & Beale of the Vinginia Oclegation in Congress are my friends. Thompson of Wheelers is the Shors friend of Cass; & Bayly is opposed to me. Of the remaining four demonals, Towele, Letcher, Edmundson & M'ellutten, I know nothing action. Douglass is, undoubtedly, Sinking fast, & Cass is recovering some Strength. Parker who belongs to the sect of Optimists was nothing but benefit to my cause in the re-cleeker of Hunter, though I cannot view it in this light. He may now probably delach himself from Overlaps but some someons.

I shall act upon your advice in regard to the

define of Tenns, wania to Brazinio. Forney was here the day before yesterday. He says that the Enjure publishes meny acticles in my favor of to are appearance heats me as fauly as the order Condidates. Our friend John by Marin is now far more friendly to me than he has ever been. Again let me express my prinally to me than he has ever been. Again let me express my action desire to the your at Richmonio. The moment I receive actent desire to the your at Richmonio. The moment I receive when the little we answer to mino, I shall knop you a line. Deceive volente, we are event, I shall leave for Washington on volente, we are event, I shall leave for Washington on Investor out I wend on at further the Monday following.

From somes entirely reliable at Nashvelle, I am informed that a decided majorely of the Sennepa Ocligates to the National Convention are my friends I were elicited for this very nearon.

The prim your friends on this very nearon.

The sense season.

- Samo Suchausa

An: Henry A Wise

Wheatland, near Lancaster 4 Feb: 1852

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor of the 25th ultimo, which has been as long on the way as it would have been from New Orleans. The cold weather of which you complain has not frozen your friendship; & I owe you many grateful thanks for the kind interest which you feel in my favor.

From By the information which I daily receive, I am convinced you are right in supposing that Virginia with me & I shall be nominated. Unless greatly mistaken in the signs of the times, they point more & more to this result. You, also, think that I have "the voice & heart of two thirds of Virginia's people with me if they can be allowed fair play." With such an able & energetic champion in my favor as yourself, I know I shall have fair play, despite of the Richmond influence. Why, since you have changed your Constitution, not follow the example of other states & hold a State Convention, the delegates composing which to be elected by the Democracy of the different Senatorial & representative Districts? With us, an attempt on the part of our Legislature, to interfere with the Providential election would be denounced by the Democracy of the whole State. It is the plainest inference from the doctrine of State rights, that the voice of a sovereign State should be heard as such in the National Convention, & that its power should not be frittered away in many discordant voices.

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New York has elected by Congressional Districts; but this because if they had met in State Convention, they could not have erected a common platform on the subject of slavery.

I would give "a Jew's eye to see you" & why may I not enjoy this pleasure? I wrote to Mason last night accepting his invitation given some time since to pass a few days with him in Richmond, provided I should learn he was at home. In this event, I expect to be in Richmond on Wednesday next the eleventh, via Washington. I can't leave home before Tuesday & must be here again on Saturday [one word illegible] 21st. I shall, therefore, stay but two or at most three days in Richmond, as I desire to pass a few days in Washington an my return. Cannot you contrive to meet me at Richmond or Washington?

From authority which I consider quite reliable, Messrs Meade, Millson, Averett, Bocock, Caske, Holladay, & Beale of the Virginia Delegation in Congress are my friends. Thompson of Wheeling is the strong friend of Cass; & Bagly is opposed to me. Of the remaining four democrats, Powell, Letcher, Edmundson & M'Mullen, I know nothing certain. Douglass is, undoubtedly, sinking fast, & Cass is recovering some strength. Parker who belongs to the sect of optimists sees nothing but benefit to my cause in the re-election of Hunter, though I cannot view it in this light. He may now probably detach himself from Douglass & but "nous verrons".

I shall act upon your advice in regard to the

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appeal of Pennsylvania to Virginia. Forney was here the day before yesterday. He says that the Inquirer publishes many articles in my favor & to all appearance treats me as fairly as the other

candidates. Our friend John Y. Mason in now far more friendly to me than he has ever been. Again let me express my ardent desire to see you at Richmond. The moment I receive Mason's letter in answer to mine, I shall drop you a line. Deo volente, in any event, I shall leave for Washington on Tuesday next, as I must be at home on Saturday the 21st. Instant or at furthest the Monday following.

From sources entirely reliable at Nashville, I am informed that a decided majority of the Tennessee Delegates to the National Convention are my friends & were elected for this very reason.

from your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

Hon: Henry A. Wise

Wheatland 30 December 56. ely dear Sir / I have this moment received yours of the 28. Instant. Ere there you have doubtlep received mine in answer to your former letters. I know of no heeb-but stores up about my using my influences to elect Col: Joiney to the Senate. Of all men in this State, it is admitted he did the most to secure the humph of our lichet both at the State & Electron election. The Democracy are not only willing but anywous to give him any thing within their power. If I were a member of the Legislation I should certainly vote for him I I have said so without further allempling to influence any person. The is, I believe, the seeme choice of all the live Democratio Candidates. I doeply regree that our friend office is so hostile to

hino; I would for many reasons have prevoiled it of I could. Joing is universally popular shroughout the interior of the State L you have culainly nothing of the young, active & ardent politicians. In regard to Mefins Cap L Cobb, necessor they nowary person for them or eclas if them, so far as I know, have prepea thew claims for Cabinet appointments, It is quite him that Cobb is unwersally propular with the Northern . Cemseraes for the Services he rendered throughout the Campaign & General Cap appears to have the of meanly every body month of touth. I have not determined upon any one member of my cabinet, except so far as you know; but upon my conscience I do not think there are any los men in America where appointment ought to seve you less uneasings, I know not when I shale be in Washington; but you

Shall certainly have due & limely notice of et; I this you should have had werhood any suggestion from yourself. I derive to hear all you have to say; I then if I should not be able to please you in all my appointment, I know you will take make the due allowance. unsu all the arcumstance Should be opposed to Joiney's clection. In harter I remain always sincerely your friend Tames Duchanais Honr Henry A Wire

#### Wheatland 30 December '56

#### My dear Sir/

I have this moment received yours of the 28th. Instant. Ere this you have doubtless received mine in answer to your former letters.

I know of no hub-bub stirred up about my using my influence to elect Col: Forney to the Senate. Of all men in this State, it is admitted he did the most to secure the triumph of our ticket both at the State & Electoral election. The Democracy are not only willing but anxious to give him any thing within their power. If I were a member of the Legislature I should certainly vote for him & I have said so without further attempting to influence any person. He is, I believe, the second choice of all the true Democratic Candidates. I deeply regret that our friend Tyler is so hostile to

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him; & would for many reasons have prevented it if I could. Forney is universally popular throughout the interior of the State & you have certainly nothing to fear from his election. He is the special favorite of the young, active & ardent politicians.

In regard to Messrs Cass & Cobb, - neither they nor any person for them or either of them, so far as I know, have pressed their claims for Cabinet appointments. It is quite true that Cobb is universally popular with the Northern Democracy for the services he rendered throughout the Campaign & General Cass appears to have the sympathy of nearly every body North & South. I have not determined upon any one member of my cabinet, except so far as you know; but upon my conscience I do not think there are any two men in America where appointment ought to give you less uneasiness. I know not when I shall be in Washington; but you

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shall certainly have due and timely notice of it; & this you should have had without any suggestion from yourself. I desire to hear all you have to say; & then if I should not be able to please you in all my appointments, I know you will take make all due allowance.

What excites my special wonder is that you should <u>under all the circumstances</u> be opposed to Forney's election. In haste, I remain always sincerely your friend

James Buchanan

Hon: Henry A Wise

Wheatland of January 1854 ells dear Sir a return Govi Wrights letter & am hul song it was ever some simply because to my own knowledge, the Statementy it contains des unfounded. Besides W. Bright could scarcely have boaslet at washington that he had out Sov: Wright's throat with me, when IV-B, has had to communication week me of any kind since my election. If he desires a Cabinet appointment at all, le les never made this known to me: L the Midelle, who would accept northing for himself I who has proven himself to be a disinterested friend of many years standing, hus never to the best of my knowledge mentioned the warme of Governor wright to mo. If Stedele is in favor of the appointment of Capi I know it not I do not believe it.

Jam song you enterlain so very bad an openion of M. Corenan. I have been on beens of Social internacy with him for many years; though I know nothing of his Speculations. I know

he is a benevolent Kind hearled man, hus done much good of is highly esteemed at Washington. Inobable you may thent the Shange; but it is esta before or the election has never seamed ell Bust In connection with the Cabinet. In fact I in level to the friends of Gov: Wright have been more active the presenters his name to me as a Candidale harred. In the character of any other gentleman named. In the calored have no required whatever to yourself, have no required whatever to yourself, have no required a long table letter from a destinguished to yourself in the could have not provided. I cannot vilect them are from those who have been me own freends or yours. Bender, you ought not to descree this . As I always intended, I shall sive you notice of show time I shall be in washington & shall be shappy to him all you have to say, and so puson . but yoursef. The letter which I return, if published we Indiana, would do him much injury. from your friend James Suchauau Hon: Hony A. Ulse. Hence the interlining . P.S. I write in harte 2 by snatches.

## Wheatland 7 January 1857

My dear Sir/

I return Gov: Wrights letter & am truly sorry it was ever sent simply because to my own knowledge, the statements of facts it contains is unfounded. Besides Mr. Bright could scarcely have boasted at Washington that he had cut Gov: Wright's throat with me, when Mr. B. has had no communication with me of any kind since my election. If he desires a Cabinet appointment at all, he has never made this known to me; & Mr. Slidell, who would accept nothing for himself from me & who has proven himself to be a disinterested friend of many years standing, has never to the best of my knowledge mentioned the name of Governor Wright to me. If Slidell is in favor of the appointment of Case, I know it not & do not believe it.

I am sorry you entertain so very bad an opinion of Mr. Corcoran. I have been on terms of social intimacy with him for many years; though I know nothing of his speculations. I know

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he is a benevolent kind hearted man, has done much good & in highly esteemed at Washington. Probably you may think this it strange; but it is no less true, that Mr. Corcoran, in his intercourse with me either before or since the election has never named Mr. Bright in connection with the Cabinet. In fact & in truth the friends of Gov: Wright not in Indiana have been more active in presenting his name to me as a Candidate for the Cabinet than those of any other gentleman named. In this declaration I have no reference whatever to yourself. I have recently recd a long & able letter from a distinguished Methodist preacher in his favor.

Now, my dear Sir, I wish I could persuade you to trust to my friendship. In forming a Cabinet I cannot select them all the members from those who have been my own friends or yours. Besides, you ought not to desire this. As I always intended, I shall give you notice of the time I shall be in Washington & shall be happy to hear all you have to say.

I am glad Gov: Wright writes to no person but yourself. The letter which I return, if published in Indiana, would do him much injury.

from your friend very respectfully James Buchanan

Hon: Henry A. Wise.

P. S. I write in haste & by "snatches". Hence the interlining.