

York April 30, 1879

My dear Sir

Excuse me: I think you mistake. I never heard that you said anything on the subject - certainly nothing that I had any rights to complain of. And I never did & I do not now find fault with you about your words or your deeds. I think it a great public misfortune that Mr. Buchanan's life should not have been written long ago. But you cannot help it, neither can I. You may assure yourself that I write with no intent to reproach you but only with the wish to inform you that I was unwilling to assume any responsibility about it. I sincerely hope you will understand this. I can bear my share of the loss of prestige and character which the whole democracy suffers as well as any of my brethren.

By the way I ought to modify this somewhat. I have pledged myself that I would give some accounts of particular passages in the B. administration for a periodical publication. I must do this at great disadvantage while the papers of Mr. Buchanan are unpublished and inaccessible.

When I said that I thought I could suggest a course which would lead to a good result I did not wish you to think I had any personal desire to gratify. I hope you did not so understand me. Your willingness to be commanded is very obliging but I cannot issue any requests or even offer advice which would be rejected certainly & merely because it came from me. I thank you for the kindness of your expression; and I do not doubt that you desire the vindication of Mr. B.'s fame as truly as I do. But we are both powerless.

I am most truly yours

J.S. Black

Hon. H.B. Swarr

[on left side of envelope: 1. Hon J. S. Black, received April 18 & answered April 29, 1879. 2. Received May 2 1879]

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