

Legation of the United States
London 30 November 1855

My dear Eskridge /

I have received your favor of the 12th Instant & am sorry to learn that Harriet is not as lively & gay as she was before her visit to London. I feel entirely confident, however, that she has not become too “dignified,” in her intercourse with society.

Harriet informed you correctly that I desire to have Wheatland filled up with all it requires & that she should consult her own taste; this, however, in a plain substantial manner. The more for this purpose you can purchase in Lancaster, the better. I am satisfied with the Hudson River Rail Road Bonds, though it is not the investment I should have preferred. American State & Rail Road Loans have fallen here considerably on account of the stringency in the Money Market as well as from apprehensions of a rupture between the two countries in which, however, I do not believe. I wish you to inform me what sum you could probably have deposited to my credit with Riggs & Co, Washington City, say on or before the 10th. April. For the amount, I might make advantageous purchases here on my own draft at ninety [sic] days. – I hope you have attended to the transfer of the Michigan Central Rail Road stock.

You inform me that a large majority of my friends think it would be advisable for me to remain abroad this winter. Now if I were to judge from the letters I receive, I would say that a large majority of my friends are of a contrary opinion. General Pierce & his particular friends are decidedly of your opinion & desire me to remain here for the benefit of my country. There is some reason, I admit, for my absence during the elections of Senator & State Treasurer. But it is vain to speculate on this matter. I cannot possibly be at home before these events. I could not abandon my post in the midst of a storm, & now I am here alone with only a clerk, though he is all I could desire. I am, therefore, in prison & the President holds the key. When he will release me by sending out a successor I do not know. I trust this may be soon after the meeting of the Senate. I am gratified to know that at the present crisis, the Americans in Europe & the English are all desirous I should remain. The situation, however, has become extremely irksome to me. I am heartily tired of it. I may, perhaps, after leaving it pay a visit to the Continent with James Henry should he come out.

You speak favorably of my prospects for the Presidency. The office has no longer any charms for me, & I shall never engage in another canvas to obtain it. In the face, however, of all I have written to different friends throughout the Union, they just act as though I had not written a word. Should the improbable event of a spontaneous nomination occur, which would be egregious in one to expect, then I have said to some of them that “sufficient unto the day is the evil there of.”

Sanderson, from gratitude, I presume, desires the election of Bigler to the Senate. I respect the motive. But in case it were possible I should be President, in what a situation should I be placed with Brodhead & Bigler in the Senate from my own state! But breathe not this to any human being. Bigler now professes to be my warm friend. You had best not interfere at all in the matter. – I am now making money! There is nothing going on in London & I have no large dinners to give; & there is a great difference between a salary of \$9000 & 17.500.

With my kindest regards to Mr. Reynolds & other friends, I remain always, yours affectionately,

James Buchanan

Col: Eskridge Lane

