

Washington 9 Feb: 1849

My dear Sir /

I have received a letter from Colonel Emory, the head of the ^{officers of the} Topographical Corps, detailed on the ~~Coast~~ Mexican Boundary Survey, dated at New York on the 4th Instant from which I make the following extract:

“My immediate object in writing is to say that the second assistant is wanted here immediately & as I infer from Mr. Weller’s letter that the appointment of the two assistants are in my hands, I propose to offer it as stated to you to Mr. Edwards. I would thank you to inform me if he is still of the mind to go & what is his address. It will be necessary for him to be in this City by the 10th prepared to take charge of the instruments by the way of the Cape Horn.”

As Henry was here & ^I did not see him, I presume he had no idea of engaging in this service. If so, I think he has acted wisely. It might perhaps now be too late, even if this were not the case. I feel it to be my duty, notwithstanding, to give you the information which has been so strangely delayed. Col: Emory is still either in New York or Philadelphia & perhaps Henry might waylay him.

In great haste, as the mail is about closing, I remain sincerely your friend

James Buchanan

S. Edwards Esq

P.S. I do not know what the compensation will be as Mr. Emory does not inform me. Mr. Weller has fixed that doubtly (sic). It will not probably be large; possibly 6 or 7 hundred dollars & expenses.

