

Wheatland near Lancaster [21?] March 1853

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor of the 17th Instant & am sorry you have delayed your application to me until so late a period. I have been cautious in my selections; but have already recommended more clerks to Judge Campbell than he can properly appoint. Indeed I have ceased for the last fortnight to recommend any person to him for a clerkship.

The best chance would, I think, be in the Treasury Department. I would advise you, therefore, to get up a recommendation to the Hon: James Guthrie Secretary of the Treasury & have it signed by a few of your leading Democrats. If you had any friend in Washington, or if Mr. Seward should happen to be there take charge of it personally. The chance would be better in the general scramble. You may send this recommendation to me & I will forward it to Mr. Guthrie, with a strong letter from myself. I advise the recommendation; because there clerkships will doubtful be scattered over the state; & I ~~advise that~~ it is better that you should be presented from Northumberland County.

Now, my dear sir, whilst professing my willingness to serve you cordially in this matter, I cannot but express my regret that you should desire [to] go to Washington as a clerk. It is the very last situation in the world that I would recommend to any friend of your character & standing. You may be able to support your family there on the income, with economy, but you can do no more. But I am not the Judge in the matter & it will afford me great pleasure to serve you.

With my kind regards to Mrs. Cook, I remain,
very respectfully your friend
James Buchanan

William L Cook Esquire

4/27/53

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