

Private

Soldiers Home 16 August 1858

My dear Sir/

I have received yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst. I returned home on Saturday evening much benefited after a most agreeable visit to the Bedford Springs.

I have known for some time that Mr Hiester had left us; & it is remarkable that to the best of my knowledge he is the only old time Whig of any prominence in the United States who came into our ranks that has ~~left us~~ deserted the Democratic cause.

I had just as much to do with Schroeder's appointment as you had. It is not a Presidential appointment & Governor Denver strongly urged it upon the Postmaster General. It is true I might have placed my veto upon it & prohibited the P. M. General from appointing Schroeder who is now a true Democrat & has acquired great influence among the numerous foreign Germans in Leavenworth. Govr. [Governor] D. [Denver] who is a wise & prudent man & looks to the formation of a Democratic party in Kansas wc [which] will be in the majority was very strong in favor of the policy of appointing Schroeder.

Chandler['s] appointment was an absolute necessity. All the Catholic Bishops, I believe, in the United State had asked his appointment as Minister to Rome. They believed they had a right to be recognized by one appointment of a foreign minister & claimed the Holy See as the appropriate place. To this I did not think proper to yield; & as an alternative appointed Chandler to Naples. He is very popular with the Democracy all over the Country on account of what they call his great speech against Know Nothing-ism which I never read. I looked about all over the union in vain for some other proper person of the same religious persuasion who might take his place. I could not have done otherwise without giving offence to a very large body of men eminently entitled to the gratitude of the Democracy.

I forgot to mention that if I had been governed by the wishes of the Democracy in Kansas, I would have appointed Schroder [sic] Register or Receiver of a Land Office which I positively declined. He has certainly rendered himself very popular in that Region.

With my kindest regards to Mrs. Swarr I remain very respectfully your friend.

James Buchanan

H. B. Swarr Esq

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