

Washington 19 September 1859.

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor of the 16th & 17th Instants; & am much gratified with the proceedings of the Lancaster County Convention. I had hoped that my approaching retirement from public life would have mitigated the virulence of the faction in my own county which have so long hunted me without success. But I must bear their hostility as best I may. To all my good & valued old friends and especially to Messrs Peters & Kantz who have stood by one so long, please to return my most grateful thanks when occasion may offer for their expertise's. Who is the "young Keenan" to whom you refer? Is it Frank Keenan, the nephew of Father Keenan?

The blowers of Senator Douglas who have manufactured so many falsehoods in regard to his strength will doubtless play the game out as long as there may be hope. He has not a friend no not one in the New York Delegation to Charleston. On this you may confidently rely. He has not a friend among the four state delegates from Massachusetts. This I know. Indeed, the idea is absurd of claiming Caleb Cushing as his friend.

I should have been in Lancaster ere this; but that I have had to perform the duties of Secretary of War during Mr. Floyd['s] absence. I desire to spend a week with you when I come. With my kindest regards to Mrs Swarr, I remain very respectfully

Your friend
James Buchanan

H.B. Swarr Esquire

