

Lancaster 14th Novr 1847

My dear Sir,

After a short sojourn in Baltimore I directed my course to this place where I have been quietly located for some time. Since my arrival I have seen most of my friends and acquaintances of the city & country. The Whigs at this time are dejected and depressed, while the Democrats are elated and sanguine beyond anything I have met with, in this country for years past. The leading whigs [sic] were sanguine and expected large majorities and the result has completely paralyzed them, never were your prospects better, throughout this country than they are at this moment, provided you can control or conquer Frazer and Champneys. They are the only enemies I can find in the whole community, even many of the most violent Whigs would vote for you. Frazer; with whom I have had long conversations, is not so rabid as formerly but he is not the less dangerous. He was anxious to know, how his proceeding in the county convention were regarded at Washington, and when I had told him this was but one opinion there upon the subject. That his course was looked upon as one of great ingratitude, produced by personal disappointments and that the injury he intended to inflict upon you would be done to fall upon his own shoulders. When I told him this, he became furious, mad, raving, and denied ingratitude. I referred to his Father[‘]s cases, that of his brother & his brother in law. The effect was wonderful—he became more quiet, said his Father conferred many favors upon you! That you volunteered your services for his brother and what was Purser Steele to him? not a drop of his blood fowed in Steele’s veins!! He pretends to hang all his opposition to you upon Cameron[‘]s election and your not giving your aid to Judge Champneys. I replied to both more violently than usual in conversations, and told him of your letter on file in the State Dept in favour [sic] of Judge C_ which he characterized as a letter of two lines. As I became determined and excited he became cool! There is method in all his ravings, policy in his apparent rashness. It is a great misfortune that you did not come out in reply to his attacks as you had intended. It is not yet too late to do so. He is your bitter and vindictive enemy, why therefore spare him! At this time in public he is quiet. Your portrait still adorns his office, and when I asked why it was still there his reply was, that he kept it as a memento how the great may fall. The truth is, a this time, he is fearful that you will be nominated, and he desires to retain such a position as not to be thrown out of the party as he is now desirous to throw others out.

He is now straining every effort (quietly) to secure his election as a delegate to the Baltimore convention if he cannot succeed the effort will then be for Champneys; and I scarsely [sic] know, which would prove the most formidable enemy. Nothing should be left undone to keep them out of the convention if that can be accomplished, they will be rendered harmless. I told F that he might quietly make up his mind to see you nominated and that he was injuring himself alone. He replied, ironically, when he wanted my advice he would ask for it and “that you should not be nominated if he could prevent it.” Dallas first & Cass afterwards will be the difficulties which he will endeavour [sic] to interpose. There never was a more auspicious moment to do good for the Dem: party in this country than the present. May of the Intelligences is in pecuniary embarrassments and is anxious to sell. Col: Stambaugh says he will take one third of the paper and in the hands of the prudent & clever man, such as Hutter, it would yield large profits and regenerate this whole county. Stambaugh will try to get to the Balt: convention, as your friend, but



Frazer & Champney will defeat him if possible. The letter published some weeks ago in the Union in favour [sic] of the war, said to be from a citizen of York County the authorship of which we were at a loss to fix, was written by Judge Lewis, in Coleman['s] Hotel, in time [?], the morning of the day you dined with him. It was addressed to President Weyland of Brown University and just published in the York Gazette. Judge L. says he will support you in opposition to Genl Taylor or any other man. Cameron['s] Taylor paper has fallen through. Hercules [?] is attempting to revive it but will fail.

I am anxious to know how you breathe, is there anything more of the value? can you blow your nose? how do you expire? Please drop a line upon this subject to me at Lancaster, and send here any letters from the Navy Dept for me. From this place they will always reach me speedily and safely. With my compliments to Miss Hetty and the pretty Ann Eliza I am respectfully your obt servt [obedient servant]

J.M. Foltz

Hon: J. Buchanan

