

U. S. Ship Jamestown
Norfolk 19th April 51

My dear Sir,

Enclosed I send you an article from our friend Sawyer[']s paper. He is one of many of your friends whom you have never seen, and who are the most enthusiastic. There was much enthusiasm here two weeks ago, when you were expected, but the adjournment of the Legislature at Richmond, and the absence of elections have for the time produced a calm.

This state & North Carolina I know are pledged for you. Yet a visit to this neighbourhood [sic] would be of service; but it is not necessary.

Our ship is now in commission, and I am afloat, more & more convinced of the injustice & oppression practiced towards me. I am here in a beautiful & comfortable little ship, with a crew of 180! souls on board.

But I have abandoned all hopes from a Whig administration & God grant that “there is a better day a’ coming”. Our time of sailing is uncertain & may be many weeks off. With my respects to your Household I am with respect – your obliged friend & obt st.
[obedient servant]

J. M. Foltz

Hon James Buchanan



[Attached article]

NORFOLK.
FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1851
FOR CONGRESS.
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.
JOHN S. MILLSON.

Hon. James Buchanan.

We give below an admirable letter from this distinguished citizen, written in reply to an invitation of the Central Southern Rights Association of Virginia, for him to visit Richmond, and address the people upon the absorbing topics of the day.

We have always entertained a high respect for the personal and political character of Mr. Buchanan. Plain and unostentatious in his habits—bland in his manners, and accessible to every one—office nor honors have never served to elevate him above the people, but he is at all times and in all situations the agreeable, accomplished and intelligent gentleman. There is no politician within the range of our observation, who has been more self-sacrificing in his aspirations than he, and on all occasions it has been his pride and pleasure to immolate his own prospects for the good of the cause and those principles for which he has been so zealous and disinterested an advocate. Had the South listened to his counsels and adopted the programme which he recommended in her hour of trial, she would not now be reduced to the dilemma in which she is involved; and the great disturbing question which continues to divide the two sections, would have been adjusted upon honorable and equal terms.

The Richmond Committee, in their note to the Pennsylvania statesman, said truly that they had always found him a “firm friend to all parts of the nation, and ever ready to maintain the rights of each, against all factions or parties.” And Mr. Buchanan, in his reply, assumes the correct ground when he declares that the Federal Government can only be sustained by a rigid adherence to the Constitution, and by again returning to the enduring principles of the patriots of ’98 and 99’ This is the true doctrine, without the recognition of which, there is no hope or the perpetuity of our institutions. We feel proud that it has been boldly promulgated from such a source and from such a quarter—the very centre as it were of the Union. We do not know that we shall ever again engage in the

angry and exciting strife of President making, but if we do, we pray that Heaven’s lighting may blast us, if we support any man for that high office who refuses to subscribe to such a creed—not in vague and unmeaning generalities, such as we have heretofore had proclaimed from political Conventions, but plainly and unreservedly, without mental equivocation or reservation. We must have declarations of principle in such a form and such a shape that they will be understood by the way-faring man, both of the North and South, the *same* way, and not subject to be afterwards frittered away by construction, or lost in the “noise and confusion” of the multitude.

But we will not keep our readers longer from the letter:

WHEATLAND, NEAR LANCASTER,
April 10, 1851.

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LancasterHistory