

U. S. S. Jamestown
at Sea 1st June 1852

My dear Sir,

As the fresh and gushing water from the rock was to the parched Israilites in the desert, so was your welcome letter to me of the 31st of Jany. It gave me just the news I was longing for, the result of the county and state delegate elections, of which I could not glean one word from the few irregular newspapers recently picked up; and I am thankful that it has been in your power to give me such agreeable information, in my exile. Few things could have afforded me more delight than the removal of Col: Rounford [?]. At the last Baltimore convention, (4 years ago), he slandered you bitterly in my presence, when I told him direct, that "he knew what he stated to be false". Thank God that he & Miller and Porter (Judge) & Frazer & Cameron, are repudiated and rebuked by the Democracy of Penna.- That you would carry the state, I never for a moment doubted; but your majority in the state convention, and carrying 41 out of 45! districts in the county, is glorious; and it will teach these brawlers their importance in the party in which they vainly thought themselves all powerful.

On the 1st of March we sailed from river Plate, and have now been cruising for three months. We have been as far north as 4 ° South Lat., touching at most of the Ports and headlands between the river and Cape St Rogue. A few days ago we ran into Bahia, where I had the pleasure of receiving your kind & valuable letter as it contains much to me of importance.

We are at present on our way to Rio Janeiro, from which we are about 500 miles distant, and from whence I had intended answering your letter.

This day is the day of the meeting of the Baltimore Convention, and there I have been spiritually, all day; and I must appropriate the evening to writing to you; hoping to find a vessel homeward bound on our arrival in port. During our protracted cruising we have picked up but little news, but that little is cheering, & I will patiently await the arrival of the proceedings of the Convention, with a full conviction of your nomination. I hope for decency sake, that the Lancastrian & the Keystone will go to the tombs so soon as the Convention adjourns, & that their owners & supporters will hide their heads in shame.

The nomination settles the Presidency – I care not who the Whigs may put on the track. I have seen your letters to Richmond & Baltimore. Sustaining that Constitution, with frugality & economy in the Governments will clinch the business. I have in my solitude and leisure on board ship, deluged my Democratic friends with letters, all over the Union; and I will continue the work for a time longer. Your best political friends, and the warmest admirers of your public acts, who I have met, are men who never knew you personally; and those I have found abounding among the intelligent & influential gentlemen of the south.

Politically all will be right, God grant you health & strength of mind & body, and that clear head & heart which he was heretofore bestowed upon you, while I drop politics and proceed to say a word about ourselves.

Soon after the downfall of Rosas, of which I informed you, we were ordered on this cruise in the midst of the rainy season, & we have had little else but rain, rain, rain, which combined to the high temperature near the Equator, made the ship very, very uncomfortable. Then at Rio, Bahia & Pernambuco, Yellow Fever prevails, and



communicating with these ports was at the imminent peril of our lives, thus adding this danger to the perils of the sea.

My brother officers on board me gentlemen, my Captain (Downing) is a black guard, and none of us will have any thing to do with him, except officially. He was dismissed the Navy some years ago for lying and reinstated by Genl Jackson whom he abuses on all occasions; and the Ex-Secretaries Dickerson, Bancroft & Mason he constantly calls "liars". If our ships are to be commanded by such men we had much better not have any Navy & I myself am indebted to that imbecile idiot Dr Harris (to whom I have rendered important services) for my orders to this ship & to this commander. I trust however our cruise will soon come to an end & that Downing may be driven from the service which he disgraces.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind attention to my business, and for your replies to my inquiries in relation to my friend. I hope the day may come when I will be able in a measure to repay you for these kind attentions. They add to the many obligations heretofore received and I am glad my course meets with you approbation, & that you express so favorable an opinion of the "promise". Please give my compliments to Miss Harriet Lane & Miss Hetty

We will soon sail for the river Plate, from whence I will inform you of the doings in those countries under the regime. With may sincere thanks for your kindness I am your obliged friend.

J. M. Foltz

Hon: James Buchanan

