

Buenos Ayres
2nd November 1852

My dear Sir,

On the day of the meeting of the Baltimore Convention I addressed you a letter, from sea, filled with sanguine expressions of confidence in your nomination & of course your election.

This day is your day of election, & when I remember that the votes of the Democratic party are not recorded for James Buchanan my heart sickens within me.

Had you been the choice of the party, I feel that your sound judgement [sic], great experience and an honest heart would have been devoted to the good of the whole people; and I had resolved to appropriate what little information of men & things, and above all of the Navy (which is so prolific of abuses) and my most unceasing application to your services, in the hope that some good might result from it. In all my calculations I have been most miserably at fault, and so far as I am capable of forming an opinion, "all things have not terminated for the best". Before this letter reaches you, the result of the election will be long known, & should the Democratic party be defeated, which I pray may not prove the case- I can only say, that they deserve it. Pennsylvania & New York will probably be in the battleground, both of which states I believe you would have carried; & Penna at least, I would stake my existence upon. Should Scott, that bag of fuss & Feathers (whom "I would have hanged in Mexico for not advancing after his battles of Cherubusco") unfortunately have been elected, it will open the eyes of the Democratic party to the errors which they have committed, and lead to your certain nomination & election four years hence.

I trust however on this subject you will never express yourself either by word or deed; and rejoiced to hear that you had refused to address any public meeting during the canvass. Webster has made himself the laughing stock of the land, by the mortification which he exhibits on all occasions at his not having been nominated. Had he been elected. His Nicaragua [sic] treaty and the codfish "fluster" are much ridiculed and laughed at in the English newspapers which we received here, the latter was obviously entirely a political move.

My cruise if possible is become daily more and more disgusting, owing entirely to the fact that our Captain is a blackguard, there are nothing but a succession of courts martial, in which the senior officer is always sustained, and so we are likely to continue until the ship is ordered home and the sooner that occurs the better for our Flag & Country.

For the last three months the Jamestown has been at anchor off this city, watching the revolutions & pronuncimientos [military coup d'état or rebellion]. On the 11th Sept. there was a revolution against Urquiza, and this state, Buenos Ayres, has separated from the upper states, which are at present organizing a Confederation at Santa Fe□□ of which Urquiza will unquestionably be elected President.

It is said he is now collecting his forces and that he will soon be here, when there will be a pronuncimiento in his favor; some will run to the ships of war for protection, and some will be taken and shot! They have had six new governors within six months. Alsina, a clever man, was elected on Saturday last, but his letter will not reach you under two months, & in that time they will have as many new Governors. Pendleton is still as crazy



as ever, and is still Jack Pendleton he is delegated to the “confederation” & should be with Urquiza, but he is here represented to a single state.

Mr. Schenck is expected shortly again from Rio as the envoy Extraordinary, but for all the good he will accomplish, he might as well remain where he is. This was another of Mr. Webster[‘]s blunders, yet all the world are lauding his abilities! The steamer Saranac is shortly expected here, when this ship will proceed to Rio, where a court martial is to be held for [?] our First Lieutenant. We are only kept alive by the hope that the next administration, be it Democratic or Whig, will order the Jamestown home as one of its first measures.

In January I shall be two years attached to this ship, and early in the spring we shall be two years in commission. We hear nothing of when we will be relieved, but whenever the happy moment does arrive, it will be hailed with delight by all on board save the Capt. who anticipating trouble on his return, will throw every obstacle he can in its way.

From what I can gather I shall anticipate some change & improvements in L on my return, there is much room for them & I will rejoice to see them. When you see my friends please let them know you have heard from me, & that I am anxious to return. With my compliments to Miss Harriet Lane, Miss Hetty and my best respects to yourself, I am your obliged friend & obedient Servt [servant]

J. M. Foltz

Hon: James Buchanan

