

Buenos Ayres  
4<sup>th</sup> March 1853

My dear Sir,

Today I am once more with you in spirit. I wrote to you on the day of the Baltimore convention, on the day of the election; and on the day of the Inauguration. I must again commune with you.

The overwhelming Democratic majorities, and the complete success of the party has poured healing oil into my wounds, and soothed, in a measure, my disappointment. I have but one request to make of the President and his cabinet, and that is, that they will daily keep in mind the bitter prescription of the last administration, and to strictly follow their example.

There must be no more generosity & liberality. Justice to the Democratic party forbids it, for the next four years at least, after that it may be used with discretion. Our latest news from the States is to Christmas, when the newspapers were buisy [sic] making cabinets and I am pleased to see your name conspicuous, but, I am "afraid to hope." The branch of the Gov[']t to which I belong requires a pruning and reforming hand, and I wish there was a member of the Cabinet whose full confidence I possessed. I could give him seeds to plant which would produce good fruit. We have Mr. Ingersole[']s Liverpool & Manchester speeches – over-running with mawkish fulsome English adulation, and Gen[']l Cass' manly Democratic non-intervention speech in the senate. Yet what a pity, that so ripe a statesman scholar, should mar its beauties by low wit and vulgarities! It is like and oystershell [sic] on the surface of a beautiful statue, or some foul vermin creeping on the neck of a beauty.

But I must acknowledge I bear some ill will towards Gen[']l C-[Cass]; having been nominated & defeated, and seeing that he could not be nominated again; injustice to your friends, he should have withdrawn his name. He is the sole cause, why you are not at this day, the president of the United States; and for this, I fear I shall never forgive him.

Our mission in Brazil is in a bad way & the earlier Mr. Schenck is recalled the better. He has formed an intimacy with a Mrs. Fletcher, a beautiful & accomplished woman; wife of the Rev. Mr. F- who married her in Europe; which is the subject of much scandal, & which has in a measure, excluded both from their respective circles. Mr. F-is an American missionary here (Presbyterian) [sic] the son of a wealthy man in the West, & devoted, sincere & indefatigable in the discharge of his sacred calling. The two households reside together, in the country, & Mr. F is much from home, which has given rise to much talk. His (Mr. Shenck[']s) influence as a minister at Court is limited [sic], if it is not entirely lost. I mention this in confidence, as Mr. S is personally friendly to me; yet the sooner we have another in his place the better. The Consulate is very valuable, & Govr. Kent will of course be removed. I hope it will be given to a more industrious man & to a good democrat. The consulates here & at Monte Video give but small salaries, and are in tolerable good hands.

Mr. Pendleton is still in Paraguay, where he has been for the last five months, the guest of Sir Chas: Hotham the British Minister. They have united their forces, but reports say that they will fail in effecting a Treaty with that Gov[']t which Independence is acknowledged. Sir Chas- rented the largest house in assumption [sic] & entertained the



whole community- to the “astonishment of the natives,” but so far, to no purpose. Mr. Pendleton has the personal confidence of Urquiza [Urquiza] whose warm partisan he has been; & he might remain here for a short time longer with advantage. But the value & importance of the country of the River Plate has been vastly over estimated by Europe & America. They are set of savages, requiring but few articles of merchandise & with but few exports. The natives are at present rapidly destroying each other (a great blessing) and when a Foreign population get [sic] possession, it will speedily grow populous and wealthy; but for our days, it will be a land of revolutions & anarchy & idleness. The 20 years of Rosas have demoralized the whole community, so that truth & justice and faith, have left the land; are not to be found, neither in individuals nor in the Government.

Our ship, the Jamestown, has been in commission over two years; our captain is a blackguard. I can use no other term. He has had charges preferred against him by two of his Lieutenants (Fauntleroy & Miller) which have been forwarded to the Dept. When cashiered the Navy, he was re-instated by Genl. Jackson, who he never fails to abuse, & every democratic secretary from Jno: Branch to the last; he brands with every opprobrious epithet in the language. I trust one of the first acts of the new Secy. [sic] will be to relieve the Jamestown, & to order a Court Martian upon Capt: Downing. To Com: McKeever, now on his way home, I refer to substantiate what I have said against him, or to any other officer who may know him.

For three months this city has been in a state of siege. Every street has its ditch-its barricade and its cannon. The number of troops under arms within the city are [sic] about 7000; of who 2000 are regular troops, the remainder are national Guard. More than 1000 have fallen (killed & wounded) since the commencement of hostilities within the city alone most of whom I have myself seen- The force without under Lagos numbers about 8000 troops, and all are mounted. They have but little artillery, and are not troops calculated to take a place by storming; yet are brave, and well calculated for guerilla warfare.

Urquiza [Urquiza] has sent down three commissioners who have met a commission from the inside; negotiations for a Peace are at present going on. An armistice was agreed upon to commence this day at daylight but while I am writing, I hear a heavy firing on the lines. Neither of the leaders desire a Peace as this is their harvest-

The insiders have the National Bank from which they take what money they require- (their paper dollars are now 20 to the silver dollar:) and the outsiders have the cattle, which they are killing by thousands to supply themselves with money. The public are confident that a Peace will be secured, but I see no prospects of it.

The Congress to form articles of Confederation are still in session at Santa Fe□, at which 12 Provinces are represented. When they have concluded their labors, Urquiza [Urquiza] will be elected President.

This state has heretofore collected all the revenue, and this she desire to continue to do- hence her opposition to the confederation, & if she fails in her efforts in preventing an organisation of the other Province, she will do all in her power to remain an independent state. This however will probably be prevented and if subdued, she will be compelled to unite in the confederation.

Our mission here should be raised to that of a minister Plenipotentiary, who should be accredited to all the Govts. of the La Plate. At present they are Uruguay [sic] –

Buenos Ayes the 12 confederated provinces, and Paraguay; but above all, he should be a proper person. our Govt. has been most unfortunate in her Diplomatic agents here for many years- Mr. Harris was the best, but he devoted all his time & efforts to private claims in which he was interested.

How difficult a matter it is to get proper men for Foreign missions. It requires rare and peculiar qualities of mind. Had Mr. Saunders at Madrid been equal to his duties, Cuba would have been purchased. I gloried in your letter of instructions. It is one of your best state papers.

Should this letter reach you at Wheatland you will read it at your leisure. Should it find you elsewhere it may encroach upon you time. In conclusion I will again beg, to have the Jamestown relieved and sent home for the honor of the Flag she bears. I have sent you newspapers from this place and will continue to write from time to time as matters of interest transpire, but I trust by the fall to meet you all once more. From my "promise" I hear that you are well and in excellent spirits for which I am thankful. I pray God you may have to lay the lash on the back of some ingrates who are not far from you. I myself am not Christian enough to return good for evil, put pay the world in its own coin. I hear Forney is to have the Union & hope it is so. He is the man for that Journal and it is a waste of talent to keep him at a Commercial paper.

8<sup>th</sup> March The commission have signed a Treaty of Peace, but since signing severe Guerrillois [sic] continue, and neither army are [sic] satisfied with the terms. – With my respect to Miss Harriet & Hetty I am with sincere devotion your old friend and

Obedient servant

J. M. Foltz

Hon: James Buchanan

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