

Washington 2 July 1840

~~My Dear Sir/~~ Gentlemen

The President sent a communication to Dr. Sturgeon & myself on Tuesday last informing us that he had determined not to re-appoint Major Lynch Postmaster at Pittsburg [sic], and requesting that we should suggest the name of a suitable successor. We called upon the President yesterday morning & ^{when} I expressed ~~a~~ ^{the} decided opinion that this question should be referred to the democracy of Pittsburg [sic]. He ~~said~~ ^{replied that} this was ~~now~~ ^{then} impossible for want of time as the office would expire & a nomination must be made on the day following (that day). Doctor Sturgeon & myself ~~then~~ ^{afterwards} went to the Post Office department & examined the papers in the case. Among the applicants, I thought that Major John K. Moorhead would give the greatest ^{most} ^{general} satisfaction to the democracy of Pittsburg: & I knew that he was well qualified to discharge the duties of the office ~~with satisfaction~~ ^{in an acceptable manner to} the public & the Department and accordingly I recommended his appointment. ~~If I should prove to have been mistaken in the public sentiment, I shall always regret it.~~ My universal rule has been ~~never~~ ^{not} to interfere in such appointments; but to leave them ^{exclusively} to the people &, the President, & the Postmaster General. In this ~~case~~ instance, however, the responsibility was cast upon me by ~~the~~ necessity ~~of~~ ^{of} the case and I shall rejoice to learn ~~that~~ I have not mistaken the will of the ~~democracy~~ ^{of} my [?] fellow citizens of Pittsburg [sic]. ~~acted for the best.~~ I ought to add that Dr. Sturgeon declined recommending any person to the President.

Yours very respectfully,

James Buchanan

[On back: 2 July 40. Copy of a letter addressed to Edw^d D Gazzam, Jno. B. Butler, W^m. Jack, Geo: W. Jackson & W^m B. Brown Esquires Democratic Committee in regard to Major Moorhead's nomination as Post Master at Pittsburg [sic]

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