

Private

Washington 22 July, 1848

My dear Sir/

I have this moment received your kind letter of the 22^d Instant & hasten to give it an answer. I have received many letters of a similar character from different parts of the State to all of which I promptly answered that I could not consent to become a candidate for the office of Governor. From your valued friendship & the esteem in which I hold you, it is best right that you should know my reasons.

1. I am sincerely desirous to return to private live. I have been so long in the political harness that it now galls one severely & it is my ardent wish to lay it off.
2. I have had ~~time~~ so little time to devote to my own reputation, that no volume of my speeches & & has ever been published: & it is my purpose to prepare & publish one or two volumes of these with sketches of the history of the times when they were delivered.
3. Having so many favors from the Democracy of Pennsylvania, I ought to be, as I am, satisfied with the ample share of public honors which they have bestowed upon me & ~~not~~ ^{and am unwilling to} stand in the way of worthy Democrats who desire to be candidates for the Governors [sic] office.
4. It is my desire to close several important public affairs now in progress in the Department which will require my time until the 4th March next.
5. I can now retire gracefully to private life with feelings of the most devoted gratitude to the Democracy of the State; but I conceive that it would be impossible for any man in my circumstances to administer the Governor's office without giving great offense to many valued friends.

The latest news is that General Taylor, having refused to take a large number of letters from the Post office at Baton Rouge, on account of the postage; the veritable Morehead letter was among the number & ~~was~~ ^{has been} transmitted with the rest, according to law, to the General Post Office in the City. He had requested that this package of letters should be returned.

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I addressed an answer some days ago to a number of leading Democrats in York County expressing my determination not to be a candidate for governor which will, I presume, appear in the ^{next} York Gazette.

Please to remember my very kindly & respectfully [?] to Mr. Reeder & believe me to be (in haste), gratefully & respectfully your friend.

James Buchanan

Colonel A. H. Reeder

P. S. You can show this letter to our friend Wagner & give him my kindest respects.

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