

Bedford Springs 31 July 1850

My dear Sir/

I address you & you alone upon a subject forced upon me, without expecting that you will be able, consistently with the duty upon which you owe to your political friends, to do any thing [sic] for me.

I have a nephew, by the name of James B. Henry, who is now well prepared to enter the Sophomore class at Princeton College. He was born in March 1843, & has his heart fixed upon going to West Point. I should greatly prefer that he would pursue his collegiate education & have for some time been keeping him back, convinced that General Taylor would at any time when he could, have given me an appointment for him. After the death of that excellent & glorious old man I told James, that I had no claims upon Mr. Fillmore, I could not ask a favor from ~~him~~ his administration. I was induced, however, to write to General Totten & inquire whether there was any vacancy from the State, in consequence of an inability on the part of those appointed to stand their examinations & he informs me that is one. I have, therefore, resolved to address you on the subject, supposing it might be possible that you had no person to fill it who would be prepared to go there immediately & stand his examination. If he has no chance of obtaining it, I would thank you to write me a few lines to this effect <sup>addressed to Lancaster</sup> stating the fact distinctly so that I may shew [sic] them to him; & this I trust will settle the question in his mind.

If you should be perfectly free & yet indisposed to act in his favor which I can readily perceive you might be, with perfect propriety, I shall, then, but not otherwise, have his application presented by some other friend.

Finally, Hager, Reigart Hall & myself have been here for some days & have been enjoying ourselves very much. I shall leave here on Monday morning next; but shall pass a couple of days in Franklin County. Should you write, you might address me at Chambersburg.

Yours very respectfully

James Buchanan

Hon. Thaddeus Stevens.

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