

BUCHANAN'S ROMANCE

A Letter Which Throws Light on the Love Affair of the Bachelor President.

(From the New York Times)

A box of old documents which had remained long unclaimed in a Washington warehouse was sold for a few cents the other day, and the purchaser on looking them over was delighted to find that they consisted of letters written to and by James Buchanan. Many of the letters had some value as autographs, but one was of especial interest, as it threw new light on the unhappy romance in the early life of Lincoln's predecessor. It has long been known that Buchanan died a bachelor because his engagement with the daughter of a prominent resident of Lancaster, Penna., was broken by the girl's parents. Her name was Annie Coleman, and she died in 1819, a few months after the trouble occurred, it is said from grief over the loss of her lover. What excited her father's hostility to young Buchanan is not definitely known, but those most intimate with the two heard vaguely of anonymous charges which Mr. Coleman would not allow his daughter's suitor to answer or ever to hear. After Miss Coleman's death, Buchanan wrote to her father asking permission to attend the funeral. The letter was returned unopened, and it was among those in the box bought from the warehouse people. In it the future president said:

“You have lost a dear child. I have lost the only earthly object of my affections. My Prospects are all cut off and I feel that my happiness will be buried with her in the grave. It is now no time for explanation but the time will come when you will discover that she as well as I, has been much abused. God forgive the authors of it. My feelings of resentment against them, whoever they may be are buried in the dust. I have one request to make, and for the love of God and of your departed daughter, whom I love infinitely more than any human being could love, deny me not. Afford me the melancholy pleasure of seeing the body before its interment.”

As stated the plea was not even read, and Buchanan, finding the animosity of the wealthy Coleman family too much for the young lawyer in a small town to contend with, left the place and soon afterward entered upon the political career that ended in the White House.

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