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Legation of the United States
London 22 Dec: 1855

My dear Sir/

I have received a letter from Dr. W. W. Bedlack, now at Tangier, who informs me that he has written to the Russian minister at Berlin soliciting the appointment of Assistant Surgeon in the Russian Army & requests me to state to that gentleman that he is of respectable family & connexions in the United States.

Of course, I cannot interfere in favor of the appointment Dr. Bedlack to an office in the Russian army; but it is due to him to state my personal knowledge his family & himself. His father, the Hon: Benjamin A. Bedlack was a worthy & exceptional man.

He repeatedly represented his County,(that of Luzerne) in the Legislature of Pennsylvania and afterwards represented his District in the Congress of the United States. He was appointed by Mr. Polk, chargeé d'affaires to Bogota where he died much respected in that City, after having concluded an advantageous Treaty with the Government of New Granada. His connexions are highly esteemed in that portion of Penna., where he resided.

In regard to Dr. Bedlack,— he went out to Tangier as the youthful companion & friend of Mr. Collins, U. S. Consul General who recently died there. I saw him on his way & he made a favorable impression upon me; but personally I know nothing more of him. He has undoubtedly received a regular education as physician & surgeon.

Now, my dear Sir, if you should deem it proper, you might communicate these facts, upon my authority, to the Russian minister. This is as little as I can do for the son of an old and valued friends now no more.

Every person here is anxiously expecting the answer of the Czar to the propositions made by Austria and accepted by France & England. If this should be favorable, I doubt whether the terms, whatever they may be, will prove satisfactory to the British people. They seem to be intent upon the recovery of the military prestige which they have lost during the two last campaigns, & to accomplish this object, have made vast naval preparations.

With my respectful regards to Mrs. Vroom, I remain, truly your friend
James Buchanan

Hon: P. D. Vroom

[annotated in another hand]

London

22 December '55

[Ambassador]

