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Document: *Letter from James Buchanan to Dr. Samuel A. Houston*

Transcription:

Private

Legation of the U. S.

London, 3 August '55

My dear sir/

I have received your favor of the 30 June with a note from Dr. Smith dated off Cowes on the 29th July, informing me that he would not visit London but would proceed by way of Bremen & Berlin to St. Petersburg. Had he come here I should have been happy to comply with your request in his favor.

I observed before the receipt of yours that your brother John had been removed. For this I am extremely sorry ~~both~~ on account of my long friendship and warm regard for him & his family.

Your speculations concerning the next Presidency although interesting possess no value for me personally. Henceforward as a private citizen I shall give a decided support to the principles & the nominees of the Democratic party, but shall not again be a candidate for nomination before the National Convention. This I have written to all friends who have addressed me on the subject, though you seem to be under a different impression.

It seems that 'the question again asked is Can Mr. Buchanan carry Pennsylvania.' This question has heretofore been so adroitly managed by my political opponents as to do me much injury; & yet there has been no period since my name has been seriously mentioned as a candidate when the matter was, in the least degree, doubtful." What might be the case at the present moment is a matter of no personal importance to me, although desire to always to live in the kind regard of the people of native State [sic]. My gratitude to them for past favors can never end with my life. I have no future favors to ask of them except their ~~favorable~~ kind opinion.

Please to present my warm regards to my old & valued friend, Dr. Jones. I am pleased to learn that his is Anti-Know Nothing. A secret political Society bound together by un careful [?] oaths, to restrain the free will of the members, to persecute a particular denomination of Christians, & to proscribe naturalized citizens ~~consists~~ could not long continue to flourish in the free air of our glorious country.



Please to remember me in the very kindest manner to your brother & his family. I hope to be in Washington for a couple of days before the meeting of congress to settle my accounts, when I trust I may see you all.

With my warm regards to Mrs. Houston, I remain yours sincerely

James Buchanan

Dr. Samuel A. Houston

[Transcribed by REC, November 2020. Portions in italics transcribed by the auction company.]

Note:

Proscribe:

1: to publish the name of as condemned to death with the property of the condemned forfeited to the state

2: to condemn or forbid as harmful or unlawful : prohibit

Scope And Content Note:

Letter from James Buchanan to Dr. Samuel A. Houston of the 6th Auditor's Office in Washington, D.C. regarding the possibility of being a Presidential candidate. "Your speculations concerning the next Presidency although interesting possess no value for me personally." With envelope. London.

