

Private.

Wheatland, near Lancaster 24 Sept 1851.

My dear Sir! I have received your kind letter of the 22^d Instant & am always rejoiced to hear from you. I was aware of how I stood in Baltimore; & for want of one active influential friend acquainted with the people to put matters in their true light. John Kettlewell, a native of Pennsylvania & who is called there the Custom House Clique have always opposed me & they have the Argus under their keeping; & yet Baltimoreans would be naturally inclined to a Pennsylvanian.

The Christiana murder was a shocking affair. It will be the strength of the Fugitive Slave Law & I trust in God, that the Court & Jury of Lancaster County may do their duty. But is it not passing strange that Maryland alone, of all the Slave holding states, should advocate a candidate for the Presidency who refused to vote for this very law? Without the Fugitive Slave Law, there would be no pretence of a compromise between the North & the South; & yet Genl Cass is glorified by his friends as the great author of the compromise. We are now struggling & I trust successfully to maintain this law & upon its maintenance may probably depend the fate of the Union; & God

a State of all others the most deeply interested in it,
the Democracy of Maryland, are struggling to elevate to the Presidency
a candidate who declined to vote in favor of its passage.

You say the fact is not generally known in Baltimore. The
record of it will be found in the Congressional Globe for 1849, 50.
part 2 page 1647. (Aug: 23^d 1850). This record presents a
singular spectacle. But one Senator from any non slave holding
State East of the Mississippi voted in favor of the Bill, & this was
Dr. Surzeon who was not afraid "to face the music". I say East of
the Mississippi, because Dodge & Jones of Iowa voted in the affirmative,
General Cays & his colleague Felch, Hamlen of Maine, Norris of
New Hampshire, Dickenson of New York, Bright & Whitecomb of
Indiana & Douglas & Shields of Illinois, all Democratic Senators,
did not vote for the Bill. It is but right to say that Dickenson
publicly declared in the Senate he would have voted for it; but that
he had parted off with Seward & I have seen it stated that
Douglas was sick & unable to attend.

You will perceive that on the same page on the same
day, General Cays voted on another question; & what is more
remarkable, you will see that he took part in the debate on
certain amendments to this Bill & voted twice upon them on the
very day of its passage, 23^d August) or rather its engrossment for
a third reading. The ages & moes were not afterwards called on
its passage on the following Monday. This you know might have
been done & would have been done by General Cays had he been
absent by accident when the ages & moes were called upon it

engagement. But I have never heard it published that he was absent
by accident. Vide, Appendix to the Congressional Globe, for 1849-50,
part 2^d pages from 1619 to 1630, both inclusive.

I wish you would make the acquaintance of John A.
Bower the editor of the Jacksonian & his elder brother, who have
my name at the mast head of their paper. It is published at the
Jarvis Buildings, opposite Chesapeake Bank. James M. Buchanan is
my friend - & so is Pinkney White the candidate for Congress.

However this ought not to be known lest it might injure his election.

Mr. Stewart, the late senator of the U.S. is also my friend.

William M. Wiley Esquire.

from your friend
very respectfully,
James Buchanan

