

Monday.

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My dear Mr. Hawley.

Many thanks for the "brochure" you sent me & which was received this morning. I read it with much interest & the affection & respect for Mr. Buchanan's memory shown by Mrs. Johnston, & by you, is very touching & delightful. But all the clouds of passion & prejudice which came up in 1861 have long since rolled past & Mr. Buchanan's memory will be cherished year by year more, as one of the greatest & most unselfish statesmen this nation has ever been blessed with, & it needs, now, no explanations of conduct or motives to be interpolated. Least of all, I should care, from such a wrong headed, mercenary, time server as Mr. Clure, — That man did not behave well to me, & sided with Couch, at Chambersburg. The last was a liar, a coward & an ass. — Mr. C. wrote me a private note begging me for a guard for his house, saying Couch's troops (militia) had depredated on his possessions, that he had no charge to make against the U.S. but for what he had left he asked protection. I sent a strong guard to the place at once & in an hour rode there myself. Little harm was done, but I learned he afterwards collected

a vast bill from the U.S. — So be sure there may be some reasonable explanation for this last, — but, I don't think well of it!

It seems to me that much is lost sight of, too, in speaking of Mr Buchanan in not now recalling his patriotic efforts to get a stupid, rebellion inclined, Congress to interfere as to "Miramon" in Mexico. — Hence the opportunity for Miramon not only to usurp power but to plot treason & unite with France in Louis Napoleon's efforts to make Mexico a base from which to aid the Southern "Rebellion", & it is no thanks to the bully Stanton and the Opportunist Seward that he did not succeed. Seward even went so far as to officially notify Napoleon that the U.S. would not object to an Empire in Mexico! — At the outbreak of the Civil war Seward, & some others, were disported altogether to far greater "weakness" than Mr Buchanan ever showed, they virtually even favored disunion! They evidently, but for the determined stand in the press, & elsewhere, of minor officers of army or volunteers, & of

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the people, (influenced by these) would have done
so! I believe this is historical. Foreign officers
of training & ability, in our service temporarily,
noted these things. — They condemned Sherman's
march, without an enemy in front, or an objective,
from Atlanta to Savannah. They referred to Mr
Buchanan's messages and pointed out the danger
"Miriamon" & others were bringing to us. (Efforts which
Miriamon deservedly expiated in that tragedy of
Guatemala) — When I was near El Estero, in Paná,
I received a letter from one of these officers, who,
after the war, remained in our service & was
killed (a sympathizer leader,) in Custer's fight at
the Rosebud, and in that letter he pointed out the
necessity we would soon be under to make a show on the
Rio Grande, & it was so! — It might have been worse!
I prepared a short memoir of these things — 50,000 words or so, — at your
instigation, I think, long ago, but I never published it, though I would like to, but
for the expense, for private distribution. Do you remember my
years of advice to the War Department about
"Cavalry mounts", & the failure, for months,
last year to get mounts for the 12th Cavalry,
now comes back adjutant "Corbin", from
Germany, choke full of German ideas
we don't want, & impressed with the belief
that Germany & Billy's army are the only good

things on this planet, forgetting we taught these
Europeans practical war! that their systems were
reformed both by our "Revolution" & "Civil War." We
licked the best Waterloo veterans at New Orleans,
& our system moved into the trench of 1793 showed
them how to lick the Austrians! — But Corbin
bring back the idea of "Studs & stud farms" for
our cavalry! no doubt he will get it, well or
ill, applied! Tous les discours sont des sottises
partant d'un homme sans éclat, ce seraient
paroles esquives s'il était un grand qui parla! —
not being of the least account myself my ideas,
though supported by facts Corbin don't know, failed!

Perhaps in another case it may have
worked the same way, — I don't know, — but when the
President of the Reading R.R. Co took the ballying
stand he did as to President Roosevelt's intervention,
& before the meeting in W^m, I noticed it in the
papers & I wrote the Pres. (in the 3^d person only, though)
enclosing statement printed in a German newspaper &
making political remarks on it to German voters, &
I said that the remedy for this "Coal strike" was
for Congress to be called instantly & to take off
import dues on all coal into the Atlantic ports
for six months only. The scarcity in N.Y. would
instantly subside, & both sides to the strike would
be only too glad to submit to arbitration & end it.

That the "strikers" had just grievances, there is no doubt at all. For a great many years I was in that Penn^a mining business, & during all that time I was (& against all my friends' advice) an unswerving enemy of the whole system, in Penn^a, of "Cry's stores", which is at the bottom of much of this mischief; injurious & unjust to the miners & corrupt to the officials. In the end, in my case, it seems to have led the Secy of our City into malpractices, dishonesty, fraud, & caused ruin; & true the loss of a large fraction of my savings for years, — for my comfort in "old age"! now, I see by last Sunday's N.Y. Times that the President even had not known, before, there was a duty on coal!! & such a remedy had not been surmised. I therefore think my anonymous tract may have hit!! —

I wish I could see my way to quietly keep this "Administration" from any blunder which seems to be pending in another thing, which is very unfortunate, mortifying & distasteful to me, to meddle in now. It is this: The Harper weekly of Augt 26. reports the U.S. wishes to take the "Coal Stations" at Chiapa now, & pay for them, under the still standing \$200,000 appropriation for that purpose, & has therefore put a codicil in the "Coal treaty" to that effect. These Washington "people", whom I do not in

way notice, or recognize, or acknowledge, & never did,
persist in believing, or pretending to, that they have
some rights & property there, & have probably associated
with some desperate politicians to try to get this U.S.
money - Very possibly with disreputable heirs of
Eric Seely of the navy R. W. Thompson, & Colonel
McLean, once U.S. Comdr of Pensions. - I don't
know how that may be. This whole measure was
one originating in Mr Buchanan's administration
& endorsed by him. The "idea" was mine, & was
worked up by my father & others. who used it for
very wrong purposes, but it was a good & needed
thing for the U.S. & would have been vastly to its
advantage if carried out properly, when it could
have been. It was again endorsed by Mr Lincoln,
who sent for me from the field to explain it to negro
bishops. I was lying on the ground at midnight at
Cottrell's Station when the order came to me to report
for 24 hours in W. for this purpose, & I did so -
I have reason to believe that Senator Pomeroy,
& others, used this to literally rob the U.S. Treasury,
but I don't know it as a fact in any way & cannot
prove it. Subsequently Mr
Vanderbilt contracted to turn over his Ashpwell
steam line to the "Chippie Co" & in that contract

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originated the "Atlantic Mail S.S. Co," out of which
Ch. Garrison made \$600,000 in one day & then by it
the 3rd St. Savings Bank was wrecked. Vanderbilt went out of
the "Chimney Co," assigning to me his interest. I still
hold his written assignment. From other sources
I controlled shares. — April 7 held a meeting
of the Co to enlarge the share capital & give him
shares, conditionally, & took a power of atty. The whole
meeting was illegal & void. & all done under it,
the enlargement of capital & power of atty, was void.
Also the government of Colombia (wrongfully however)
tried to cancel all grants ab initio. This party in Apr 8th
April 7. to actually sign a deed of the Co's property, &
secretly, to one Baynton & the party, secretly, &
& secreted, several thousands of dollars
therefor!! — nothing was known of this by the Co
or anyone concerned, & is not fully known today.
even to me, & Mr. T. was insane at the time. R. W. Thompson,
seeing the situation, used it to get into the "Panama"
Co on a big salary, & also to, secretly, make
April 7. give him notes & an agreement for
some \$300,000 against the Co!! A thing April 7.
could not do, & which is preposterous & utterly
void, then Baynton & R. W. T. "struck hands." April 7.

died a lunatic. This Wm party secretly, & probably for further consideration, expected or received, made away with all the Op record & deeds to R. W. T. & thus, in his custody & control, the increased capital shares were entered on the Cy's books, & not issued but credited for the "division", not knowing, probably, that this move was as unavailing as it was fraudulent. & the whole Wm party still hopes to stand on it, & has no interest outside of it in the affair! Then efforts were made to sell the whole thing to Erlanger & Co in London & Paris, - the _____ house that acted for the "rebels" in our Civil War & ultimately had to quit Paris, - & which has its hands on the throats of all the squabbling South Am^r republics. I broke that up, after great trouble, & a hard fight in London & N.Y. to get at it. If anyone concerned, or expecting to be, wants proof, incontestable, full in "black & white", I can give it & will, if called on, most gladly. Dr J. V. Hammond 1713 H St, Washington, came five years ago about it, & said he represented all concerned & wanted to honestly & properly settle everything & investigate. On that, & assurances that with the Cy nor any private party, whatever should attempt to get out of the appropriation of \$200,000, I put in his hands all the information I had & interests I represented. I have not heard of him for months, nor had any reply to letters, & all I know today is what is published. (as in Harper's Weekly) That the U.S. should deal on any such matter on such a basis, in such a condition & with such people would be an intolerable public scandal, if it ought to be prevented!
With kindest regards,
Yours, most truly,
J.