

# LETTERS OF JAMES BUCHANAN

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

*(Continued from page 259)*

---

## REPLY TO INVITATION FROM DEMOCRATS OF BRADFORD COUNTY.<sup>56</sup>

"Wheatland, near Lancaster, June 14th, 1852.

"Gentlemen:

"I have delayed on purpose to answer your kind communication of the 20th ultimo, until the result of the Baltimore Convention should be known. With every feeling of a grateful heart, I thank the intelligent and faithful Democracy of Springfield township for their favorable opinion and for the earnest and friendly hope expressed by them 'that the Democracy of the Union would respond to the wishes of Pennsylvania in the National Convention.' In this hope they have been disappointed; but yet all have much reason to be satisfied with the nomination of Franklin Pierce and William R. King. They are sound, radical, State-rights Democrats, who will employ their best efforts to expel from the halls of Congress and the purlieus of the Treasury, the hosts of stock-jobbers, contractors and speculators by which they are now infested, and to restore the purity, simplicity and economy of former times in the administration of the government. I know them well, having served in the Senate with both, for several years, at a most critical and important period of our political history; and I speak with knowledge when I say they are the very men for the times. Public economy, reform and a strict construction of the Constitution, according to the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 1798 and 1799, ought to be watchwords of the Democratic party throughout the pending contest; and Pierce and King will prove to be the able and faithful representatives of these great principles.

"General Pierce first entered the Senate of the United States, on the 4th of March, 1837, and continued to be a member until the 28th day of February, 1842, when he resigned. This period embraced the whole of Mr. Van Buren's administration and the first year of that of General Harrison and Mr. Tyler. He had previously served as a member of the House of Representatives from December, 1833, until the 4th of March, 1837,—throughout General Jackson's second term of office.

"When General Pierce first made his appearance in the Senate, he was one of the youngest, if not the very youngest, of its members. Modest and unassuming in his deportment, but firm and determined in his principles and purposes, it was not long before he acquired the respect and esteem of his

---

<sup>56</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, June 29th, 1852.

brother senators. From deep conviction he was a State-rights Democrat, sound, unwavering and inflexible; and, I venture to predict that when his votes shall be scrutinized and tested by the touchstone of Democratic principles, they will present as fair a record as those even of the lamented Wright himself. His innate modesty and comparative youth prevented him from addressing the Senate very frequently; and yet I well recollect some of his efforts which would have done no discredit to the oldest and ablest members of the body, then in its most palmy days. When he spoke, he was always prepared, his voice was excellent, his language well chosen and felicitous, and he had an earnestness of manner, proceeding evidently from deep conviction, which always commanded the attention of his audience. No candid and honorable man of any party, well acquainted with General Pierce, will, I am convinced, deny to him the intellectual qualification necessary to render his administration of the government wise, able and successful. Besides, unless I am greatly mistaken, he possesses determination of character and energy of will, without which no individual is fitted to perform high and responsible executive and administrative duties, such as pertain to the office of President of the United States. My own observation, as well as the history of the world, has taught me, that these are qualities which do not always belong to great senators and distinguished orators.

"The Democracy will not ask that their candidate shall be elected because of his great military exploits. And, yet, his military services constitute a beautiful episode in the history of his life. It is no small distinction for General Pierce to have merited the official and emphatic endorsement of the commander-in-chief of our army in Mexico—an army composed of heroes—for gallantry and good conduct on the field of battle.

"Of Colonel King, our candidate for vice-President, I can say emphatically, that he is one of the purest, the best and the most sound-judging statesmen I have ever known. He is a firm, enlightened and unwavering Democrat, and an amiable, honorable and benevolent gentleman. From the day when yet a youth in 1812, as a member of the House of Representatives, he voted for the declaration of war against Great Britain, until the present hour, his life presents one consistent and beautiful portrait. As President of the Senate, he is without a superior; and should it ever be his fate, in any contingency, to discharge the duties of the President of the United States, he will conduct the government with wisdom, sound discretion and enlightened patriotism.

"But why should I insist upon the merits and qualifications of our candidates? Their nomination by the highest tribunal of the Democratic party is the strongest presumptive evidence of their worth, and ought to be sufficient of itself to rally to their support every true-hearted and faithful Democrat.

"As Democrats, we should always yield our personal preferences for men, when great principles require the sacrifice. Man is but the creature of a day; whilst principles are eternal. Generations of men in succession rise and

fluctuate, and sink, and are forgotten; but the principles of Democracy, of progressive Democracy, which we have inherited from our revolutionary fathers, will endure to bless mankind throughout all generations. As Democrats, we believe, that not only the prosperity and glory of the country, but even the preservation of our blessed Union, depend upon a faithful observance of these principles in the administration of the Federal Government. And I ask, in what manner can their ascendancy be secured, but by a sacred adherence to regular nominations? This is the only bond which can unite, consolidate, and render invincible the great party of which we are all proud to be members. If as soldiers in the ranks of the Democratic army, we should desert the good old cause of Democracy, merely because we prefer a different leader, we shall then soon become broken and disorganized, and an ignominious defeat must be the inevitable consequence. In union, and in union alone, there is strength. Good and great old Democratic Pennsylvania will never forsake her principles merely because she might possibly have preferred other agents than Franklin Pierce and William R. King to carry her will into effect. She will never thus prove recreant to her own true glory and to her highest interests.

"In what light would we regard a professing Christian, who would desert his holy religion and his church, merely because he preferred a different bishop or pastor to preside over it from the individual which the majority had selected? No, no, my Democratic fellow-citizens, we must neither be for Paul nor for Apollos, except as the mere, but worthy, agents to carry out the great and fundamental doctrines of the Democratic faith on which we are all united. Principles rather than men ought ever to be our motto.

"It has been our glory and our strength in the past time, that we have never concealed our principles from the public eye, but have always proclaimed them before the world. The late Baltimore Convention, in obedience to our will, has erected a platform of principles, in the midst of the Nation on which every true Democrat can proudly stand. Does the man live, be he Democrat or Whig, who, knowing Franklin Pierce and William R. King, believes they will prove faithless to any one of these principles? The great Democratic party of the Union have delivered to these their chosen candidates a chart by which they stand pledged, in the most solemn manner, to guide the ship of State; and my life upon the issue, they will never deviate from the prescribed course. In voting for these candidates, then, every Democrat will be voting for his own cherished principles and sustaining the platform of his party.

"I fear I shall not be able to accept your kind invitation to pay you a visit during the Presidential canvass. With the strongest disposition to cultivate the personal acquaintance and friendship of my brother Democrats of Bradford county, I must yet leave the public discussion of the principles involved in the present contest to younger and abler Democrats. I have, during so long a period, served in the character of a speaker before the people, that I trust my Democratic fellow-citizens throughout the State, considering that

I am now more than sixty years of age, will give me an honorable discharge from the active duties of the campaign.

"With sentiments of the highest respect, I remain your friend and fellow-citizen,

**"JAMES BUCHANAN."**

"To Theodore Leonard, Isaac Cooley, Elam Bennett, John Salisbury, Frederick Leonard, Charles Salisbury, J. L. Phillips, Esquires, and many others."

---

**REPLY TO INVITATION FROM DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS OF THE  
THIRD AND FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS  
OF PENNSYLVANIA.<sup>57</sup>**

**"Wheatland, near Lancaster, July 3rd, 1852.<sup>58</sup>**

**"Gentlemen:**

"I have been honored by the receipt of your invitation, 'on the part of the Democratic citizens of the Third and Fourth Congressional Districts of Pennsylvania,' to be present at the festival to be given on the approaching anniversary of our National Independence, and I regret that engagements at home will deprive me of the pleasure of meeting them on that interesting occasion.

"It must be a source of sincere satisfaction to every Democrat throughout the land to know that the Democratic citizens of these Districts, with an abiding faith in the time honored principles of the party, endorse, without hesitation, the broad and liberal doctrines laid down by the Baltimore Convention, while they accept, with the utmost satisfaction and cheerfulness, the distinguished candidates presented to the country by that body.

"For one, I most cordially respond to these just and patriotic sentiments. Our platform and our candidates are eminently worthy of the support of the American people; and their triumphant success will strengthen the bonds of our glorious Union and prove to be the rainbow of peace after the storms which have so recently agitated our country.

"You will confer a favor upon me by presenting to the assembled company the following sentiment, in my name:

"*'Pierce and King:* Their election will restore the days of true Jeffersonian State-rights' Democracy, and thus place the Constitution and the Union on the surest foundations.'

**"Yours, very respectfully,**

**"JAMES BUCHANAN."**

**"To the Committee."**

---

<sup>57</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, July 20th, 1852.

<sup>58</sup> It is somewhat interesting to note that the declination of the invitation was not written until the day before the Fourth; and also that it did not appear in the local paper until July 20th.

REPLY TO INVITATION TO A DEMOCRATIC MASS MEETING AT  
NINE POINTS, LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.<sup>59</sup>

"Wheatland, near Lancaster, August 16th, 1852.

"On my return home, after a fortnight's absence, I received your kind invitation to attend a Democratic mass meeting at the Nine Points on Friday next. I sincerely regret that it will not be in my power to enjoy this pleasure.

"Hoping that on that day the Democracy of Lancaster and Chester counties may put the ball in motion which will triumphantly roll on until we shall have achieved a glorious victory in the election of Pierce, King, and our State ticket, I remain,

"Very respectfully,

"Your Friend,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

---

SPEECH DELIVERED SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1852, AT READING, PA.,  
UPON ASSUMING HIS DUTIES AS PRESIDENT OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC STATE MASS MEETING.<sup>60</sup>

"Friends and Fellow-Citizens:

"I return to you my most cordial thanks for the enthusiastic cheers with which you have greeted me as president of this vast, this imposing assembly. Well and wisely did the State Central committee determine that old Berks should be the spot for the first grand rally of the Democracy of the State, in the present most important presidential campaign. The glorious Democracy of this country is eminently worthy to give the first impulse to the ball, which, with the aid of her sister counties, will roll on to certain victory in good old Democratic Pennsylvania.

"It is now about a century ago, since the county was first established; and from that day until the present moment, her sons, in all their successive generations, have ever been devoted to the cause of human liberty. In the dark days of the Revolution, they went forth in great numbers to fight the battles of their country, and were then distinguished for their gallantry and their patriotism. In our second war for independence against Great Britain, her people were animated by the same spirit. And in the Mexican War, she offered to the service of her country a greater number of troops, in proportion to her population, than any other county in the State; and, as they could not all be accepted, the contest among themselves was not who should be permitted to remain at home and enjoy the ease and comforts of domestic life, but who should be selected to brave the perils and privations of foreign war. All hail to the gallant Democracy of old Berks! This immense meeting is a certain presage that they will do their duty, as they have ever done, in the approaching elections.

---

<sup>59</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, August 31st, 1852.

<sup>60</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, September 14th, 1852.

"We have assembled here this day, not for the purpose of raising shouts to a military hero, nor for establishing 'Soup' societies, or 'Fuss and Feather' clubs; but for the glorious purpose of promoting the good old cause of Democracy and the election of Pierce and King, our worthy and well-chosen standard bearers. This is the object of the meeting.

"And now, fellow-citizens, I would gladly avail myself of this occasion to discuss before you the great principles involved in the present presidential contest; but, under existing circumstances, this would be unpardonable. There are many distinguished Democrats, whose names are well-known to fame, now present from our sister States, and prepared to address this meeting. We are here at home, and courtesy requires that Pennsylvanians should give place to our friends from a distance. From them you may expect a rich repast of argument and eloquence.

"Before I resume my seat, however, I desire to say a few words to you on the importance of our State election on the second Tuesday of October. This will bear the same relation to the presidential election, which General Jackson's glorious victory of the 23rd of December bore to his ever memorable victory of the 8th of January, 1815, at New Orleans. Should we succeed as I do not doubt we shall in October, this will prepare the way for triumphant success in November. Should we fail in the preliminary State election, as we did in 1848, the same disastrous consequences may follow. I therefore invoke every Democrat within the sound of my voice, by the love which he bears to his country, to the time-honored principles of Democracy, and to the prosperity and perpetuity of our blessed Union, to do his whole duty on the second Tuesday of October. Our State candidates are eminently worthy of our support. Where is the jurist within our broad limits who stands higher for legal learning, purity of character, eminent ability, and sound Democracy, than the accomplished Woodward? Who more worthy of our suffrages as a judge of the Supreme Court, a station which he already adorns?

"And what shall I say of William Hopkins, our nominee for canal commissioner, in place of the lamented Searight? His name is already well-known to the people of the State as an able, sound, practical business man, of the purest integrity and the most unflinching firmness. He has ever been a consistent Democrat from his youth upwards. A more suitable individual could not have been selected to perform the very arduous and responsible duties of canal commissioner. His character was displayed by his conduct in the ever memorable Buckshot War. You all remember this famous war. At one period it assumed a portentous aspect; but it was, in fact, the mountain in labor from which at last crept a ridiculous mouse. This happy result is, in a great degree, attributable to the firmness and energy of William Hopkins.

"Our anti-Masonic Whig governor had been defeated by Governor Porter at the election in October, 1838. His official term had, however, been extended, by our new Constitution until the 3rd Tuesday of January, 1839. The Legislature met on the first Tuesday of December, 1838. The Legislature would, of course, be in session more than six weeks before the end of Governor Ritner's term. The anti-Masonic and Whig allies in the meantime had their

governor. If they could obtain a majority in the House of Representatives, they could then pass laws to elect the canal commissioners, the United States Senator, and other officers, and to govern the State and perpetuate their own power in direct violation of the constitutionally declared will of a majority of the people. There would have been no danger of the governor's veto. There was no such governor then [turning to Governor Bigler] as you are now. You would deserve the name of 'Old Veto,' if you were not so young and good-looking.

"But how was this insurrection against the rights and liberties of the people of Pennsylvania to be rendered triumphant? The ready answer was, by treating elections as if they had never taken place. Accordingly, the then secretary of state, assumed the awful responsibility of withholding from the House of Representatives the regular official return of the election for representatives in the county of Philadelphia, which had been transmitted to him, according to law; and, instead of this regular return, he delivered to the House a return prepared for the purpose, electing eight members who had been defeated by the people of the county by a majority of more than 500 votes. This false return was made by only six of the seventeen return judges from the county of Philadelphia, and embraced only the votes polled in six of the seventeen election districts of that county.

"On the day of the meeting of the Legislature, these eight defeated candidates appeared and claimed the seats of the eight regularly elected members. Both Houses—the true and the spurious—met together in the Representatives' hall. This was a trying moment in the history of our State. The insurgents proceeded, with reckless boldness. Both parties stood in hostile array against each other in the House, and in such an emergency the instincts of mankind point with unerring certainty to the leader best calculated for the crisis. William Hopkins was accordingly elected speaker by the true House. But the opposite party had anticipated them, and their speaker, Mr. Cunningham, was already in the chair. This was the decisive moment. Had Cunningham resisted, the two parties would have come into physical conflict, and God only knows what might have been the result. At this critical moment, Hopkins advanced to expel Cunningham from the chair which he had usurped. All eyes were intently fixed upon him in breathless anxiety. He moved forward with a firm and determined step, energy and high resolve in his countenance, and ascended the speaker's platform. Cunningham quailed before him; and after a moment's pause, rose and retired from the chair, leaving the lawful speaker in possession. Such a man is William Hopkins, your candidate for canal commissioner.

"From the moment Hopkins took possession of the chair, the Buckshot War was in effect ended. It is true that the spurious House, having retired from the hall, continued to hold their sessions for some weeks in a room of Mathew Wilson's hotel. And it is also true that the insurgents afterwards made a desperate effort to terrify the Democracy. They summoned the aid of buck-shot and ball for this purpose. At the call of the governor, the capital of our peaceful State was filled with armed soldiers to shoot down all

opposition. Meanwhile, the unterrified Democracy of Pennsylvania had rushed from the hills and the valleys to repel this revolutionary movement and to defend the Constitution and liberties of their State. But boldness is necessary to success, especially in a bad cause; and the moment that Cunningham yielded the chair to Hopkins, all danger had passed away. The spurious House lingered for a short time and then expired. Thus ended the attempt to govern Pennsylvania by a minority of the people, as all such attempts will ever end in this free and glorious Republic, by overwhelming every agent employed in them with popular indignation.

"Now, I believe, I have said all I intended to say. The Democracy of this country is a party founded on principle. We have always presented our principles in bold relief before the public eye. The generations of mankind rise and sink and are forgotten; but the principles of Democracy have as broad and as deep a foundation, as the granite mountains of Pierce's native State. The Whigs have never succeeded in electing a President for two successive terms. They have always undone themselves in four years.

"In conclusion, I entertain no more doubt of the election of Pierce and King, should Providence prolong their lives until the second Tuesday of November, than I have that the glorious sun will arise in the firmament of Heaven on that auspicious day."

---

ADDRESS DELIVERED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 1852, AT THE  
DINNER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.<sup>61</sup>

*"State Pride, State Fidelity, State Fraternity."*

"To thine own self be true;  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

In response to the above sentiment, Mr. Buchanan replied in the following remarks:

"I am a Pennsylvanian, in heart and soul; and whatever can advance the interest or promote the glory of my good old native State, God bless her! shall ever find in me a devoted advocate. I am proud of my State; and State pride springs from that commendable and natural feeling—that love of our native land—which Heaven, for the wisest purposes, has implanted in the human breast:

"Breathes there the man, with soul so dead  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd,  
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd,  
From wandering on a foreign strand?"

---

<sup>61</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, November 16th, 1852.



"The citizens of Pennsylvania ought, in my opinion, to cherish this sentiment of State pride more than they have ever done heretofore. We have never properly appreciated ourselves. This noble sentiment, however, should never degenerate into harsh, jealous or unfriendly feelings towards our sister States. Far, very far, from it! But it ought to impel us to a generous rivalry with them for the palm of excellence in everything which can advance our physical prosperity—in everything which can elevate, enlighten and adorn the human character.

"Under our complicated but unrivalled form of government, State pride has become the truest patriotism towards the whole Union. It is eminently conservative of our Federal Republican government. What we have most to dread is the centralization of unconstitutional political powers in the Federal government; and the indulgence of a well regulated State pride, throughout the confederacy, will always preserve us from this abyss. As our territory extends—as we rapidly advance in power and wealth—as the patronage and expenditures of the Federal government increase,—the natural tendency becomes greater and greater to accumulate power at the centre of our system.

"But whilst thirty-one State sovereignties, proud of their power and jealous of their rights, shall continue to resist all encroachments from the general government, they will ever preserve the just balance between Federal and State authority. So long as this balance shall be held with a steady hand, neither the Constitution nor the Union will ever be in danger. But let the pride and the power of State sovereignties pass away—let them be reduced to mere provincial corporations, dependent upon the Federal government,—then the centralization of all powers at Washington, in fact, if not in form, will inevitably follow; and thus the animating life and soul of our institutions will have fled forever.

"What but centralization at Paris has rendered abortive every attempt, for the last sixty years, to maintain free republican institutions in France? Had she converted her ancient provinces into sovereign States, with State governments, such as we enjoy, and established a Federal Republic, a *coup d'etat* at the capital could never have destroyed her successive free constitutions. Liberty would then have taken refuge under the wing of the State governments, and would have been protected by their power until the storm had passed away. Paris would then no longer have been France. Under our system at the present moment, nothing could be so supremely ridiculous as an attempt to make a *coup d'etat* at Washington.

"State pride ought ever to cherish the Senate of the United States, as the selected protector under the Federal constitution of State sovereignty. This is a body far more important, powerful, and august than was ever the celebrated Amphictyonic council of Greece. Among our sister States, and throughout the world, the intellectual and moral character of each State in the Union is, and must be, to a great degree estimated by the standard of the senators whom she has selected to represent her sovereignty. I have often observed with what intense feelings of pride the citizens of Kentucky have, in the Senate chamber, pointed to their Clay; the citizens of Massachusetts,

to their Webster; the citizens of South Carolina, to their Calhoun; and the citizens of New York, to their Wright. Alas! these intellectual giants, like all things human, have passed away.

"There is no State in the Union which can more justly indulge in feelings of State pride than Pennsylvania. Our enlightened, persevering and truly Christian founder, immediately after he had obtained the Royal Charter, declared, in the spirit of prophetic enthusiasm: 'God will bless and make it the seed of a nation. I shall have a tender care of the government, that it be well laid at first.' And truly God has blessed it, and the seed which William Penn sowed has borne the richest fruit! We have already become a powerful and prosperous Nation; and united with thirty other confederate States, we have formed a Federal Republic which is the admiration of the world, and the star of promise in the west to millions of down-trodden men throughout the old world who are longing for the liberties which we enjoy. Besides, Pennsylvania is truly the Keystone of the Federal Arch; and our character and position peculiarly qualify us to become the mediator between opposing extremes. Placed in the centre, between the North and the South, with a population distinguished for patriotism, steady good sense, and a devoted attachment to the Constitution and the Union, we stand as the daysman between the extremes and can declare with a potential voice to both, 'hitherto shalt thou go, but no further.' It was from the Legislature of this great and glorious old Commonwealth that the first ray of light emanated to dispel the deep gloom in which the slavery question had involved our country.

"The heaven-born principle of religious liberty with which our founder was inspired, has been always carried into practice in Pennsylvania. From the beginning, every man has enjoyed the natural right of worshipping his God according to the dictates of his own conscience. No bigot or despot, has ever been suffered impiously to assume the attributes of Deity, and to interpose and prescribe the form in which man shall worship his Creator.

"Although there are events in our history which we may have cause to regret, yet, taken as a whole, the State has always been well and wisely governed. 'By their fruits ye shall know them,' is a rule dictated by divine authority. Judging according to this standard, where shall we find a people on the face of the earth, where has there ever existed a people more prosperous and more happy than are the people of Pennsylvania at the present moment? Agriculture, manufactures and commerce are all in a flourishing condition. Labor everywhere finds profitable employment. Everywhere a fair day's work commands a fair day's wages. We have no poor amongst us, except the victims of idleness or misfortune; and to relieve the unfortunate, we have a greater number of benevolent institutions than any of our sister States. The teeming bowels of our soil have been explored by the hand of enterprise and industry, and our vast mineral treasures are carried to our own markets and to those of the world over the railroads and canals which have been constructed in all directions by the wealth and public spirit of our fellow-citizens. Nor have we confined ourselves merely to the development of our physical resources. Every child born in the Commonwealth enjoys the same

right to a good common school education that he does to breathe vital air, and everywhere temples arise for the worship of the Most High, erected by the voluntary contributions of a Christian people.

"Why should we not then in the language of your toast, cherish 'State pride, State fidelity, and State fraternity?' In politics, from the very nature of man and of our free institutions, we must necessarily differ; but throughout the vast range of subjects on which we have a common feeling and common interest for our good old State, why should we not cordially fraternize? The city of Philadelphia and the interior of the State are bound together by the strongest bonds of mutual interest. In this respect they are inseparable. The one is essential to the prosperity of the other. Let not this be the harsh bond of mere cold and calculating interest, but let it be the happy union of mutual kindness and affection.

"It cannot be denied, though it is to be deplored, that mutual jealousies, to some extent, have hitherto existed between the city and the country. These would pass away like the mists of the morning before the rising sun, if the people of both knew each other better. The citizens of Philadelphia do not generally visit the interior of their own State as much as we from the country ardently desire, or as often as the citizens of New York and Baltimore visit the interior of their respective States. Come more frequently amongst us, and you will find that for cordial, genuine, heartfelt hospitality—for magnificent, grand and sublime scenery, Pennsylvania is not inferior to any State throughout the Union.

"Like quarrels between man and wife, there have been, doubtless, faults on both sides. Let us forget and forgive what may have been wrong in the past of either, and determine that hereafter the bonds of mutual affection shall be much stronger than those cemented alone by avarice and interest. For my own part, so far as I may possess any influence, I shall use my best exertion to bring about this consummation, so devoutly to be wished.

"'State pride, State fidelity, and State fraternity,' now and forever!"

---

## INVITATION FROM NEIGHBORS AND ACQUAINTANCES OF LANCASTER CITY TO PARTAKE OF A PUBLIC DINNER.<sup>62</sup>

"Lancaster, July 18th, 1853.

"Hon. James Buchanan:

"Dear Sir:

"Previous to your departure for England, the undersigned on behalf of your fellow-citizens, respectfully invite you to partake of a dinner at such time and place, as may best suit your convenience.<sup>63</sup>

---

<sup>62</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, August 9th, 1853.

<sup>63</sup> Mr. Buchanan's reply to this invitation, dated July 23rd, 1853, appears in Moore's work, Vol. IX. pp. 26-27.

"Your neighbors and acquaintances, those who have known you longest and best, appreciate your integrity and purity of character, and feel confident that the highly important trust committed to your hands will be discharged in promoting the very best interests of our common country and with honor to yourself. We wish to meet you on an occasion of this kind, with the view of bidding you an affectionate farewell, and offering our best wishes for your safe and early return among us.

"With sentiments of great respect, we are, your friends and fellow citizens,

"W. S. Amweg.

"B. C. Bachman, James H. Barnes, Jacob Bausman, J. S. Boyd.

"George Calder, W. Carpenter.

"J. H. Duchman.

"John Ehler, N. Ellmaker.

"George Fahnestock, William B. Fordney, John Forney, Thomas E. Franklin.

"Charles Gillespie, W. C. Gleim, Matthias Graeff.

"C. Hager, A. F. Hambright, A. G. Helfenstein, Maris Hoopes, E. S. Hubley, Lewis Hurford.

"J. B. Kauffman, Jacob F. Kautz, Adam Kendig, Christian Kieffer, George H. Krug.

"John N. Lane, Newton Lightner, H. G. Long, John F. Long.

"William Mathiot, J. Michael, F. A. Muhlenberg.

"Samuel Parker, Abraham Peters.

"H. R. Reed, E. C. Reigart, Henry M. Reigart, James L. Reynolds, Luther Richards.

"N. W. Sample, George Sanderson, John F. Shroder, A. Slaymaker, James Smith, Esrom Spera, George M. Steinman, Hiram B. Swar.

"J. C. Van Camp, D. B. Vondersmith.

"T. C. Wiley, M. Withers.

"Jacob Ziegler."

---

## INVITATION FROM CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA.<sup>64</sup>

"Philadelphia, Pa., April 24th, 1856.

"Hon. James Buchanan:

"Dear Sir:

"The undersigned, representing your Philadelphia friends, avail themselves of the earliest opportunity of welcoming you home among them. We are directed to assure you, speaking in behalf of individuals of all modes of industry and of varied political opinions, that this welcome is hearty and sincere. We welcome you to the United States and to Pennsylvania, in whose service so many years of your life have been passed, and, as American citizens, we thank you especially for your exertions, thus far successful, during your

---

<sup>64</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, April 29th, 1856.

late official career, to maintain abroad the national honor; and, at the same time, to secure the blessings of peace between nations that have so much in common. As Pennsylvanians, we recall with natural pride the services which, as our representative, you have rendered in the councils of the nation, and the national fame which you have earned. They are part of our honors.

"In order to give all the opportunity of expressing to you in person the feeling which the metropolis of your native State entertains towards you, we are directed to invite you to meet the citizens of Philadelphia, without distinction of party, at the Merchants' Exchange at such time as may suit your convenience.

"We have the honor to be

"Your friends and fellow-citizens,

"Thomas Allibone, A. J. Antelo.

"T. F. Bayard, Bancroft, Beaver & Co., C. Biddle, Charles J. Biddle, G. W. Biddle, Browns & Bownen, J. G. Brenner, David S. Brown, N. B. Browne, Pierce Butler.

"H. & J. R. Campbell, Charles W. Churchman, Cope Brothers, Caleb Cope & Co., Henry Cope, Charles W. Coxe, William Cummings.

"John Devereux, W. Heyward Drayton.

"Robert Ewing.

"F. Fraley, P. R. Freas, C. H. Fisher.

"H. D. Gilpen, John Grigg, J. C. Grubb.

"Hacker, Lea & Co.

"C. J. Ingersoll, C. Ingersoll, J. R. Ingersoll.

"James, Kent & Santee, Isaac Jeanes.

"J. K. Kane, J. F. Knorr.

"A. J. Lewis, William D. Lewis, Ludwig, Kneedler & Co.

"C. Macalester, William McKee, M. McMichael, William Martin, Martin & Smith, John Mason & Co., William M. Meredith, S. V. Merrick, Israel Morris, S. C. Morton.

"Newlin, Marshall & Co.

"Joseph Patterson, R. Patterson, W. C. Patterson, J. F. Peniston, J. R. Penrose, George Plitt.

"J. Randall, William B. Reed, John Richardson, Joseph Ripka, John Robins, Jr., Thomas Robins, Benjamin Rush.

"Seiger, Lamb & Co., W. Shippen, Jr., Edmund A. Souder, John Stewart, J. W. Stitt & Co.

"John D. Taylor, N. B. Thompson, John Tucker.

"James C. Van Dyke.

"S. Morris Waln, Edward Wartman, G. M. Wharton, Henry White, John Welsh, Samuel Welsh, William Welsh, G. G. Wescott, Richard Wood.

"Elias Yarnall."

INVITATION FROM OLD FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS  
OF LANCASTER.<sup>65</sup>

"Lancaster, April 31st, 1856.

"Dear Sir:

"The pleasing duty has been assigned to us, on behalf of your old friends and fellow-citizens—the *people of Lancaster*—to tender you a public entertainment which they anxiously hope you will accept at your earliest convenience.

"In communicating this customary mark of respect extended to distinguished citizens and statesmen throughout the country, your old home friends desire to divest and disrobe it of the usual formalities, made to govern similar occasions. They desire that it shall be taken, as it is given, as the spontaneous action of the friends of your early manhood, and of the children of those friends who learned their first lessons, on your virtues, from their fathers.

"They do not extend it to you as an invitation emanating from a political party, but from your old friends and neighbors, who have hitherto been in political antagonism. It comes fresh from the hearts of those who have known you in the spring and summer of life, and have marked your triumphant career through its early autumn, with eyes and hearts glistening and throbbing with approbation. It comes from your fellow-citizens, some of whom have been your intimate friends since you first came to Lancaster forty-seven years ago, and where you have been a resident ever since, with the exception of the period you have been called to serve your country in other places. It comes from men, who have witnessed, personally, or know, from the teachings of others, your brilliant career, from the time you made your 'maiden speech' in our old court house, as a lawyer, —through your service as a member of our State Legislature, to which you were first elected in 1814, —through your congressional service of ten consecutive years in the lower House of Congress,—through the mission to Russia, conferred upon you by the Hero President, Andrew Jackson,—through your brilliant service in the Senate of the United States, from which you were taken to fill the highest place in the cabinet of President Polk, and in whose administration you added fresh laurels to the high distinction you had already acquired,—and, last of all, through your mission to the Court of St. James, from which you have just returned, with the proud consolation of having so conducted the high, responsible and delicate trust committed to your charge, as to teach the 'proudest Court of Europe' that the government and people of the United States know and understand their rights, and knowing, *will maintain them*. You have been brought in contact, and made to grapple, single-handed, with the diplomatic giants of Europe; and whilst your own countrymen joyously and exultingly hail your great achievement as a national honor, they rejoice to find that you have left a name and fame on the other side of the Atlantic, that will be held in respect and esteem whilst memory keeps a record.

---

<sup>65</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, May 13th, 1856.

"It is your old warm-hearted friends, with an equally enthusiastic portion who may be called fair samples of 'Young America,' therefore, who now greet your safe return to your old home, with feelings of heartfelt gratitude. They have seen in the record, to which we have had the honor briefly to refer, that in every station you have filled, your acts speak the sincere devotion with which you have maintained the honor, the glory and the welfare of our common country,—that the Constitution of the United States, and of our own dear Commonwealth, form the political platform upon which you have always stood, as the fearless advocate of the rights of the people,—that the warning words of the immortal Father of his Country, which teach us to frown down 'every attempt to alienate one section of our beloved country from the other,' and the emphatic declaration of Andrew Jackson, that 'Our Union *must* and *shall* be preserved,' occupied a conspicuous place in your political text book. The eye of the people is now looking anxiously to you, as the advocate of the advice and counsel of these illustrious statesmen, now in their graves, and they trust and pray that through your instrumentality, with the aid of divine Providence, the sectional strife now convulsing the country, will be allayed, and a bond of brotherhood be established which will render perpetual, and free from all strife or agitation, our beloved Union.

"We have only to add, that the united wish of your friends and neighbors, is, that you will fix an early day to meet them at the social board, and afford an opportunity to give you a cordial greeting, in their old-fashioned way.

"Charles E. Wentz, Charles M. Howell, Henry Carpenter, James H. Barnes, P. McConomy, John H. Duchman, J. B. Kaufman, J. M. Johnson, P. Cassidy, John W. Jackson, Richard McGrann."

"To Hon. James Buchanan, Wheatland."

---

## REPLY TO INVITATION FROM OLD FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS OF LANCASTER.<sup>66</sup>

"Wheatland, near Lancaster, May 6th, 1856.

"Gentlemen:

"I have received your very kind invitation,—in behalf of my 'old friends and fellow-citizens—the people of Lancaster,' to meet them at a public dinner on the occasion of my return home, after an absence of several years, and beg that you and they will accept my cordial thanks for this additional evidence of regard.

"I have already met such a public welcome in Lancaster, from my friends and neighbors, as I shall ever remember with deep gratitude. It came from the heart and went directly to the heart. The same indulgent kindness bestowed upon me by your fathers has been extended to me by their children,—among you I desire to live, and, in your midst, I trust in Heaven, I may die.

---

<sup>66</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, May 13th, 1856.

There is not the least necessity, therefore, for a public dinner to manifest our mutual regard for each other; and, for myself, I should prefer to mingle with you as friends and neighbors, in the daily intercourse of society, rather than to meet you at a more formal public entertainment. Besides, we could not expect that many of our friends among the farmers of the county, would favor us with their presence at this busy season of the year.

"Under these circumstances, whilst reiterating my grateful sense of the honor you have tendered, I trust you will indulgently excuse me for respectfully declining it.

"From your friend and fellow-citizen,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Messrs. Charles E. Wentz, Charles M. Howell, John W. Jackson, Dr. Henry Carpenter, J. B. Kaufman, James H. Barnes, J. M. Johnson, P. McConomy, Dr. P. Cassidy, John H. Duchman and Richard McGrann."

---

REPLY TO INVITATION FROM "BANNER WARD,"  
LANCASTER, PA.<sup>87</sup>

"Wheatland, July 3rd, 1856.

"My Dear Sir:

"I have received your kind invitation to unite with my friends and neighbors of the 'Banner Ward,' [Lancaster, Pa.] in celebrating the approaching anniversary of our National Independence. Nothing could afford me greater pleasure than to meet them on this important occasion; but having, for reasons which you will appreciate, declined all other invitations of a similar character, I have precluded myself from the privilege of accepting your invitation. Please present to the assembled company, the following sentiment, in my name:

"'The Authors of the Declaration of Independence and of the Federal Constitution;—names dear to the lovers of civil and religious liberty in this and in all other lands. May we cherish the Union of the States as their sacred legacy; and never, with profane hands, violate this ark of our safety!'

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Wesley F. S. Warren."

---

<sup>87</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, July 15th, 1856.



"Wheatland, January 7th, 1857

"My Dear Sir:

"Although I have always refrained from interfering in the choice of Senators by the Legislature, yet the highly confidential relations which a Pennsylvania President ought to sustain toward a Pennsylvania Senator, at the present moment, induces me to say a few words to you, as a valued friend, on the pending senatorial election.

"I learn that doubts have been expressed as to my preference among the candidates, and although my opinion may be entitled to little weight, I do not desire to be placed in an equivocal position on this or any other subject.

"When asked, I have always said that I preferred Col. Forney, and I should esteem it a friendly act toward myself for any person, in or out of the Legislature, to support him.

"At the same time, I desire to express my warm personal and political regard for Messrs. Robbins, Foster, Buckalew and Wright.

"From the course pursued by Mr. Brodhead for some years past, confidential relations between him and myself have ceased.

"I have thus presented to you my views so that, if you should deem it necessary, you may speak my sentiments to such persons as may consider them of value.

"From your friend, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Henry S. Mott, Esq."

TO HON. ROBERT J. WALKER.<sup>69</sup>

"Washington, July 12th, 1857.

"My Dear Sir:

"I duly received your letter of the 28th ultimo, on Friday last. I read it to the cabinet, then in session. The views which it contained were not calculated to assure us of your success, though we did not despond. Hence you may judge with what satisfaction we received the account of the proceedings of the National Democratic convention, held at Lecompton on the 3rd instant. The point on which your and our success depends is the submission of the constitution to the people; and by the people I mean, and I have no doubt you mean, the actual *bona fide* residents who have been long enough in the Territory to identify themselves with its fate. The Legislature determined on three months to be the period of residence to entitle individuals to vote for members of the convention; and if the convention should think proper

<sup>68</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, February 3rd, 1857.

<sup>69</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, April 24th, 1860.

to adopt the same period to entitle individuals to vote for or against the constitution, it appears to me this would be reasonable.

"On the question of submitting the constitution to the *bona fide* resident settlers of Kansas, I am willing to stand or fall. In sustaining such a principle we cannot fall. It is the principle of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, the principle of popular sovereignty, and the principle at the foundation of all popular government. The more it is discussed the stronger it will become. Should the convention of Kansas adopt this principle, all will be settled harmoniously; and, with the blessing of Providence, you will return triumphantly from your arduous, important and responsible mission.

"The strictures of the Georgia and Mississippi conventions will then pass away, to be speedily forgotten. In regard to Georgia, our news from that State is becoming better every day. We have not yet had time to hear much from Mississippi. Should you answer the resolution of the latter, I would advise you to make the great principle of the submission of the constitution to the *bona fide* residents of Kansas conspicuously prominent. On this you will be irresistible. With the question of climate, every person is acquainted; and the more you insist upon this, the more will our opponents urge that we are violating the principle of non-interference at the foundation of the Kansas-Nebraska law.

"It is strange that people at a distance, who have no practical acquaintance with the condition of Kansas, should undertake to be wiser than those on the spot. It is, beyond all question, the true policy to build up the great Democratic party there to sustain the constitution and the laws, composed of pro-Slavery and Free State Democrats; and if the majority should be against slavery, to obtain such constitutional provisions as will secure the right of slaveholders in Missouri and other States, and maintain all the laws guarding the just rights of the South. You are right in your conjecture as to the cause of Judge Williams' appointment. We supposed it would be peculiarly acceptable to yourself, and that he might aid in carrying out your policy.

"Colonel Cumming has been appointed Governor of Utah. This will leave his place vacant, after a brief period required for settling up his business; and I shall certainly be disposed to fill it by the appointment of Mr. Stevens.

"General Harney has been selected to command the expedition to Utah; but we must contrive to leave him with you, at least, until you are out of the woods. Kansas is vastly more important at the present moment than Utah.

"The pressure upon me continues without intermission. I pray that Divine Providence, in which I place my trust, may graciously preserve my life and my health until the end of my term; but God's will be done in any event.

"With every sentiment of esteem, I remain,

"Always sincerely your friend,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Hon. Robert J. Walker."

"Washington, July 25th, 1857.

"My Dear Madam:

"The annexed is my cheerful contribution [\$50.00] to the Mount Vernon Association. Will you be kind enough to present it in my name, and to assure the ladies who have undertaken to raise the funds necessary to purchase 'the home and grave of Washington,' that I most ardently wish them success in a cause which ought to enlist the sympathies of every patriotic heart.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Mrs. Wm. F. Ritchie."

---

FROM CYRUS W. FIELD.<sup>71</sup>

In the summer of 1858, President Buchanan was enjoying a brief holiday at Bedford Springs, Pa., when he received the information that the telegraphic cable uniting England with America had been successfully laid. Mr. Field's communication informing him of this fact, was as follows:

"On Board the U. S. Steamship 'Niagara.'

"Trinity Bay, N. F., August 5th, 1858.

"Dear Sir:

"The Atlantic telegraph cable on board the United States steam frigate, 'Niagara,' and H. B. M. steamer, 'Agamemnon,' was joined in mid-ocean July 29th, and has been successfully laid; and as soon as the two ends are connected with the land line, her majesty, Queen Victoria, will send a message to your excellency, and the cable will be kept free until after your reply has been transmitted. With great respect, I remain

"Your obedient servant,

"CYRUS W. FIELD."

"To the President of the United States."

---

TO CYRUS W. FIELD.<sup>72</sup>

"Bedford Springs, August 6th, 1858.

"My Dear Sir:

"I congratulate you, with all my heart, on the success of the great enterprise with which your name is so honorably connected. Under the blessing of

---

<sup>70</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, August 4th, 1857.

<sup>71</sup> The Daily Evening Express, Friday, August 6th, 1858.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

divine Providence, I trust it may prove instrumental in promoting perpetual peace and friendship between the kindred nations. I have not yet received the Queen's despatch.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Cyrus W. Field, Trinity Bay, N. F."

---

### FROM QUEEN VICTORIA.

The Daily Evening Express of Tuesday, August 17th, 1858, contained the following:

"The Queen's message was not completed until five o'clock this morning. It was commenced yesterday, but during its reception the operator at Valencia desisted sending it in order to make slight repairs to the cable. Through a mistake, the part received was sent South, to the President, as if it constituted the whole message.

"The following is the Queen's message to the President:

"Valencia, via Trinity Bay, August 16th, 1858.

"To the Honorable the President of the United States:

"Her Majesty desires to congratulate the President upon the successful completion of that great international work in which the Queen has taken the deepest interest.

"The Queen is convinced that the President will join with her in fervently hoping that the electric cable, which now connects Great Britain with the United States, will prove an additional link between the nations whose friendship is founded upon their common interest and reciprocal esteem.

"The Queen has much pleasure in thus communicating with the President, and renewing to him her wishes for the prosperity of the United States."

---

### TO QUEEN VICTORIA.

The President's reply was as follows:

"Washington City, August 16th, 1858.

"The President cordially reciprocates the congratulations of her majesty, the Queen, on the success of the great international enterprise accomplished by the science, skill and indomitable energy of the two countries.

"It is a triumph more glorious, because more useful, than was ever won by the conqueror on the field of battle.

"May the Atlantic Telegraph Company, under the blessing of Heaven, prove to be a bond of perpetual peace and friendship between the kindred nations, and an instrument destined by divine Providence to diffuse religion, civilization, liberty and law throughout the world.

"In this view, will not all the nations of Christendom spontaneously unite in the declaration, that it shall be forever neutral, and that its communications shall be held sacred in passing to the places of their destination in the midst of hostilities."

---

TO HON. WILSON McCANDLESS.<sup>73</sup>

"Bedford Springs, July 25th, 1859.

"My Dear Sir:

"I have received your kind note, of the 19th instant, with the leader from the Post.

"Whilst I appreciate, as it deserves, the ability and friendship displayed in the editorial, I yet regret that it has been published. My determination, not under any circumstances to become a candidate for re-election, is final and conclusive. My best judgment and strong inclination, unite in favor of this course. To cast doubts upon my pre-determined purpose, is calculated to impair my influence in carrying important measures, and afford a pretext for saying that they have been dictated by the desire to be re-nominated.

"With the kindest regards, etc.,

"Respectfully, your friend,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Hon. Wilson McCandless."

---

FROM HON. JOHN B. FLOYD.<sup>74</sup>

"War Department, December 29th, 1860.

"Sir:

"On the evening of the 27th instant, I read the following paper to you in the presence of the cabinet.

"Council Chamber,

"Executive Mansion.

"Sir:

"It is evident now, from the action of the commander at Fort Moultrie, that the solemn pledges of this government have been violated by Major Anderson. In my judgment, but one remedy is now left us by which to vindicate our honor, and prevent civil war. It is in vain now to hope for confidence on the part of the people of South Carolina in any further pledges as to the action of the military. One remedy only is left, and that is, to withdraw the garrison from the harbor of Charleston altogether. I hope the

---

<sup>73</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, August 2nd, 1859.

<sup>74</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, January 8th, 1861.

President will allow me to make that order at once. This order, in my judgment, can alone prevent bloodshed and civil war.

“JOHN B. FLOYD,

“Secretary of War.”

“To the President,

“December 27th, 1860.”

“I then considered the honor of the administration pledged to maintain the troops in the position they occupied; for such had been the assurance given to the gentlemen of South Carolina, who had a right to speak for her. South Carolina, on the other hand, gave reciprocal pledges that no force should be brought by them against the troops, or against the property of the United States. The sole object of both parties to these reciprocal pledges was to prevent collision, and the effusion of blood; in the hope that some means might be found for a peaceful accommodation of the existing troubles, the two Houses of Congress having both raised committees looking to this object.

“Thus affairs stood until the action of Major Anderson (taken, unfortunately, while commissioners were on their way to the Capital on a peaceful mission looking to the avoidance of bloodshed) has complicated matters in the existing manner. Our refusal, or even delay, to place affairs back as they stood under our agreement invites collision, and must inevitably inaugurate civil war in our land. I cannot consent to the agent of such a calamity.

“I deeply regret to feel myself under the necessity of tendering to you my resignation as secretary of war, because I can no longer hold it under my convictions of patriotism, nor with honor, subjected as I am to the violation of solemn pledges and plighted faith.

“With the highest personal regard,

“I am most truly yours,

“JOHN B. FLOYD.”

“To His Excellency the President of the United States.”

---

TO HON. JOHN B. FLOYD.<sup>75</sup>

“Washington, December 31st, 1860.

“My Dear Sir:

“I have received and accepted your resignation of the office of secretary of war; and not wishing to impose upon you the task of performing its mere routine duties, which you have so kindly offered to do, I have authorized the postmaster general to administer the affairs of the department until your successor shall be appointed.

“Yours, very respectfully,

“JAMES BUCHANAN.”

“To Hon. John B. Floyd.”

---

<sup>75</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, January 8th, 1861.

"Wheatland, May 6th, 1861.

"To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:

"Gentlemen:

"In the confusion of the times, I have not received your tri-weekly numbers 9,157 and 9,158 of April 27th and April 30th, I believe. As yours is the only paper of which I preserve a file, I should feel greatly obliged if you would send me these numbers.

"Several items in the Intelligencer have awakened my attention to the facility with which military gentlemen relieve themselves from their oaths and change their allegiance. A military oath has ever been held sacred in all ages and in all countries. Besides the solemn sanctions of religion, there is super-added the highest appeal to personal honor. Each military officer swears that he will bear true allegiance to the United States, and serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies and opposers whatsoever. They do not swear to support the Constitution of any State. Educated by the United States, they belong to the Federal Government in a peculiar sense. Whilst I can imagine why an officer might resign rather than shed the blood of citizens of his native State in war, yet it is difficult to excuse or palliate the next step, which is to go over to the enemy, and make war upon the time-honored flag of the country. Major Beauregard, when he discharged the first gun against Fort Sumpter, lighted a flame which it will require a long time to extinguish. The people of the North at present are enthusiastically unanimous. They never were roused until that shot was fired. I often warned Southern gentlemen that this would be the inevitable result.

"I enjoy good health, and as tranquil a spirit as the evils impending over my country will permit.

"Your friend, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"Washington, December 18th, 1862

"To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:

"When I said to you in my letter of November 17th, that with a few remarks I should close the controversy between General Scott and myself, I could not have had the most remote conception that he would introduce into it a new element, consisting of a late telegram obtained by him from some unnamed individual in Washington, 'but not of the ordnance bureau,' to sustain his position in relation to the arms transferred for storage to the Southern arsenals, by order of the war department in December, 1857.

<sup>76</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, May 21st, 1861.

<sup>77</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, December 23rd, 1862.

"To this telegram I confine myself, leaving the assertion of the General, that not one of the 115,000 (taken from the whole number of 541,565) of these 'arms was ever condemned,' to the testimony reported to the House by the committee on military affairs; and his allegations that I had omitted in my letter of November 17th to mention the rifles of the old calibre of '54, and had intimated 'that these arms were transferred to equalize in some degree the deposits among the different States,' and not for the convenience of storage and sale, to a simple inspection of the last two paragraphs of the letter itself.

"My business at present is solely with the nameless telegram; and with this, side by side, I shall present an official report from Captain (now Colonel) Maynardier of the ordnance bureau. This was communicated to Mr. Stanton, chairman of the committee on military affairs, by Secretary Holt, in a letter dated January 9th, 1861, in which he says, 'The other information asked for, in regard to the number and description of arms distributed since the first day of January, 1850, and to whom, and at what price, will be found in the accompanying statements, Nos. 2 and 3, from the ordnance bureau.'

"By reference to this statement No. 2, it will be found that neither North Carolina, nor Mississippi, nor Kentucky, had received any of these quota of arms; and by this it also appears that the number delivered to each of the seven Southern States mentioned in the telegram was to Virginia 450, South Carolina 646, Georgia 390, Florida 100, Alabama 320, Louisiana 185, and Mississippi none. This is the number of arms, all told, which each of these States received; but, whether from design or ignorance, this statement, so essential to a proper understanding of the subject, has been entirely suppressed in the telegram.

"I shall not intimate, because I do not believe, that these facts could have been known to General Scott at the time he incorporated this telegram in his last letter, although it might have been expected that, as commanding general of the army, he would have felt sufficient interest in the subject to examine this important report from the committee on military affairs. Certain it is, that if the author of the telegram had announced the small quota of arms received by each of these States, and had not left it for the imagination to magnify the number, the General could not have rested an argument on so limited and frail a foundation. He would rather have united with Mr. Stanton, when presenting this statement No. 2 to the House of Representatives on January 9th, 1861, in saying: 'There are a good deal of rumors, and speculations, and misapprehension, as to the true state of this matter.'

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

(To be continued)



# REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS BURIED IN REAMSTOWN

By MRS. MARY OWEN STEINMETZ.

**A** NUMBER of soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War, are buried in the old graveyard at Reamstown, Lancaster county, Pa. A bronze tablet to their memory was erected in 1925 by the late Pierce Leshner.

The Reading Adler, of Tuesday, October 8th, 1822, contained the following:

"Died, on the 5th instant, in Reamstown, George Lorah, Sr., formerly of this [Berks] county. Aged 79 years, 6 months and 18 days." In The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. XXXIV, p. 492, his name appears in the "Class List of Capt. Daniel Reiff's Company, East Oley, Berks County, 1777."

Marcus Montelius, born October 25th, 1752; died May 16th, 1805.

In the Pennsylvania Archives, Fifth Series, Vol. 7, p. 280, Marcus Montelius is listed in the eighth class in the "Return of the White Male Inhabitants in the 2nd Company, 3rd Battalion, Lancaster County Militia, 1781;" and two years later (see p. 612, same volume) he is listed in the eighth class of the "Second Company and 3rd Battalion, now belonging to the 8th Company, and 6th Battalion, Lancaster County Militia," Andrew Ream, captain. The wife of Marcus Montelius, Christina Montelius, died December 20th, 1830, aged 76 years, 11 months and 15 days, and was buried here.

Ludwig Schweitzer died in 1832, aged 73 years. The inscription on the stone which marks his grave has become illegible with the exception of the name, year of death, and age. According to the records of Rev. John Waldschmidt, (Penna. Archives, Sixth Series, Vol. 6, p. 194) Ludwig Schweitzer was baptized December 22nd, 1758. He lived in Heidelberg township, Berks county, during the Revolutionary War. In a history of St. John's (Hain's) Reformed church, Lower Heidelberg township, Berks county, by Rev. W. J. Kershner and Adam G. Lerch, published in 1916, page 56, Ludwig Schweitzer served in Conrad Kerschner's company in the Revolutionary War.