

# LETTERS OF JAMES BUCHANAN

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

*(Continued from page 196)*

## FROM DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.<sup>15</sup>

On January 8th, 1843, a Democratic State Convention was held in Harrisburg, Pa., which unanimously nominated Mr. Buchanan for the Presidency. Three days later, Mr. Buchanan was re-elected, for the third time, to the United States Senate. On the next day, the following letter, signed by every Democratic member of the Legislature, with the exception of Morrow B. Lowrey, was forwarded to him in Washington:

Harrisburg, January 12th, 1843.

"To the Hon. James Buchanan:

"Dear Sir:

"The undersigned, members of the Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, cannot avoid the expression of their pride and gratification in announcing your re-election to the Senate of the United States. As a renewed testimonial of our high regard for your undeviating adherence to the great principles of Democracy, your stern integrity and eminent talents as a statesman, we once more most cheerfully entrust you with the interest and honor of your native State. Nor do we claim any merit in selecting you to fill this exalted station. It was the united voice of the Democratic party, and our act was but the legitimate representation of its wishes.

"We witness in the distinguished statesman and champion of popular rights, the ripe and matured excellencies of the youth who marched during the late war in defense of his country; and who, in the legislative halls, ably advocated and nobly sustained the proper and efficient means of defense against the common enemy; and who has since, by a long series of brilliant services in the councils of the Nation, earned a reputation which will endure as long as the history and glory of the Republic.

"On account of these services, as Pennsylvanians, we cordially unite in the sentiment that you are not only entitled to fill the distinguished post to which you have been elected; but we should desire to see you elevated to the highest office in the gift of the people; and we would, therefore, proudly tender you to the Union as Pennsylvania's favorite candidate for the next Presidency.

"We remain, very respectfully,

"Your friends,

"Franklin N. Avery.

"Richard Bacon, S. N. Bailey, Joseph Baily, G. R. Barrett, Joseph Baugh-

---

<sup>15</sup> *Intelligencer and Journal*, Tuesday, March 7th, 1843.

man, William Bean, William Bell, William Bigler, Charles A. Black, George T. Boal, George Bush.

Benjamin Champneys, Franciscus Clinton, B. Crispin.

"Joseph Deal, J. H. Deford, Asa Dimick.

"Emmor Elton, Henry C. Eyer.

"Samuel Fegely, George Frederick.

"Jacob Geerhart, David Glenn, Samuel Goodwin, William R. Gorgas.

"William B. Hahn, J. L. Hancock, Samuel Headley, J. K. Heckman, A. Heebner, John Hill, J. C. Horton.

"Joseph J. James.

"William Karns, Joseph Kerr, Samuel Kerr, L. Kidder, T. K. Kline, Charles Kugler.

"D. B. Long.

"Henry McBride, M. McCaslin, George McCulloch, Thomas McCully, Edward McGowan, W. M. McKennon, James X. McLanahan.

"John Marshall, Samuel Moore, John Morgan, Henry Myers.

"Thomas O'Brien, M. Overfield.

"Asa Packer, E. A. Penniman, William S. Pickering, Thomas J. Postlethwait, John Potteiger.

"Samuel Reber, A. L. Roumfort, Joseph Russel.

"John Shenk, Daniel Sherwood, John Sipes, Samuel A. Smith, Daniel Snyder.

"Joseph Thomas, Thomas Tustin.

"Jacob Walter, W. P. Wilcox, H. B. Wright."

---

## TO DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.<sup>16</sup>

"Washington City, February 2nd, 1843.

"Gentlemen:

"Your letter of congratulation, on my recent re-election to the Senate of the United States, has inspired me with feelings of profound gratitude. To have been thrice elected to this eminent station by the Democratic Senators and Representatives of my native State, is an honor which ought to satisfy the ambition of any man; and its value is greatly enhanced by your assurance, that in selecting me for another term, you but acted in accordance with the united voice of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania. So highly do I prize their good opinion, that I can declare with heartfelt sincerity, I would not forfeit this for all the political honors which my country would bestow. Their unsolicited and continued support has conferred upon me whatever of distinction in public life I may enjoy; and if it were possible for me now to desert their principles, I should feel that I deserved a traitor's doom. In-

---

<sup>16</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, March 7th, 1843.

stead of being elated, I am humbled by the consciousness of how little I have ever done to merit all their unexampled kindness.

"Of all the political parties which have ever existed, the members of the Democratic party are the most indulgent and confiding masters. All they demand of any public servant is that he honestly and faithfully represent their principles in the station where they have placed him; and this I feel proudly conscious that I have done in the Senate of the United States, according to my best ability. I can, therefore, offer you no pledge for my future conduct, except the guarantee of the past.

"You have been further pleased to say, that as Pennsylvanians you desire to see me 'elevated to the highest office in the gift of the people,' and you tender me 'to the Union, as Pennsylvania's favorite candidate for the next Presidency.' I can solemnly declare that I was wholly unprepared for such an annunciation from the Democratic members of the Legislature, having never received the slightest intimation of their intention until after their letter had been actually signed.

"Both principle and a becoming sense of the merit of others, have hitherto prevented me from taking any, even the least part, in promoting my own elevation to the Presidency. I have no ambitious longings to gratify—conscious as I am that I have already received more of the offices and honors of my country than I have ever deserved. If I know my own heart, I should most freely resign any pretensions which the partiality of friends has set up for me, if by this I could purchase harmony and unanimity in the selection of a Democratic candidate. Besides, however proper it may be that candidates for inferior offices should make personal efforts to secure success—I am deeply convinced, that the highest office under heaven, ought to be the voluntary gift of the only free people upon earth. No man can justly claim it from the people, as a matter of right. It ought to be their own spontaneous gift to the most worthy; and this alone can render it the crowning glory of a well spent public life. This alone can prevent the danger to our institutions which must result from the violent struggles of personal and interested partizans. The principles of the man, whom the people may thus delight to honor, ought to have borne the test of long and severe service; and ought to stand out in such bold relief before his country, as to place all doubt in regard to them at defiance. In my opinion, the candidate who would either intrigue or personally electioneer for the Presidency raises a strong presumption that he is unworthy of it. Whether it be probable that a man resolved, under the blessings of Providence, to act upon these principles, will ever reach the Presidency, you can judge better than myself. I ought, however, in justice to myself to observe, that whilst this is my fixed purpose, I do not feel the less grateful to those kind and partial friends who have deemed me worthy of the highest office, because I have never attempted to enlist them in my support.

"With these views plainly presented before the Democracy of Pennsylvania, if they should resolve to offer my name to the National convention as a candidate for the Presidency, with that degree of unanimity which can alone give moral force to their recommendation, I feel that I ought not to

counteract their wishes. Should they determine differently, this will not be to me a cause of the slightest mortification.

"One remark I am compelled to make before closing this letter. The principles and the success of the Democratic party so immeasurably transcend in importance the elevation of any individual, that they ought not to be jeopardized, in the slightest degree, by personal partiality for either of the candidates. Every candidate who has been named, and hundreds of individuals whose names have not been mentioned, would ably and faithfully administer the government, according to these principles. No good Democrat, therefore, ought to suffer his feelings to become so enlisted in favor of any one candidate, that he could not yield his cheerful and cordial support to any other who may be nominated by the National convention.

"With sentiments of grateful respect,

"I remain yours, sincerely,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To B. Crispin and H. B. Wright, Esquires, and other Democratic members of the Legislature of Pennsylvania."

---

#### FROM DEMOCRATS OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.<sup>17</sup>

"St. Louis, January 15th, 1844.

"Sir:

"At a meeting of the Democrats of the city and county of St. Louis, held on the 8th instant, the undersigned were directed to forward to you the following resolutions passed by them on that occasion, expressive of their high confidence in your patriotism, moral worth and distinguished abilities:

"Resolved, That the Hon. James Buchanan of Pennsylvania, deserves the highest confidence of the Democratic party of the United States, for his disinterested devotion to the cause; and that, by his recent withdrawal from the Presidential contest, he has given new proof of his patriotism and high moral worth."

"In connection with the foregoing resolution, permit us to express to you the high admiration which the Democracy of St. Louis feel for you, as a Democrat, patriot and statesman. Your signal services to your country in the prominent stations which you have held, your self-sacrificing devotion to Democratic principles, your eminent abilities as a statesman, your long and patriotic career, and your irreproachable character as a man, have endeared you to the Democracy of the whole Nation; and the Democrats of this city and county look forward with a sincere desire to that period when they shall be able to evince their high regard for you in another and more efficient manner, than by the expression of their sentiments in words.

"Accept, Sir, the assurances of our profound respect, and of the high

---

<sup>17</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, March 26th, 1844.

personal consideration entertained for you, by us, in common with the Democrats of the whole country.

"We have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servants,

"GEORGE MAGUIRE, Chairman,

"LOUIS T. LABEAUME, Secretary."

"To Hon. James Buchanan."

---

## TO DEMOCRATS OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.<sup>18</sup>

"Washington, February 2nd, 1844.

"Gentlemen:

"I have received yours of January 15th, containing a copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Democrats of the city and county of St. Louis, approving my 'recent withdrawal from the Presidential contest.' This resolution has inspired me with feelings of profound gratitude. It is in accordance with the generous character which belongs to the Democracy of the country. If a public servant will but be true to them and their principles, their kindness will supply all his other deficiencies, and even magnify into meritorious actions those which are but simple performances of duty. Such has been the generous conduct of the Democrats of the city and county of St. Louis towards myself. The public man who would suffer his personal aspirations to interfere with the success of the great principles of his party, is unworthy of public confidence. He thus manifests that self is with him supreme, and the great cause subordinate. Acting in obedience to these principles, I withdrew my name from the list of Presidential candidates, when I discovered that to occupy this position longer, would retard, if it would not prevent, that united and energetic action of the party necessary to command success. For this plain act of duty I have received from my political brethren, everywhere, a reward of public approbation, due only to signal services in the cause of Democracy.

"Please to accept for yourselves my warmest thanks for the kind expression of your approbation which accompanies the resolution.

"From your friend,

"Very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To George Maguire, Esq., Chairman,

"Louis T. Labeaume, Esq., Secretary, etc."

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE YOUNG MEN'S DEMOCRATIC  
CONVENTION OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.<sup>19</sup>

At a meeting of the Young Men's Democratic convention, held on Tuesday, January 9th, 1844, at the Republican rooms, Baltimore, Md., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, by the Young Men's Democratic convention of Baltimore, that the course pursued by the Hon. James Buchanan, Pennsylvania's favorite son, by withdrawing his name from the list of Democratic candidates for the Presidency, in order, by such self-sacrifice, to secure the unanimity and harmony of the great Democratic party, merits our deepest love and admiration; and that this convention, on perusing his eloquent letter of December 14th, 1843, to the Democrats of Pennsylvania, duly appreciates and applauds, and will cherish in its memory the exalted sentiments and motives which impelled him to yield his well-merited pretensions to 'the highest office on earth.'

"Resolved, That in honor of that gentleman the secretaries be requested to spread this letter on the journal of the convention; and that a copy of these resolutions, signed by the president of this body, be transmitted to him at the earliest day.

"Benjamin C. Prestman, President.

Thomas W. Bunting,

Dr. C. V. Walter,

"Secretaries."

---

TO BENJAMIN C. PRESTMAN, PRESIDENT, YOUNG MEN'S DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.<sup>20</sup>

"Washington, January 22nd, 1844.

"Dear Sir:

"I have received yours of the 11th instant, with the copy of the resolutions adopted by 'the Young Men's Democratic convention of the city of Baltimore,' expressing their approbation of my conduct in withdrawing my name from the list of candidates for the Presidency. These resolutions have afforded me high gratification; and they shall ever hold a distinguished place in my grateful memory. Most cordially do I thank my young Democratic friends of Baltimore for their kind expressions of regard; and I trust that my future public conduct may merit, and then it will be certain to obtain, a continuance of their approbation.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Benjamin C. Prestman, Esq.,

"President, etc."

---

<sup>19</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, February 20th, 1844.

<sup>20</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, February 20th, 1844.

"Lewisberry, York County, [Pa.] April 24th, 1844.

"Dear Sir:

"I have taken the liberty of writing to you for some political information, in which my neighbors and myself feel some interest. The nomination of Henry A. Muhlenberg as the Democratic candidate for governor, is well received here, and will be shown next October at the election; but, at the same time, many enquiries are made of me, as to his public life and principles, with which I am not so familiar as I am with Mr. Shunk's, who was my first choice, and which, therefore, I cannot very fully answer. It is for this reason I write to you, knowing that you are well acquainted with Mr. Muhlenberg, and have seen much of his course in public business. I hope, if convenient, you will gratify many of your friends here by expressing your opinions of the Democratic candidate, and of the services he has rendered to Democratic principles.

"I know no one to whom I can better apply than to yourself for this information, nor do I know any one whose opinion would be more satisfactorily received by the people.

"I hope you will excuse me for troubling you at this time, when you are so busily engaged at Washington.

"I remain your friend and obedient servant,

"W. NICHOLS."

"To Hon. James Buchanan."

---

TO WILLIAM NICHOLS, ESQUIRE.<sup>22</sup>

"Washington City, May 9th, 1844.

"Dear Sir:

"I did not receive your favor of the 24th ultimo, until yesterday; and as it has been so long delayed upon the way, I hasten to give it an answer. You ask me for information relative 'to the public life and principles' of Henry A. Muhlenberg, the Democratic candidate for governor, for the use, both of yourself and your neighbors, and you justly state that I 'have seen much of his course in public business.'

"I cheerfully recognize your right, as a respected Democrat of the good old county of York, to make this call upon me, and I have only to regret that my public engagements here are so various and pressing, that I cannot spare the time to give you such an answer as I could desire, and as you deserve.

"Previous to Mr. Muhlenberg's nomination, by the fourth of March convention, my position was one of strict neutrality between him and Mr. Shunk.

---

<sup>21</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, May 21st, 1844.

<sup>22</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, May 21st, 1844.

I knew that both were preeminently qualified to conduct the affairs of the State, with wisdom and success, at the present critical crisis, and would have been equally satisfied with the selection of either. Warmly and gratefully attached to both, I neither felt nor expressed a personal preference for the one over the other.

"But the convention has decided the question in favor of Mr. Muhlenberg; and I consider it extremely fortunate that, amidst our existing embarrassments, the nomination has fallen upon such a man. Formerly, in Pennsylvania, the wheels of the State government moved along so smoothly over the beaten track, that any man of integrity, with the most common qualifications, was competent successfully to discharge the duties of governor. Unfortunately, those good old times have passed away, and we now require an experienced and skilful pilot at the helm to weather the storm. With a debt of more than forty millions impending over us, which must be paid; with our vast internal improvements, which must be wisely and economically managed, so as to yield the largest profit at the least expense; and with other serious obstacles in our way to prosperity, which I need not enumerate, — the crisis demands a governor, not only of unspotted integrity, but of extensive practical knowledge, sound judgment and unwavering firmness. Mr. Muhlenberg is the very man for the times. He possesses these qualifications, in an eminent degree; and, above all, he is truly an honest man whom temptation can never seduce from the path of duty. During a long life, no shadow of suspicion has ever rested upon his personal integrity. It is impossible to be in his company for an hour without forming the most decided opinion that he is an honest man. Frank and fearless in his nature, as becomes a Democratic statesman, he does not conceal his thoughts, but speaks right out like one who is neither ashamed nor afraid to avow his sentiments before the world. Under the administration of such a man, the people will cheerfully submit to taxation to redeem their plighted faith and the honor of our good old Commonwealth; because they will feel an entire confidence that their contributions will not be squandered by trading politicians, but will be faithfully applied to the payment of the public creditor.

"Mr. Muhlenberg is a native of Lancaster — the place of my own residence. He is a son of the late Rev. Dr. Gotthilf Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, who, for many years previous to his death, was the pastor of the German Lutheran church in that city, and was a man beloved by his own congregation and respected by all who knew him. Although he never took any active part in politics, yet his principles, were known to have been strongly democratic. His son, Henry, early imbibed these principles and has ever since been a Democrat — not merely in profession, as so many are, but in principle; not merely in word, but in deed.

"I have been intimately acquainted with Mr. Muhlenberg since December, 1829, when he first took his seat in Congress. I well recollect that, in common with his colleagues, I soon learned to estimate highly the soundness and steadiness of his principles, and that strong practical common sense for which he is distinguished. From the very first, he was considered by us as

a great acquisition to the Pennsylvania delegation. It is true that he seldom spoke, but when he did address the House, he was listened to with profound attention; and he soon acquired a much greater influence with his fellow-members than most of those whose names were daily in the newspapers.

"On my return to Congress in December, 1834, having been absent between three and four years, I still found Mr. Muhlenberg in the House; but with a reputation greatly increased and an influence greatly extended. In the war which had been waged, in the meantime, by the bank of the United States against General Jackson, he was a pillar of strength in support of the administration. In the hour of deepest darkness, when that corrupt and corrupting institution was bringing all its forces into battle against the hero and the sage, [Andrew Jackson] who then administered the government, and when many weak disciples quailed, and many even deserted the cause of Democracy, Mr. Muhlenberg stood the more firmly amidst the fearful conflict. To him belongs the distinguished honor of having moved and carried the previous question in February, 1834, thus terminating the bank panic war which had raged for more than two months in the House of Representatives. I have more than once heard General Jackson himself speak in the strongest terms of the support which he had received throughout this conflict from *General* Muhlenberg, as he always called him; and when, on one occasion, I told him that Mr. Muhlenberg was no general, his reply was, 'No matter, he ought to have been.'

"Respected by all, Mr. Muhlenberg continued, ably and faithfully to represent his district in Congress until February, 1838, when he was appointed our first envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Austria. A statesman of German descent, and a thorough German scholar, was thus most appropriately selected to open our diplomatic relations with the Austrian Empire.

"It was to have been expected that the friends of Mr. Shunk, who are justly and devotedly attached to him, would experience temporary mortification, and regret at their disappointment. Indeed this was inevitable. I am happy, however, to observe that these feelings have gradually yielded to the prevailing affection of every true Democrat for 'the good old cause,' in the success of which the liberty and happiness of the people of this country are deeply involved. Men are but the beings of a summer's day, whilst principles pass from generation to generation, and are eternal.

"Nor have the friends of Mr. Shunk any reason to regard Mr. Muhlenberg with a jealous eye. From my intimate knowledge of the man, I shall hazard the assertion, that Mr. Muhlenberg will bury in oblivion all that has occurred adverse to himself before and at the fourth of March convention; and should he be elected, in his selections for office-holders, he will only enquire, 'Is he honest; is he capable?' Nay more, I shall venture strongly to express my firm conviction that he is wholly uncommitted to any man or set of men by any promise, direct or inferential, to confer office upon them; and

that he will stand upon the broad platform of Democracy, without being influenced by any cliques or sections of the party.

"Believing in the pre-eminent qualifications of Mr. Muhlenberg, to meet the present crisis in our State affairs, in his known and acknowledged integrity, and in his genuine Democracy, I shall give him my most cheerful and cordial support. I am happy to learn that his nomination has been well received in your county; and as might have been expected from your own character, that he will receive your hearty support, notwithstanding you were originally a friend of Mr. Shunk.

"With sentiments of respect,

"I remain your friend,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To William Nichols, Esq."

---

## REPLY TO INVITATION FROM DEMOCRATS OF DAUPHIN COUNTY.<sup>23</sup>

"Lancaster, July 1st, 1844.

"Gentlemen:

"I have been honored by the receipt of your kind invitation to unite with the Democracy of Harrisburg, in celebrating the approaching anniversary of our National Independence. If it were not for a previous engagement, I should certainly accept your invitation. It is now 'the auld lang syne' since I first learned to know and esteem the Democracy of Harrisburg; and from their past kindness, there is no place where I should expect a warmer welcome or feel myself more at home.

"Permit me most cordially to congratulate you on the auspicious result of the Baltimore convention. When the prospects of the Democracy were shrouded in darkness, and we all trembled lest some fearful catastrophe might overwhelm the party, a sudden and a cheering light burst forth from the convention, which has spread joy and gladness over the Nation. Our gloom has been converted into glory; and 'all the clouds that lower'd upon our house' have been 'in the deep bosom of the ocean buried.' The nominations of Polk and Dallas have been everywhere hailed by the Democracy with an intense enthusiasm, which is the sure presage of victory. In these nominees, our glorious principles, destined to spread liberty and law over the whole earth, have found worthy representatives. Both of them are new men, as connected with the high stations to which they have been nominated, though both of them are known to fame by their distinguished services. We are thus at once relieved from the jealousies and heart-burnings which might have distracted the party, had either of the two distinguished and rival candidates been selected. The Democracy of the Union, with Polk and Dallas for their

---

<sup>23</sup> Intelligencer and Journal. Tuesday. July 16th. 1844.

leaders, will make a fresh start, and are, I trust, destined to run a glorious career. The young Democrats, who have sprung into political existence since General Jackson retired from office, will now feel assured that they have a fair and equal chance for the honors and rewards of the country with their elder associates.

"At this auspicious moment of our political existence, shall we not commence a new era of good feeling in Pennsylvania? Shall we not bury in oblivion those unhappy dissensions which have heretofore existed, and march to victory as a band of brothers? For myself, it is sufficient for me to know that a Democrat will support Polk, Dallas and Muhlenberg; and I shall then extend to him the right hand of political fellowship. The present is not a moment for members of the party to obtrude their private griefs, if they have any, upon the public, nor to indulge in crimination and recrimination against each other. Let us charge in solid column on the enemies of Democratic principles, and the victory will be ours. In union alone there is strength; and if, at an early period of the contest, it shall be rendered manifest to our sister States, that the Democracy of the Keystone is firmly united, our moral influence will be powerfully felt throughout the length and breadth of the land.

"I know that active and persevering efforts have been made, and are still in progress, to impress the people of other States with the belief that the Democracy of Pennsylvania is not united, and that Mr. Clay will consequently receive the vote of the State. Let us scatter this delusion to the winds. Let us exhibit to the world, without a moment's delay, that we shall give Polk, Dallas and Muhlenberg a triumphant majority, and this will scatter confusion and dismay everywhere throughout the ranks of the enemy. The Keystone State will thus sustain the whole arch of the Democracy, and convince her sisters that she is worthy of the proud name she bears.

"Under these impressions, I offer you the following sentiment:

"*The Democracy of Pennsylvania:* Let us give a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull together, and the victory will be ours.'

"With sentiments of respect,

"I remain your friend,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Messrs. John MacLaughlin, C. S. Kendig, William Clark and Charles Carson, Esquires, Committee, etc."

---

TO S. G. ARNOLD, ESQUIRE.<sup>24</sup>

The following excerpt is copied from the Newark, N. J., Morning Post:

"Satisfied that the statement of the Poughkeepsie blacksmith, at the meeting last week in this city, respecting a speech made by Mr. Buchanan

---

<sup>24</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, July 30th, 1844.

in the United States Senate, was a gross and infamous falsehood; and feeling that one of our most eminent citizens ought not to be thus shamefully traduced by a common blackguard without exposure, we addressed a line to Mr. Buchanan, asking for a copy of the speech referred to, that we might meet the slanderer fairly with the facts. Last night we received Mr. Buchanan's reply and we print it below. If it should, by chance, fall under the notice of any of the Whigs who cheered the insulting falsehood, we shall not envy them their feelings. It is outrageous that the Whigs should keep a man in their employ and give him countenance, who has such a total disregard for truth; and it is still more disgraceful that respectable men should be found who are willing to applaud his vile and nefarious slanders."

Mr. Buchanan's letter is as follows:

"Lancaster, July 20th, 1844.

"Dear Sir:

"I have this moment received yours of the 18th instant, and hasten to give it an answer.

"You inform me that a certain Mr. Van Wagener, of Poughkeepsie, in the course of his remarks before a political meeting at your place, stated that in one of my speeches before the Senate in 1840, I had said: 'Mechanics and working men in this country had too much wages, that they had meat for breakfast, meat for dinner and meat for supper, that in Russia the same class only had meat once in two or three months, and that they were fat and sleek and happy; that mechanics in this country were as well fed as gentlemen, and even had servants, working girls, in their families!'

"If you had not informed me that 'these remarks seemed to be received with great approbation by the meeting,' I should not have supposed that an audience could be found in the United States which would, for a moment, believe that any senator, not a candidate for Bedlam, could have justly exposed himself to the contempt and abhorrence of all mankind by uttering such wicked nonsense. I need scarcely say that I never used such expressions—in public or in private, nor any other language bearing the most remote resemblance to them. From beginning to end, they are a sheer fabrication, and their author deserves to be branded as a base public slanderer.

"On the contrary, so far from having ever said or thought anything to the prejudice of mechanics, one of my nearest and dearest relatives, upon my urgent advice, was bound an apprentice to a trade and is at the present moment a mechanic: and this was a matter of choice, not necessity. I have thus afforded the strongest practical evidence of the estimation in which I hold this highly meritorious class of our fellow-citizens. I am grieved to think that the mechanics of Newark, whether of the one political party or the other, would suffer themselves to be deceived by such contemptible slander as that uttered by this traveling orator. They ought to treat such remarks as an insult to their understanding; and rest assured they could never have

proceeded from any man who holds mechanics and mechanical arts in that high estimation which they deserve, and in which they have ever been held by me.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To S. G. Arnold, Esq."

---

TO JOHN M. READ, ESQUIRE.<sup>25</sup>

The following extract was taken from a letter written by the Hon. James Buchanan to John M. Read, Esq., directly after the news of Henry A. Muhlenberg's death reached McConnellsburg, where Mr. Buchanan was detained on his way from Bedford:

"McConnellsburg, Pa., August 13th, 1844.

"My Dear Sir:

"The mail stage last night brought us the melancholy news of the death of Mr. Muhlenberg. I have scarcely ever been more shocked by any catastrophe. The whole State will be in mourning, and well it may. Mr. Muhlenberg did not leave behind him, within its limits, a purer, wiser, or better man. Bound to him by the closest ties of personal and political friendship, my loss is irreparable. It is thus as men advance in life, that, one by one, they see their friends falling around them, until at last they are left in the midst of a new generation which can never cordially sympathize with them. It is then that they feel themselves to be the solitary relics of a departed age; and realize the solemn truth that they are but 'pilgrims and sojourners on the earth, as all their fathers were.' I have lost so many old and valued friends within a few years, that I feel I am fast advancing to this period.

"But whilst we mourn the dead, we ought not to neglect our duty to the living. Mr. Muhlenberg's death leaves us in a critical position. What is to be done? I answer that the Democratic papers ought, without a moment's delay, to raise the flag of Francis R. Shunk. Next to our lamented friend, he was undoubtedly the choice of the Democracy of Pennsylvania. The proceedings of the 4th of March convention abundantly establish this fact. In pursuing this course, then, they will be acting in obedience to the public will. We must not hesitate in the face of the enemy, but move into line in support of Shunk, without faltering.

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

---

<sup>25</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, August 20th, 1844.

REPLY TO INVITATION FROM DEMOCRATS OF THE INCORPORATED  
DISTRICT OF NORTHERN LIBERTIES.<sup>26</sup>

"Washington, December 11th, 1844.

"Gentlemen:

"I have been honored by the receipt of your kind invitation, to unite with the Democracy of the Incorporated District of the Northern Liberties, in celebrating 'the late glorious victory of the Democracy of the State and Union by a public festival, to be given at the house of Charles Worrell, on the 13th instant.' I should gladly accept this agreeable invitation, did not my public duties forbid my absence from this city at the time appointed.

"The recent victory has indeed been glorious. It is a triumph of those principles which will secure and perpetuate our free institutions. It is to these glorious principles—inscribed upon our flag above, and not to the mere standard bearers beneath—that Democrats pay their devotion. And yet our three standard bearers are eminently worthy of the confidence of a free people. I have been upon terms of personal, political, and social intimacy with James K. Polk for nearly twenty years; and have observed him in all situations,—both in the sunshine and in the storm. Whilst the tremendous war of the bank of the United States against the administration of the glorious old hero and sage of The Hermitage [Andrew Jackson] was raging, he never quailed, but led the van of the Democracy in the House of Representatives. I shall venture the prediction, that as President of the United States, he will disappoint the expectations of his political foes, and will surpass even the high hopes of his friends. Prudent, firm, and sagacious, with a character, public and private, above all reproach, his country's good will be the polar star of his administration; and his own glory and lasting benefits to the people of the United States, will be his rich reward, provided he be not thwarted by premature attempts to divide the party in a struggle for the next Presidency. His own nomination and triumphant election, ought to warn the friends of all impatient aspirants, if any such there be, that those who are the first to enter the lists, and thus distract the party, will be the last in reaching the goal.

"The leading characteristic of Mr. Polk's mind is an almost unerring judgment, which eminently fits him for the high position to which his country has called him. During his long and varied services in Congress, it may be said of him what could scarcely be asserted of any other public man placed in a similar position, that he has never had occasion to explain or retract any of his votes, or even to qualify any of his opinions expressed in the ardor of debate.

"Let him, then, have a fair field; let him be sustained by the entire Democracy in his efforts to confirm and strengthen the great and glorious party which has brought him into power, and our late triumph will be but the precursor of new victories! The party must support him with an un-

---

<sup>26</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, January 7th, 1845.

broken front, in order to sustain itself in the presence of the powerful and intellectual party which still holds its position in the field of battle. At the appropriate time, we shall select another candidate, as Alexander did his successor, and bestow the highest office in the world upon the man who shall then have proved himself to be the most worthy. In conclusion, permit me to offer you the following sentiment:

“Democracy: For the sake of its principles, first and above all; and afterwards, a fair selection among its votaries, of the most honest and capable public agents, to give these principles effect.”

“With many thanks for the kind terms toward myself personally, which you have employed in your invitation,

“I remain, very respectfully,

“Your friend,

“JAMES BUCHANAN.”

---

TO W. J. HOWARD, ESQ., MAYOR OF PITTSBURGH.<sup>27</sup>

On Thursday, April 10th, 1845, the city of Pittsburgh was the scene of a most destructive fire. About twelve hundred buildings were in ruins, and many families were rendered homeless. The loss was estimated at about ten million dollars.

James Buchanan, with a liberality worthy of the noble hearted and generous feelings which always distinguished him, sent a donation to W. J. Howard, mayor of Pittsburgh, which was larger than that of any other individual. The Pittsburgh Morning Post, in referring to the contribution, stated that, “Great as are his talents and political achievements, the goodness of his heart outshines them all.”

Mr. Buchanan’s letter, accompanied by a draft, is as follows:

“Washington, April 14th, 1845.

“Cashier of the Bank of the Metropolis, pay to the order of W. J. Howard, Mayor of the city of Pittsburgh, for the use of the sufferers by the late fire, Five Hundred Dollars.

“JAMES BUCHANAN.”

“Dear Sir:

“Will you please to accept and apply the above to the relief of the sufferers by the late dreadful calamity. My feelings of sympathy and compassion have never been so strongly excited upon any similar occasion. But let the people be of good cheer and exert their accustomed energy; and, under the blessings of Providence, all will yet be well, and Pittsburgh will arise more glorious than ever from its ashes.

“Yours, very respectfully,

“JAMES BUCHANAN.”

“To W. J. Howard, Esq.”

---

<sup>27</sup> Intelligencer and Journal, Tuesday, April 29th, 1845.

"Washington, December 17th, 1847.

"Gentlemen:

"I have been honored by the receipt of your kind invitation, 'in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements of the Democracy of the City and County of Philadelphia,' to attend 'at their mass meeting, to be held at the Museum on Saturday next, in support of the policy of the country, and course of the National Administration in the vigorous prosecution to an honorable peace, of the present war with Mexico.'

"I deeply regret that my pressing public duties here, especially since the indisposition of the secretary of the treasury, render it impossible that I should be present at your meeting. Indeed, I might add, that I have been compelled of late almost entirely to forego the privilege of corresponding with my most valued private friends. My answer to your kind invitation must, therefore, be comparatively brief.

"The facts already before the world conclusively prove, that the war with Mexico, in which our country has been involved, was forced upon us after we had exhausted every honorable expedient to preserve peace. If any corroboration of these facts had been wanting it would be supplied by the letter of ex-President Herrera, dated on the 25th of August last, in answer to a note from the Mexican minister of Foreign Affairs, offering him, by direction of General Santa Anna, the appointment of a commissioner to treat for peace, with the commissioner of the United States. In this answer, General Herrera distinctly declares, that his Government had been subverted by General Paredes, solely because he had consented to receive our minister, Mr. Slidell, 'For no other act,' (to use General Herrera's own expressive language), 'than showing that there would be no obstacle to his [Mr. Slidell's] presenting himself, and having his proposition heard, my administration was calumniated in the most atrocious manner—for this act alone, the revolution which displaced me from the command was set on foot.'

"Mexico had for many years endured the very worst Government on the face of the earth. Under the name of a Republic, it was, in fact, an ever-changing despotism; but without either the disposition or the power to protect the right of peaceable and well-disposed citizens.

"One military usurper arose after another in rapid succession, and these were alternately elevated and deposed by an army consisting of nearly as many officers as privates, which disposed of the supreme power as boldly and unscrupulously as did the Pretorian Guards of the Empire of Ancient Rome.

"The passions of this army had been artfully inflamed against the United States. They clamored for war against our country, and this not merely on account of the territory between the Rio Grande and the Nueces, but for the whole of the sovereign State of Texas, up to the Sabine.

"No sooner may it be known that the Mexican Government had agreed to receive our minister, Mr. Slidell, who was empowered to adjust all existing difficulties, than General Paredes, with his whole army stationed at San Luis de Potosi, 'pronounced' against General Herrera. Paredes marched in triumph to the capital, expelled Herrera from the presidency, and usurped the supreme power. From this moment, war with the United States became inevitable.

"Indeed, to wage and prosecute such a war was the very condition on which Paredes had succeeded in usurping the Government of his country.

"Heaven has smiled upon the just cause; and the character of our country has been illustrated by a rapid succession of brilliant and astonishing victories. The exploits of our army have elevated our national character, and shed a lustre upon our name throughout the civilized world. In achieving these victories, the blood of many of our best and most patriotic citizens has been shed in the cause of their country. In justice to their memory we can never retire with honor from the fields where they have fallen, without indemnity for the past, and security for the future. If we *should* do this, then their blood will have been shed in vain. To withdraw our troops at the present moment, would be to convert the glory which we have acquired in a *just and necessary* war, into national disgrace and dishonor.

"The war has not been prosecuted for conquest. At every stage of its progress, we have been willing to conclude a just and honorable peace. Indeed, we can never wage a war for conquest, in the popular sense of that term. Our free institutions forbid that we should subject nations to our arbitrary sway. If they come within our power, we must bestow upon them the same blessings of liberty and law, which we ourselves enjoy. Should they be annexed to the Union, as in the case of Texas, they must participate in the freest and best Government on earth—on equal terms with ourselves.

"The capital of Mexico is now the headquarters of our conquering army; and yet such is the genius of our free institutions, that for the first time its peaceful and well-disposed citizens enjoy security in their private rights, and the advantage of a just and firm government. From all that can be learned, they appreciate our protection at its proper value, and dread nothing so much as the withdrawal of our army. They know this would be the signal for renewed and fierce dissensions among their military leaders, in which the Mexican people would become the victims. In this wretched condition of affairs, justice to them and to ourselves may require that we should protect them in establishing upon a permanent basis, a Republican Government—able and willing to conclude and maintain an equitable treaty of peace with the United States. After every effort to obtain such a treaty should fail in accomplishing the object, and should the military factions in Mexico still persist in waging upon us a fruitless war, then we must fulfill the destiny which Providence may have in store for both countries.

"In any event, we owe it to the glories of the past, to the duties of the present, and the hopes of the future, never to falter in the vigorous prosecution of this war, until we shall have secured a just and honorable peace.

The people of the United States will act upon this determination, as surely as that indomitable perseverance in a righteous cause is a characteristic of our race.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To J. C. Vandyke, A. Miller, J. F. Bellsterling, G. G. Westcott."

---

## INVITATION FROM OLD NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS IN LANCASTER.<sup>29</sup>

The Lancaster Intelligencer of Tuesday, April 11th, 1848, contained an announcement that James Buchanan, the distinguished secretary of state of the United States, arrived in Lancaster on Monday evening, April 10th. His stay in the city of his adoption was brief, owing to his numerous and pressing duties at Washington.

The succeeding issue of this paper, dated April 18th, contained the following:

"We announced in our last the arrival of the Hon. James Buchanan, who has sought in a friendly visit to his home, among his old townsmen and neighbors, a brief relaxation from his arduous labors as secretary of state at Washington. Our distinguished visitor leaves here to return to his public duties at 12 o'clock to-day.

"During his brief sojourn in Lancaster, Mr. Buchanan has been waited on by hundreds of our citizens, many of whom came a great distance from the country, to shake by the hand and exchange salutations with one whom they have long and intimately known, and whom thus to know is to esteem and admire. The occasional visits of Mr. Buchanan to this city are always distinguished by the familiar greetings of old and devoted friends, who come to revive former intimacies and to review the interesting reminiscences of the past. But on no former occasion were these visits so numerous, warm-hearted and enthusiastic, as on the present.

"Among other manifestations of the regard of the community, our citizens, without distinction of party, tendered to Mr. Buchanan the compliment of a public dinner, which, however, owing to the urgency of his public duties, he was compelled to decline. Not the least among his praises is the fact, that whilst no public man in the Nation sustains his political opinions with more firmness and consistency, he has ever espoused them in a manner to retain the entire respect of political opponents, who do not hesitate to award to him the most commanding talents and the purest personal character."

The invitation to the public dinner was as follows:

---

<sup>29</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer. Tuesday. April 18th. 1848.

"Lancaster, April 14th, 1848.

"Hon. James Buchanan:

"Dear Sir:

"The undersigned, citizens of Lancaster, avail themselves of your brief presence amongst your old neighbors and friends, to invite you to partake of a public dinner in this city, at such time as may suit the demands of your public duties. We have known you long and intimately, and, although many of us differ from you on the questions of public policy, it affords the most sincere pleasure to all to offer this slight mark of social kindness, and of respect for your private worth and eminent abilities. We trust that this testimony will be none the less gratifying because it comes from individuals of all parties, and is intended only as a sincere proof of our high regard for the purity of your private life, and our admiration of the eminent abilities which you have displayed to the Nation and to the world in the discharge of your public duties.

"Very respectfully,

"Your fellow-citizens,

"J. B. Amwake, J. M. Amwake, John L. Atlee.

"Christian Bachman, J. D. Bachman, Washington Baker, William Barnhart, D. B. Bartholomew, Thomas Baumgardner, Andrew Bear, William Bell, James Black, Charles Boughter, A. N. Breneman, Ferree Brinton, Michael Bundel, Thomas H. Burrowes.

"Michael Carpenter, Robert D. Carson, Thomas Collins, Mark Connell, John Cunningham.

"Henry Deal, William Donas, James Donnelly, P. Donnelly, Frederick Dorwart, John Dorwart, John Dougherty, John H. Duchman.

"D. B. Eberly, John Ehler, Benjamin Eshleman.

"R. E. Fahnestock, William B. Fahnestock, John G. Fetter, Matthew Folding, Benjamin M. Foltz, George Ford, William B. Fordney, D. C. Forney, Wien Forney, William Fraley, Jacob Frey, Nathan Fry.

"Charles Gillespie, J. Gish, John Gohns, Samuel E. Gundaker.

"C. Hager, E. M. Hambright, John Hamilton, A. L. Hayes, Samuel Hill, Maris Hoopes, Owen Hopple, J. Howett, Bernard Hugo, Samuel Humes, Lewis Hurford, E. W. Hutter.

"William Jenkins.

"J. B. Kauffman, Benjamin Kautz, Daniel Kautz, Edward Kautz, Israel Kautz, Jacob Kautz, Jacob F. Kautz, John Kautz, J. Kautz, Joseph Kautz, Samuel Kautz, William Kautz, Adam M. Keen, Francis Keenan, William Keenan, John A. Keller, Michael Kelly, George B. Kerfoot, William Killner, Edmond M. Kline, Charles Kline, George H. Krug, Frederick Kurly, George Kurly.

"Ellis Lewis, Newton Lightner, David Longenecker.

"R. McClure, George M'Donald, Michael McGrann, George W. McElroy, John McMahan.

"John Mackey, John Mathiot, William Mathiot, Franklin G. May, Andrew

Mehaffey, John Michael, George Miller, John Miller, William Miller, B. Mishler, Robert Moderwell, F. A. Muhlenberg, John Musselman, George Musser, John Myers.

"George Nair, John Newmayer.

"John G. Offner, Eli Overdeer.

"H. Rathvon, David Reese, Jacob Reese, Emanuel C. Reigart, Henry M. Reigart, J. Franklin Reigart, James L. Reynolds, John Reynolds, A. E. Roberts, Abraham W. Russel, F. H. Russel, W. Russell, Jacob Rutter.

"E. Schaeffer, John W. Schaefer, George Sensenderfer, Philip Shaum, Henry Shea, Michael Shea, Henry Sheaff, Christian Shertz, John F. Shroder, Robert Singleton, Amos Slaymaker, John Spidle, George M. Steinman, Thaddeus Stevens, John Swank.

"John L. Thompson.

"Frederick Uffner.

"J. C. Van Camp, Emanuel Vankanana, D. V. Vondersmith.

"George A. Weaver, Jacob Weaver, Henry C. Wentz, T. C. Wiley, Adam Wilhelm, John Williams, Jr., John Williams, Christian Widmyer, Michael Withers."

---

## REPLY TO INVITATION FROM OLD NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS IN LANCASTER.<sup>30</sup>

"Lancaster, Pa., April 17th, 1848.

"Gentlemen:

"I have been honored by the receipt of your very kind invitation to partake of a public dinner with my 'old neighbors and friends' of the city of Lancaster. This testimonial of your personal regard has afforded me the most cordial satisfaction, proceeding as it does from those who have known me longest and known me best. It gives me assurance that when I return to Lancaster I shall be welcomed home by a society as estimable as any in the Union, among whom, I cherish the hope that, with God's blessing, I shall pass the last days of my pilgrimage on earth.

"This testimonial of your regard, I assure you, is none the less grateful to my feelings, 'because it comes from individuals of all parties.' Freedom of opinion is an inestimable blessing secured to every citizen under our happy form of government, and 'to speak his thoughts is every freeman's right.' It would be at war with this sacred right to suffer political differences to disturb the private relations of friendship; and I can appeal to you all that I have ever endeavored in my intercourse with my fellow-citizens to act in accordance with this sentiment. Devoted as I am to the principles of my own party, I have never condemned any man for holding opposite opinions. I am, therefore, proud to number among my personal friends many who have been my most decided political opponents. Let us ever in Lancaster, in a

---

<sup>30</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, April 18th, 1848.

kind and forbearing spirit, agree to disagree upon great political questions, and thus we shall preserve harmony and neighborliness throughout our social circles.

"Under these circumstances, it is with great reluctance that I feel myself compelled to forego the privilege and pleasure of accepting your invitation. I must return to-morrow to the performance of my public duties at Washington; but I shall bear with me the cheering conviction that I still retain a warm place in the regard of my fellow-citizens of all political parties in the city of Lancaster.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To Ellis Lewis, Michael Carpenter, Alexander L. Hayes, Christian Bächman, Lewis Hurford, C. Hager, George B. Kerfoot, John F. Shroder, Esquires, and others."

---

## REPLY TO INVITATION FROM DEMOCRATS OF PHILADELPHIA.<sup>31</sup>

"Washington, July 1st, 1848.

"Gentlemen:

"I have been honored by the receipt of your very kind invitation to unite with the Democracy of the city and county of Philadelphia, at their annual meeting in Independence Square, on the morning of July 4th, to celebrate the anniversary of our national Independence. I deeply regret that official engagements will deprive me of the pleasure of being with you on that ever-memorable day.

"I should gladly raise my voice on that hallowed spot, and counsel my Democratic fellow-citizens to strain every nerve in sustaining the principles and the men of that great party, the continued ascendancy of which, as I firmly believe, is identified with the prosperity and permanence of our glorious Union. Dark and angry clouds are now arising, from different quarters, to obscure the political horizon; and our only security is to follow our time-honored flag throughout the impending storm, with unwavering fidelity. It will guide us, as it has often done before, into the haven of safety.

"On that flag have ever been inscribed a sacred regard for the compromises of the Constitution and mutual conciliation among all the sister States composing our great political family. Acting in this spirit which presided at the birth of our institutions, we shall strengthen the bonds of our Federal Union, and may bid defiance to our political enemies at home as well as maintain ourselves in a righteous cause against a world in arms.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"JAMES BUCHANAN."

"To the Committee."

---

<sup>31</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, July 11th, 1848.

"York, Pa., July 15th, 1848.

"Hon. James Buchanan:

"You, of course, are aware, that Governor Shunk, from his bed of protracted, painful, and, as he believes, fatal disease, has resigned the high honors and grave responsibilities of the chief magistracy of this great Commonwealth, into the hands of the people of Pennsylvania, who conferred them upon him.

"This important step, announced to us a few days since, has been a subject of deep interest, absorbing, to a degree, all others in this community; and sincere and profound regret prevails among our citizens, of all parties, at the afflictive dispensation which, in the governor's opinion, rendered it proper that he should place at the disposal of the popular will the trust which he could not hope to be able to discharge many days longer. In regarding this last proof of the old man's devotion to what he conceived to be his duty, we are reminded, that we, too, have duties to perform, arising out of the position in which his resignation leaves the executive branch of the government.

"The thoughts of Democrats here, and we believe everywhere throughout the State, are directed to the disposition to be made of the trust thus solemnly surrendered; to the question as to whom the high responsibility should be next confided; whom should the Democracy next present to the people as worthy of their confidence, worthy of the highest office in their gift.

"In the great Democratic family of this State, there are many who have the exalted and pure personal character and eminent ability that the governor of Pennsylvania ought to possess — many who would discharge the duties of that proud station ably and worthily. In casting our eyes over the list, we cannot but exult, as Pennsylvanians, at its brilliancy and extent. But in that list there is one name preeminently lustrous, a name in which we all feel entitled to our share of pride, a name *first and foremost* in the bright catalogue of the living statesmen of this State and Nation, *first and foremost* in our hearts, earliest in our thoughts when we have a high trust to bestow, a trust so sacred that we ought not, must not, bestow it but upon one of whose fidelity *we are sure*.

"Since the resignation of Governor Shunk, in thousands of hearts, Sir, your name has arisen, coupled with the hope that you would permit it to be presented to the people of Pennsylvania by the Democratic State Convention as our candidate for governor; thousands of tongues have uttered the thought, and he does not know Pennsylvania who doubts that it found a response in every Democratic heart such as no other name than James Buchanan could elicit.

"We do not enquire whether you *desire* the nomination for governor. Such an enquiry we could readily answer in the negative. But feeling, in common

---

<sup>32</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, August 8th, 1848.

with our Democratic brethren everywhere, that your name would be worth all effort that can honorably be made to place it upon the Democratic ticket, we venture to express to you the hope that you will, if called upon by the Democratic State Convention to do so, forego your own inclination, and take the position of Democratic standard bearer of the Keystone State in the approaching contest.

"The Democracy of Pennsylvania, though they have not been gratified in their ardent desire for the nomination of their first choice for the Presidency, are, as you have no doubt learned, keeping their political watch-fires bright upon every hill. They have heard your noble and characteristic injunction: '*The nominations being made, we must all go to work to elect the ticket*'—they are at work, and they will elect it by thousands! But if permitted to rear a standard, inscribed with the names of Cass, Butler and Buchanan, under that proud flag we could achieve a victory without a parallel even in the annals of Democratic triumph in Pennsylvania—a victory which, in its results, would prove *decisive of the entire campaign of 1848*, and leave our friends in other States but light skirmishing duty to perform, in dispersing the few who would remain, panic stricken, around the unemblazoned banners under which our political opponents now muster.

"Our annual Democratic county meeting will be held at York on Monday, the seventh of August, at which time, unless you shall forbid it, the Democrats of this county, unanimous upon this subject, will present your name formally to the people of Pennsylvania as a candidate of 'Old Democratic York' for governor.

"Your friends,

"Robert J. Fisher, George S. Morris, Benjamin Zeigler, Joseph Welsh, Jacob Dietz, Samuel Riegler, Adam Worley, John W. Hetrick, William Schall, David Bender, Thomas Jameson, Henry Schriver, William H. Kurtz, Michael Doudel, George A. Barnitz, J. R. Donnell, V. K. Keesey, Thomas P. Potts, David Small, D. F. Williams, Isaac Garretson, J. A. Eichelberger, Daniel Eichelberger, George Albright and Daniel Hartman."

(To be continued)