

BUCHANAN, James, president of the United States for the years 1857 to 1861, was bred a lawyer, and at 25 years of age was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly of Pennsylvania, and kept his seat for eleven years. He then entered upon diplomacy, concluded an important commercial treaty with Russia, and was minister plenipotentiary at the court of St. Petersburg till 1833. Returning to America, he gained a seat in Congress, and was subsequently secretary of state under President Polk. In 1853 he was appointed by President Pierce ambassador to England, and remained there till 1856, when, being recalled, he was chosen by the democratic party as their candidate. In the struggle for the presidency, he represented the singular alliance between democratic progress and the retention of the "peculiar institution" of slavery. He beat his most formidable opponent, Colonel Fremont, by 163 votes to 125. B. at Stoney Batter, Pennsylvania, 1791. During his presidency the secession of the Southern States was begun, which led to a civil war between the two divisions of the states, which Buchanan was accused of facilitating by his weakness at the first beginning of the movement.

133.45 R. 2

Legation of The United States.

London 15 December 1855.

My dear Sir /

I received no New York Herald by the last Steamer; I presume because my last payment to that Journal may have been exhausted. I should, therefore, feel much obliged to you ^{if you} would furnish me your copy for a single hour after it is received. I merely wish to run over its columns to ascertain whether they contain any news of importance at this interesting period.

Yr. friend

very respectfully

James Buchanan

John Miller Esq

Jam Buchanan

1791 - 1888

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