

[1882 Aug 2]



My dear Friend,

How can I tell you how delighted I was at your veto of the Harbor Bill? Ah, if you only realized what a thrill of enthusiasm you awakened every time you show the people plainly that you have the good of the whole country at heart, I think you would never again waver as to what course to pursue. Your decision in this matter has been awaited with such anxiety. The few days I have been in town, morning & evening I have watched so eagerly for news. And when at last it came — when my brother looked up from his newspaper & said cheerfully "It's vetoed" — I had to turn away



my head, to hide the tears that started to my eyes. If anyone had seen them, how they would have been laughed at. For a woman to weep over the veto of some of her own little bills, is quite rational, I suppose, but to get excited about a bill down in Washington, with which she has nothing to do, is inexcusable.

Still I was deeply moved by your action concerning this one, for I realized what a struggle you had passed through - how you had been worried, perplexed, tormented - what an opposition you had to stand up against in coming to your final decision. The arguments on the other side were so plausible - they might have deceived many. I am glad they did not you. If you had signed the bill, no

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proviso that you could have made would have stopped the stealing - you would merely have fixed the responsibility for it on yourself. As the next Congress meets so soon, the country is not likely to suffer for the lack of appropriations; but even if it were, in a case like this, you would do well to let it suffer. It deserves to suffer - & suffering that is deserved, is healthful. It would learn to view public affairs more seriously & at the next election would send a better set of men to Washington. In the mean while it might be grateful for having a President strong-willed enough to check the rapacity of its representative rascals. You gave a well-merited little slap very nicely, when you said that the more objectionable the bill became



the more widely it was supported.

And now that the excitement about it is over, how do you feel? — weary, worn out, irritable, depressed? I hope not — you ought to be enjoying all the satisfaction of a rightful triumph. But saintship never takes into consideration the human nervous system. After action, comes reaction. I am almost certain that you <sup>are</sup> feeling rather gloomy. Please do not feel so — or, if you must, realize that it is merely the result of fatigue, of a few nights sleeplessness, that it is a physical, not a mental malady, something that will pass away after a few days of quiet. Do not let the howling of a few disappointed political ~~highway~~ men drown to your ears the hearty cheer for you which is ringing throughout



the land. Hoping that  
Congress may soon adjourn  
& that you may pass the  
rest of the summer peace-  
fully & happily, I am

Sincerely your friend,

J. S. P.

46 E. 74<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York.  
Aug 2<sup>d</sup> 1852.



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Aug 3<sup>d</sup>. How disgustingly  
Congress has behaved! It is a  
disgrace to the country. But its  
action does not alter the fact  
that you are in the right & have  
the enthusiastic approval of  
the people at large. Do not let  
the insolent opposition of a few  
good-for-nothing Congressmen  
embitter you. Do not for one



moment feel that your effort  
has been in vain. The rascals  
who have pushed their measure  
through in spite of you, may  
fancy that they have gained a  
victory over you, but in truth  
you have triumphed. You have  
rendered the country a real  
service & the country will not  
forget it. Enclosed is a scrap  
cut from a newspaper, usually  
opposed to you - if your opponents  
take such pains to deal fairly  
with you, need you doubt the  
justice of the people? The country  
is proud of its President today,  
& ashamed of its Congress. I  
am so proud of you, I cannot  
put it in words. I hope you  
will calmly & firmly maintain  
the honorable & independent stand  
you have taken, & make your  
true friends proud of you till  
the end of time. As ever,

Sincerely your friend  
[Julia I. Sand] J. I. S.