

Hillsborough Oct 8 1831

My Dear George

Your address reported to a meeting of the friends of free trade was received a week or two since. The doctrine then advanced is the true doctrine for this Country and it must prevail with an intelligent people who are ever watchful of their real interests. Our Farmers & Mechanicks cannot long be deceived by the sophistical arguments of manufacturing capitalists and those enchanting words "The American System" upon the magic of which so much reliance has been placed will soon lose their charms for a community not easily misled by mere verbiage. — The middling interest have already discovered that there is something system-atical in this process of taxing them enormously to swell the coffers of a class, who are even now the very nabobs of this land. but they cannot be made to believe that there is anything "American" about it — Your address is just what it should be. Being plainly & eloquently written, it is precisely such a tract as should be placed in the hands of those who are not yet acquainted with the bearing of a system which has been christened with such a taking name —

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
Maine Historical Society

Date: Oct. 8, 1831

Description: Franklin Pierce letter on political situation.

I esteem myself fortunate in having had an introduction to Judge Ward of whom you have often spoken, on my return from Washington in July. I met him with his Lady, at Dunlaps. He spoke in the highest terms of you and manifested a very lively interest in your success. The real, hearty friendship of such a man must be valuable. Being from his situation out of the ring himself; he can watch coolly political movements and make great weight where he chooses - With his talents, his acquirements & his knowledge (of the funniness) of the world, he would make a capital mentor to a young and ardent aspirant - But to yield the Gentleman for the Lady, I was mightily taken with her. I don't mean smitten. You know that wouldn't be proper, that air of frankness and simplicity of manners associated with great good sense and manifest good nature would claim admiration anywhere - Well why trouble you with this when Miss - has for you a thousand attractions to her one - By the way do you remember the night we were at Dunlaps a year ago; and our strange preparation for the Livery the [?] of paying such attention to our persons, when confirmed, is an accursed bore, and we should abandon it. The election in Maine treading closely upon the Nations canvass seems to leave the opposition nothing but despair - As your House will be sufficiently strong, I suspect you have not found it in your heart deeply to digest[?] the result in Portland, However success perhaps would have been equally well for you[?] these defeats sometimes create a sympathy for

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The objects of them - I have just been  
looking at Mr. Berrien in his "life-Boat" as  
Blair has it - and truly no man need cast in  
a pebble to hasten his downward destiny" Those  
Secretaries behaved most treacherously and they  
have received their reward not in the loss of  
place merely but in the honest indignation and  
universal contempt, which follows them. The world  
now knows where was in fact the "malign influence"  
The plot entered into by Calhoun, Duff [?]  
the three Secretaries &c had been long maturing, was  
deeply laid and a man possessing less energy  
than Genl Jackson might have fallen before it,  
but the plotters need not now struggle to change  
the direction of their Squadron, they are politically  
"rowed up Salt river." I was at Washington  
when the Berrien Correspondence (as it was termed)  
first made its appearance. The excitement was  
pretty general, but the President himself looked  
on without any apparent concern. I called on him  
twice and had a favourable opportunity on both  
occasions for conversation. It is not surprising  
that he is at the head of the Govt. He is indeed  
one of Plutarch's men. I wish very much to see you -  
and have proposed for myself the pleasure of visiting  
Portland while your legislature shall be in session  
This excursion however cannot be counted upon with much  
confidence on account of my professional engagements - If dis-  
appointed, let us meet again at Boston -  
Yrs as ever Frank

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