

From John Bretz to Trusten Polk

[page 1]

Platte River[,] Buchanan Co[.],] Missouri

Aug[.] 16th 1856

Hon[.] Trusten Polk

My Dear Sir[,]

I have just recd[.] what I think reliable information of your election[,] which I think is beyond doubt[.] Thank God for that[.] at one time the friends of Benton were Sure of this election but I always had this to hope that the all Governing Providence had not forsaken the People of Missouri So much as to Let Benton rule over them as Governor[.]

it is true that Benton got more votes in this County then I anticipated but all the free soilers in the county voted for him[.] I know freesoil Whigs that I never knew to vote before voted for Benton at this election[.] he however would have got a few more votes in this county if he had not made a speech here[.] This county is made up of people from free states (princply) which are more or less free-soilers but a few of us worked ha[r]d and successfully for the Democratic cause[.]

I told my friends that I would willingly

[page 2]

be disgracefully beat in my election for the Legislation [MS.illegible] we only got our Governor but thank goodness we were both elected[.] Buchanan county [MS. illegible] her Duty well[.] the entire Democratic ticket was elected by an average of about 300 majority[.] although we had the know Nothing and Benton Parties to contend with the candidate on the Benton ticket [*text stricken through*] for the Legislation got but a small vote.

Should it be so that your election is certain, of which I entertain no Doubt[,] I have a request to make and that is that our friend Maj[.] Cochran Should be retained as warden in the Penetantiary if you should be Satisfied that he will do as well as any one else[.]

Give my respects to my friend James M[.] Hughes and accept for yourself my best wish for your well fare[.]

Respectfully your friend[,]

John Bretz

P[.]S[.] I Recd[.] your letter to me but not untill since the election[.] you directed it to Weston. My address is Platte River[,] Mo[.]