

## Arthur Peronneau Hayne to Andrew Jackson, March 27, 1816, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### COLONEL ARTHUR P. HAYNE TO JACKSON.

Baltimore, March 27, 1816.

*Dear General.* I have this moment stepped out of the Stage from Washington. I would have written you while there, but I was so much indisposed, that I was induced to postpone it, till my arrival at this place. Since the President of the U. S. has communicated a special message to both Houses of Congress, on the subject of the Donation from the Creek Nation,<sup>1</sup> to yourself and other's, it has progressed no further, and being myself at leisure, and also being persuaded that I could promote your interest in this business by being on the Spot, I repaired to Washington. I had an interview with Mr. Madison, (Mr. Monroe was present) I also saw our Sec.y Mr. Crawford, Governor Holmes and my Carolina friends generally etc. These gentlemen seem well disposed towards you. Mr. Brown is the Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Senate, Mr. Robertson, that appointed by the House. These gentlemen both assure me that they are friendly disposed towards the Bill, and that the reason why they have not yet made their Report, is that they fear that a Majority of the Committee are opposed to the Bill. But they have promised me to act promptly and suffer no longer delay to take place. Col. Hawkins and the Interpreters seem to be the great cause of difficulty. Your friends think and with great justice in my mind, that a separation ought to be made between your *Case* and *their's* . As it respects them it might open a

1 For the facts with respect to the donation, see Jackson to the Secretary of War, August 10, 1814, note 2. The tone of Colonel Hayne's letter indicates that in 1816 Jackson was

## Library of Congress

not averse to accepting the land, if Congress passed an enabling act. As to his motives in Aug., 1814, the following testimony, dated Apr. 16, 1816, from Col. Benjamin Hawkins, who aided him in making the treaty, is of much importance:

“I am just apprised by Mr. Barnett that it is currently reported General Jackson thro' me negotiated the donation of the Indians to him. I declare upon honor, and am willing to add to it the solemnity of an oath, that he never directly or indirectly thro' me or any person within my knowledge, attempted any such thing, and I have reasons to believe, and do believe, the first intimation he ever had of their intention on this subject was from me, in the way reported. He rejected the idea as soon as presented, and I heard no more until the morning that the gift was mentioned and made to him as stated in my report. The foregoing I owe to the General, and if it was true, that I had an agency from myself in producing it, I should not disown it, as from my particular situation I know how much he merited from the friendly Indians, as well as from his country for services, all things considered which have never been excelled.”

Door for the Commission of Fraud, as to yourself the reverse is the fact. And *should* the *Committee Report against the Bill, yet by bringging* it before both *Houses of Congress, they may decide other wise* . I know yr high mind and delicate feelings, and in my conduct I have never for a moment lost sight of them. Mr. Lowndes still thinks the business will have a favorable issue; and will not fail to give it his support, so will Mr. Gaillard. But these gentlemen could do nothing before the Committee had made their Report. Time must soon determine the matter, and I cannot but believe that the Decision of Congress will be such, as not to cause us to Blush for them. But this much I am certain of if you do not succeed this session, you never will succeed at any future period. Services Genl, are soon forgotten. But yrs never can, for you must ever be looked upon as only next to Washington.

While in Washington I had the pleasure to meet with my friend Judge Johnson, of the Supreme U. S. Court and of So. Ca.<sup>2</sup> The Judge made the following Proposition to me

## Library of Congress

and which I promised him to communicate to you and to the Major's Father. He says if the materials which have collected are placed in his hands, *He Will Write The Book, and Present it to Mrs. Reid*. That he will devote the whole of the ensuing Summer, to that employment, and will leave nothing undone on his part, to make it worthy of the occasion and the nation. The Copy Right would sell for at least \$3,000, in Philadelphia. And this arrangement you will at once perceive will not cost Mrs. Reid a single cent. The Judge wishes it expressly understood that he does not wish to obtrude his services. I know it would be unpleasant for your private papers to be perused by any one but a friend. I think in the hands of Judge Johnson, they would be safe. Pray let me hear from you on this subject as I wish to write the Judge, as he tells me if he does not engage in this work he wishes to travel the ensuing Summer. . . .3

2 William Johnson, associate justice 1804–1834.

3 When Colonel Hayne learned that the book was to be continued by Major Eaton he wrote to Jackson, Mar. 31, 1816, as follows: "It affords me great pleasure to find that our mutual deceased friend's Book has fallen in such good hands as those of Major Eatons. Of course your main object is to present it to the World in such a shape as will be the means of making it most advantageous in a pecuniary point of view, to the Widow and orphan, children of our Departed friend. Judge Johnson's proposition was predicated on the supposition that *he* was to be the *Author*, and altho' I have a high opinion of Judge Johnson, yet nevertheless I am well convinced that the *Love of Literary Fame*, induced him to make the offer. I strongly suspect the Judge would wish, to mould the Book into a "Living Form" himself."