

John Caldwell Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, July 31, 1823, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY CALHOUN TO JACKSON.

War Department, July 31, 1823.

My dear Sir, Such is my confidence in your judgement and character, that I am always happy to be put in possession of your views on any point connected with the publick interest. Your knowledge of the Indian character enables you to speak with great certainty of the probable effect of any measure on them; and with this impression, the whole of your suggestions in relation to the pending treaty with the Indians in Florida, would have been carried into effect, if there was sufficient time. As the treaty will be held in Sept. it will be impossible to move the troops from Baton Rouge to Tampa Bay, as you suggest. All of the other points will be attended to. I have great confidence in the Comrs, particularly our friend,¹ and I am very solicitous for their success. . . .

1 The commissioners who made the treaty of Sept. 18, 1823, with the Florida Indians were William P. Duval, James Gadsden, and Bernardo Segui.

I have no doubt that your impression of a mutual sympathy between the friends of Mr Clay and Mr Crawford is correct. The latter calculating on it, is using all of his art to persuade the former to withdraw in his favour, by which means if it can be effected, he hopes to obtain great additional strength in a Congressional caucus, to which his hopes are almost exclusively directed. No one can exceed him in management, and if the election can be made to depend on a caucus, he will be formidable. I do not think, that Clay has any strength on this side of the mountains. He cannot take Pennsylvania; and has but a

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very slender prospect in New York. His strength, however, and Mr Crawford's combined would require some effort to defeat. I do hope that we shall never present the example of coalition, intrigue, or management advancing any citizen to the highest honor of the country. The influence of such an example would be pernicious in the extreme. If the people can be cheated, they will not be served. Virtuous servants would be discouraged and the unprincipled only would thrive. In this point of view, I consider the crisis as an all important one. I cannot doubt the result. As far as my experience extends the good sense and virtue of the people may safely be relied on; and I feel a confidence that the result of the present struggle will tend to confirm in a virtuous political course, and repress the opposite.

I will at all times be happy to hear from you.

Sincerely