

## John Caldwell Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, April 30, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### VICE-PRESIDENT CALHOUN TO JACKSON.1

1 See also Calhoun to Monroe, Mar. 7, 1828, in *Correspondence of John C. Calhoun*, (Am. Hist. Assoc., *Ann. Rept.*, 1899, vol. II.), p. 260; *id.* to *id.*, April, 1828, and May 4, 1828, *ibid.*, pp. 262, 264.

Washington, April 30, 1828.

*Dear Sir*, I received a short time since a letter from Mjr. Lee at Nashville, of which I enclose a copy with a copy of my answer. The correspondence requires no explanation, farther than to remark, that the Majr. in his letter to Mr Monroe, to which he refers in his to myself, requests him to inform him what construction the executive gave to the orders, under which your operations in the Semenole campaign were carried on, and that his request to me refers to information on the same subject. With you, I cannot have the slightest objection to correspond on the subject, if addition[al] information be desirable

I learn from Judge White, that you wish me to indicate the conveyance, by which I may desire the return of Mr Monroe's letter to me of the 9th Sept. 1818. I know of no other, which will probably offer, but the mail, and you will be pleased to return it by that conveyance, under cover to my address, and inclosed to the Post Master General, to be forwarded to me in case, I should have left the city before its arrival.

I am at a loss to conjecture how the letter was taken out of my possession. It was doubtless the work of an enemy for the foulest purpose, but whether the motive was to serve those in power by sowing discord among their opponents, or to put you off your

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guard against old enemies by pretending to guard you against friends, whether it was enmity to you [or] to Mr Monroe, or myself, I know not, as I am ignorant of the channel through which it reached you. The mystery ought to be unveiled, and for that purpose Judge White has my permission to make known to you, in what manner, I had the first intimation, that the letter was out of my possession. If it be material to the unravelling of the plot, I doubt not, tho the communication was strictly confidential, but what my informant would assent to the disclosure of his name. He is a gentleman of the highest honor and is among your most steadfast friends. In order to have all possible light on this mysterious subject, I would be gratified to know the channel through which the letter passed to you, if it can be made known by you without impropriety.

With great respect, I am etc.