

## Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, September 19, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, September 19, 1844.

Private.

My dear Mr. Blair, I have just received and read with great attention your kind and interesting letter of the 9th instant. I am greatly debilitated, but finding, that on some points of the Texian question you are badly advised, it is my duty, to render unto cesar the things that is Cesars etc. etc. and having positive knowledge of some of the facts that lead to the treaty of annexation, to state them, that Mr. Tyler may only bear the weight of his own sins. First premising, as you have a right to know, that I have no confidence in Mr. Calhoun politics, nor in Mr. Tylers. That although I regret our mutual friends course, Col. Benton, on the Texian question, still my friendship for him is not abated, and I still hope he may be reelected to the senate, and for this expressed hope to some of the leading men of Missouri, I have fell under the censure of Mr. Penn jnr.

Thus premised, I have to state, that Mr. A. V Brown, Gilmor of Va, and others wrote me, confidential, first about the papers laid before me, 0345 321 by our minister at Madrid Mr. Erwin in 1829. Then Mr. R. A. walker and others wrote me, confidentially to use my influence with President Houston to induce him to agree to a Treaty of reanexation of Texas to the united states, Mr. Walker in his letter assuring, that if Genl. Houston could be brought to consent to the treaty, that thirty six senators would vote for its ratification. Two of these confidential letters, by me, were inclosed to Genl. Houston—he has them now ,

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and on which, believing that the United States would ratify the treaty, or, guarantee their Independence he agreed to the treaty, etc. etc. These are the facts, and it was believed by myself and all Mr. VanBurens and Col. Bentons friends, that both would be heart and hand in favour of reanexation, and if they had, V.B. would have been nominated unanimously and Col. Benton would have stood high in the estimation of the United Democracy. But the moment Mr. V.B. letter came out and Col. Benton took his stand against the Treaty, the die was cast, and VanBuren, if he had been nominated, would have lost his election.

VanBurens noble course which he has taken in the P. election will keep him firm in the affections of the democracy, and he may, at the next election, be called for like cincinnatus of old, but our mutual friend Col. Benton will have a harder road to travel. His speeches, is quoted by the opposition and has done great injury to the democratic cause. Mr. Douglass, formerly of the Postoffice Dept. and who you know, 1 told me yesterday that his speeches has done the democracy great injury in Ky. but he still hopes to defeat clay in Ky. the next election. Col. Benton has but one way to reestablish himself with the Democracy, and that is now , as Santa anna has declared he never will consent to the reannexation of Texas, to throw his proposed law to the winds, draw one based upon the treaty of 1803, shew that Mexico never had a rightful claim to Texas, which he can do no more than if a tyrant arose in the U. States put down our constitution and the confederacy, and that Tennessee resisted, successfully, the despot. What real claim could the consolidated Govt. put up to Tennessee, none. The Col. proposed law cannot be passed, and if it could Texas would consider it an insult, and like the armistic, Houston would dash it into the fire. Write Mr. V.B. that I have none but good feelings for Col. Benton, but that on this great national question, Texas , he has got wofully wrong, but I hope he may be able to shape his course so as to gain his lost standing with the Democracy.

1 George L. Douglass of Kentucky.

Now as to our friend Walkers course I ask, the moment he found that the senate would not approve the Treaty why he did not, or get some friend in the House of Repres[ent]atives,

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bring in a law to reannex Texas. It appears to me that this great and important national question was lost sight of for President making. Now you will see, that President Tyler, was not the originater of this Texan Treaty, Whatever use he expected to make of it, if any, to promote his view to the Presidency—his future course may give some evidence of his former 0346 322 views, but he assured that the jealousy of Col. Benton, of Mr. Calhouns popularity, or Mr. Tylers was illfounded. Mr. Calhouns nulification will stick to him whilst he lives, and you may rest assured that there is none for disunion in the south west. The Federal Union it must be preserved.

I am this day confidentially advised, that Col. Benton has mailed at the St. Louis Postoffice before he left Missouri three letters to Mexican minister Almonte 2 at Newyork, and the question is significan[t]ly asked what means this—a senator of the United States corresponding with the Mexican minister under existing circumstance. That such letters have been mailed, I have no doubt, and the fact is laid up for future use against Benton. when you see the Col. you may give him a confidential hint of this fact that he may be prepared to meet it.

2 Juan N. Almonte, Mexican envoy to the United States 1842–1845.

Our political horison is brightening, we have strong hopes of carrying Tennessee by a good majority, and begin to think that with the aid of Col. T. Marshal, Democracy will prevail in Kentucky. This would be a triumph indeed , and the Democracy of Ky. are sanguine that they will carry the state. It is evident that the Whiggs are alarmed, altho some of them are betting on the general result.

I have written this desultry letter with great labour. I have given you facts without dates to shew you how discreditable it would be to our national character to let Texas be overrun by a large army supported by British gold, and how unfortunate for the safety and great interest of the whole United States that the Treaty with Texas was not ratified. It would have forever closed the door against all foreign influence and injury.

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We all thank you for your kind recollection of us, we reciprocate with great sincerity and friendship those kind good wishes, in which our dear little ones all unite and Samuel says tell Mr. Blair I will soon be able to write him a letter. We all enjoy good health but myself and my taper of life is fast burning out. You and yours have my friendship as your whole family and Household have and my prayers for your success and prosperity, and any suggestion I make proceeds from the pure stream of friendship to prevent you from injury of any kind. I remain sincerely your friend