

## Andrew Jackson to John Hutchings, March 17, 1804, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO JOHN HUTCHINGS.1

1 Jackson's adventures as a merchant began as early as 1795, possibly earlier. But it is known that in 1795 he brought to Tennessee a lot of merchandise which he obtained in Philadelphia by selling lands in Tennessee. He did not give much of his time to his store. For a time Thomas Watson was his partner with the firm name of Jackson, Watson, and Company. Who the "Company" was does not appear, but it may have referred to John Hutchings, son of the Thomas Hutchings who married Mrs. Jackson's sister Catherine. After a while the firm appears as Jackson and Hutchings. In the spring of 1805 John Coffee joined the firm and it became Jackson, Hutchings, and Company. In this year Jackson sold Hunter's Hill and moved to the Hermitage. He moved his store also, placing it at Clover Bottom, the race-course, building a tavern, stables, and outhouses, and otherwise making Clover Bottom a favorite place for the assembling of the people. ( Cf. Jackson's receipt to Coffee, Apr. 6, 1804. Tenn. Hist. Soc., Dyas Coll., Coffee MSS. See also Jackson to Thomas Watson, Jan. 25, 1804, above.)

Knoxville, March 17, 1804

*Dear Jack* . On yesterday I reached this place from Jonesborough and found your letter of the 13th. Instant in the post office inclosing the price current at new orleans of all kind of groceries, from which I am certain that we will find a great advantage and saving in laying in all our Groceries, nails, and steel at that place, and perhaps Nankeens. I wish you to make the arangement with Mr Davidson, and I think the boat can reach Nashville from Neworleans against the first of July. this plan will enable us always to convert our cash

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to beneficial purposes in Cumberland, and in case the Boat can reach Nashville against the 10th. or 20th of July it will be as early as our goods can reach there from Philadelphia. I therefore think that the better plan to adopt, is to bring our groceries, nails and steele from Neworleans. From the prices of Deer and Bear skins I think it will be well to sell at Neworleans, the small furs in Nashville. Bear skins sells well in Baltimore, but as our object is to get clear of Debt I think it best not to risque much, and to sell at any market where we can sell to save ourselves.

I am sorry Mr Fisher did not buy the Bear skins, but it may happen that we will receive a better price for them at Neworleans. The iron is delivered at the north fork of Holston, I saw Colo. Preston, and also Mr Baker who I had the contract with to carry it to Nashville. he as soon as the iron was delivered declined taking Mr Kings load, in short such was the situation of things I was obliged to agree to receive it, and from Mr Deaderick telling me he would not receive the half I have changed the contract in part, I have agreed to receive five ton of castings in lieu of that much iron, the castings at forty pounds pr ton, this in case the castings reaches the north fork before the water rises. Holston is now rising and I expect the Boat to descend the river in a few days—this expence will have to be met some how. I hope Mr Sewal has returned and has brought some cash and that Capt Campbell has remitted the cash on hand, and that the Debt of Thos Mitchel has been recovered, from this source I hope the amount of the freitage of the iron can be raised which will be \$375. if it cannot write me immediately and I will remit what I can to that use, it must be had, and be there at the arival of the Boat. I have stated to Mr Deaderick that he may still have half, and requested him to say to you whether he will receive it or not, if he does only half the above sum will be [have] to be paid by us. write me on the receipt of this letter and inform me whether the sum can be raised or not there and I will in case it cannot send on my certificates for two hundred dollars, and the Ballance in cash. we can make money out of the iron and castings. we must sell for cash if Possible. you will place the money in the hand of Tatam if you can raise it, to whom I have directed Baker to apply. you will have to give Greer a particular charge about the iron to have it all weighed,

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and get Major Tatam to notify him on its arival. I shall expect you to send me a statement of the amount of cotton shipped to Neworleans by us—as soon as sold send on the Bills to me in Philadelphia, directed to the care of Meeker Denman and Co. I stated to you in case Mr Coffee went on to enclose them to me at Nashville but from your letter I expect he will not, it would be gratefull to me if he could with advantage to all as it is a long and tedious Journey, but I will encounter it. I am sorry I wrote Mr Coffee to come to this place unless he comes on prepared to go on to Philadelphia The Severeites is all quiet, and the old rascal has to father the Blackguard peace himself, altho he wishes to lay it on his son in law *Windel* who can scarcely read english. They are too base a set to speak about. My Dear Jack it is the last letter I will (I expect) write you before you set out. let me Just repeat, write me about the cash to pay the freightage of the iron, whether it can be raised or not, whether D[eadrick] and Tatam takes one half. send me the amount of our cotton, and a memorandum of goods to be Bot. and lastly, send on the Bills as soon as Possible to me at Philadelphia directed as before, and if Possible purchase they Groceries at Neworleans. You must state to me your determination on this subject and May heaven Preserve you farewell.

P S Say to Mr Coffee if he is not started that he need not come on unless he intends [to go] on to Philadelphia. Would it not be well to sell as much of the iron at cost, say seven pence pr lb. as would pay the carriage, even at six pence. if Mr Deaderick does not receive half, I think some of the merchants would buy at this price. the ballance we would then have to raise the original cost out of. if cash can not be commanded in hand for it it will sell at one shilling for cotton by retail and we will have to this time twelve months to make the cash out of the produce we receive. if we can have a general assortment of groceries iron salt and so forth we must make money the ensuing season. resolution and industry with oeconomy will remove mountains. will it not be well to get the Boat to deliver the iron at my landing instruct Greer accordingly. I wish a house prepared to receive the goods either

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the long room of the new building [?] or a house at the lick as you and Mrs Jackson may conclude.