

Andrew Jackson to Thomas Masten, July 17, 1804, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO THOMAS MASTEN.

Hunters Hill July 17 1804

Sir, I am Just informed by Capt Donelson that you have convayed to Colo. Douglass the tract of land he together with myself and Thos. Hutchings was bound to convay to Capt Gallaspie, and this too after the order from Thomas Hutchings purchaser of that land with other tracts at the sale for the direct Tax had been presented to you by Capt Donelson directing you to convay to him, and whilst you had that order in Possession and had it filed with other papers in the hands of Genl Daniel Smith. such a transaction is truly novel and well calculated for the investigation of a court of equity, where such convayences and the fraud attending them will be truly investigated, and if the facts are such as above stated rest assured that the court of Chancery will set them aside at your costs

Law is disagreeable an[d] investigation in a court of chancery expensive and this letter is intended as an admonition, and a friendly one to you. you can Judge for yourself, what course you ought to steer. the papers are deposited in my hands to file a Bill in chancery as soon as I am clear of my office as Judge. as I am a lover of peace where it can be obtained on Just grounds, and the respect I have always had for you induces me to write you, in hopes right will be done—without the coercion of a court of chancery—for rest assured ultimately, that Capt Donelson will prevail and the burthen will fall upon you and those concerned in what I call a fraudulent convayence, as it was made with full and complete knowledge and notice of his right. I hope you will write me by the bearer your intention, as it is my duty to proceed and the suit instituted by Capt Gallaspie urges Capt

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Donelson into the thing, and after the suit is commenced an accomodation will be attended with expence consult your friend Genl Smith, in him I am certain you can confide you will find I am your friend in writing this letter, as you are the person in the first instance on whom costs will fall. I will expect an answer by the bearer. I am sir with Esteem your mo. ob. serv.