

Andrew Jackson to Willis Alston, May 18, 1826, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO WILLIS ALSTON.1

1 Copy. Willis Alston, of North Carolina, was a member of the House of Representatives 1799–1803. He belonged to the group of Randolph and Macon Republicans with which Jackson associated.

Hermitage, May 18, 1826.

D'r Sir, I am honored by the receipt of your letter of the 25th ult. It is a source of pleasing reflection to me, in my retirement to find that I am recollected by my republican friends in Congress; and that I enjoy the confidence of many of those whom I have not a personal acquaintance.

I have seen by the public Journals that the discussion upon some of the measures recommended by the President has produced much warmth and irritation in congress: particularly that of the mission to Panama, in the development of which the President seems to me to have manifested a desire of changing the established policy of the Government, as well as the common sense construction of the constitution. Upon this measure, however, as on all others, I think with you, that all the patriot can do, is upon the general principle of opposing with manly firmness where injury is to result to the country, and of approbating with a corresponding liberality where the public good is to be advanced. It is unaccountable that Mr Adams should court opposition by assuming constitutional powers, and adopting a political course so much like that which prostrated his father.

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accept my thanks for your communication, and believe me very respectfully your mo. obdt.
servt.