

## Andrew Jackson to Duff Green, August 13, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO DUFF GREEN.

Hermitage, August 13, 1827.

*D'r Sir*, I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 8th and 18th ult, the letter in answer of mine of the 29th June last.

The manner you have treated the Beverly business is proper, and one which I approve; Mr Clay must throw himself on some tribunal cloathed with power to investigate this matter and to coerce the attendance of witness and examine upon oath, or sink in the estimation of all the honest and virtuous portion of society. The course of my friends, ought now to be as heretofore on the defensive; should the administration continue their systematic course of slander, it will be well now and then to throw a fire brand into their camp by the statement of a few facts, but female charecter never should be introduced or touched by my friends, unless a continuation of attack should continue to be made against Mrs. J. and then only, by way of *Just retaliation* upon the *known guilty*. My great wish is, that it may be altogether *avoided*, if *possible*, by my friends. I *never war against females* and it is only the base and cowardly that do—your course, has hitherto been, approved by my friends, and must continue to be approved, so long as you adopt truth and principle for your guide, never departing from either.

Before this reaches you, you will have seen my reply to mr Clays appeal to the people. His speeches to dinner parties before my reply was recd, give evidence of his intention to forestall public opinion, by making up an Issue for himself that my statement did not

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warrent, and displays his inward dread of the disclosure to the public of the individual who made to me the communication. They are also proof to me that he knew as well as I did the gentleman who had made the communication to me. I had no fear but Mr Buchanan would come out when properly called on, and his letter to you is a clear pledge that he will—he cannot do otherwise, having first made the communication to Eaton, then to Kremer, they refusing to communicate, then coming to me—in short Mr. B. knows that Mr McDuffies resolution was based upon this information and the declarations of Frank Johnston, in the presence of Col Sandford, made to Kremer.

? will Clay make the call upon Buchanan. If he does will not Mr B. reply, place yourself before a tribunal competent to investigate, and to send for persons and papers, and interrogate upon oath, before which I will detail all I know, and have communicated to Genl Jackson, with the source from whence I derived my knowledge and induced me to make the communication to Genl Jackson? or, what will be his course.

If Mr Clay places himself before a proper tribunal to investigate; there must be circumstantial, presumptive, and positive proof, sufficient to authorise a Jury to convict on a charge of murder. Trimble's speech, Frank Johnston's declarations, Moors, Calls and others information; and lastly, Clays being appointed Sec of State must be viewed as the positive proof of the bargain, and this act, as its full and complete performance. I have recd several letters disclosing channels thro which testimony can be had, one, if true, that fixes upon clay proof that will convince worlds of his corruption. I have Col Sandford's statement. I never have heard that Major Eaton was hurt at any conduct of yours.

I have said to major Lee that he can have copies of any correspondence of mine with the government, not confidential. If, as you intimate, Mr Munroe does come out, then these documents may be given to the public. I act on the defensive, The copy of the letter of Mr M to the sec of war on the subject of his view of the orders to me, and to which you allude, which was forwarded by Genl Houston, is not, as to me, confidential, major Lee

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having given me the original, and taken the copy. he can do with as he pleases. When you have leisure I will be glad to hear from you.

with my best wishes aieu

P. S. I have recd. several letters from my friends in N. Y. approving of my reply to Mr Clay.