

**Andrew Jackson to John Randolph, December 3, 1830,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO JOHN RANDOLPH.1**

1 Copy. Handwriting of A. J. Donelson.

Washington, December 3, 1830.

Confidential

*My Dear Sir,* My views in regard to the more immediate subject of your letters are so fully detailed in the official communication from the Department of State, which accompanies this, as to leave me but little to say in a private letter. My principle object, therefore, in writing is to assure you of my sympathy in your personal sufferings from bad health, and my continued confidence in your disposition and capacity to serve your country. I beg you to speak your feelings and wishes in regard to the future without reserve, and to count with confidence in the steadiness of my friendship for you. Thoroughly convinced that the interests committed to us by the people, will never be intentionally prejudiced in your hands, you shall not as far as I can avoid it, suffer by the implacable malice of your enemies; And allow me as an act of justice to add that in this sentiment and desire, no one more sincerely participates than our mutual friend Mr. Van Buren. From the first inception of your mission to the present moment he has evinced a solicitude for your success and personal credit which could not have been exceeded by your nearest relations.

It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the reasons for the preference. I have directed to be expressed in the letter addressed to you from the State Depmt. that you should return to St Petersburg in the Spring, if your health will admit of it, and you should have reason

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to believe that you will be able to accomplish the whole or apart of what is desired. The motives for that desire will be obvious to you: If however either circumstance should be wanting and you should prefer to return to the U States, in the Spring, let me know your wishes freely, and as early as practicable, and I will see that the necessary directions are sent to you without delay. Altho, I should in common with your friends regret the necessity which compels you to come home, I will nevertheless cherish the hope, that the Country will not in that event, if your life is spared, be wholly deprived of the benefit of your talents and experience. You will probably, by the same conveyance which brings you this, receive my message to Congress. That every part of it will meet your approbation, is perhaps not to be expected. The condition of the Confederacy will scarcely admit of one which will be entirely acceptable to every part of the union. If you find in it, more to approve than to question, it is perhaps, as much as I have a right to expect.

We are on the eve of a short but I fear a stormy and intemperate session. It is too plain to be disguised that the opposition are determined not to be pleased with any thing that advances the public interest, and mean to throw every obstacle in our way which their malice can invent, and their ingenuity suggest. I have however no apprehensions for the general result. The people are honest and firm, and if we do not receive their ultimate approbation, it will be because we do not deserve it.

Write me occasionally, and believe me to be

your sincere friend