

## **Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson, Jr., November 15, 1834, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO ANDREW JACKSON, JR.**

Washington, November 15, 1834.

. . . . Our cotton crop is short, but I am pleased to hear that it is of a good quality and well handled and if got to market early will, I hope, bring a good price. I wish to know the precise amount as soon as it is baled, which must be soon now as the crop is all picked out that is for market—have all the bales weighed and marked and send me their numbers and weights, with the accounts for bale rope and Linnen, and the accounts for all supplies for the family and farm which must be paid out of the cotton first—the farm and family accounts must be paid first, the ballance to be applied to the debt due Mr. Hill for the land. So soon as I get the amount of the cotton and the amount of the store debts I can make a fair and probable calculation of the ballance that will remain of the debt due to Mr. Hill which I will, after I receive the accounts (let it be every one) and amount of cotton, authorise you to sell a bill to him on me for the ballance, to be paid in the Girard Bank of Philadelphia or any of the deposit Banks of Newyork or Baltimore. This bill will be worth to him one and half pr cent, if not two. When you receive this, you had better see Mr. Hill and know of him whether such a draft on me to be paid here, or in any of the deposit Banks in Baltimore, Philadelphia or Newyork, and to be accepted by me to be paid as above would not be to him desirable, for the ballance that our crop of cotton will not meet of the debt due him, and what percent such bill would be worth, and whether as his debt becomes due the first of January, whether he would not take a bill payable on the first of march, as above, for the ballance of the debt without any percent or premium to be asked for the bill by you—the two months would be about equal to the premium. make this inquiry of him

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and if he will agree to take it we can have the account of sales of our cotton in due time to know the amount of sales and the precise ballance after paying the accounts. I am anxious if I can to pay this debt. See Mr. Hill and write me so that I may receive your letter, and you can have my answer before the first of January next.

I expected our clover was all killed, the drought was very severe, and thus anticipating I have sent you the seeds, and I pray you to have them well preserved, and sown in good ground well prepared, and bind your overseer *well* to have it done and also to have the garden well attended and plenty of both sweet and Irish potatoes planted, and raised on the farm sufficient for its use throout the winter.

The worthlessness of our overseers for the last three years has been strongly evinced in the total want of vegetables of the above description, and inattention to the garden. I never had a good one that did not attend to both, and that with delight. I hope Mr. Hobbs is both an industrious man and honest, if he is, then he will attend to all things well using proper industry and oeconomy, and the enumeration of his various duties can do no harm. we have been sadly injured the three last years, and we must beware of the fourth or we will be obliged to give up the farm or the expence will ruin us, unless we make better crops than we have, I may say, for the 4 last years. I knew the moment I saw the cultivation of the farm the Mr Williams was of no account, that you would have been better without him, that he was only a screen to the negroes, knew nothing about cultivation, and was beholden to the negroes for instruction what to do. I am happy you will soon be clear of him, and I trust in a kind providence that Mr. Hobbs will realise your best hopes. Let him fully understand what he is to do, viz to attend not only to the farm but to the spinning and weaving, to the feeding of the hands, to weighing out the meet and to having them cloathed in due season and the cloathing well made by our own seamstresses, to attend to all the stock and particularly to see that our blooded stock is taken good care of when you are absent. These things should be all enumerated in your agreement, or he may say hereafter that nothing but what was enumerated was he bound to take the

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superintendence off. The old adage, "deal with all men as tho they were rogues," if honest, you are safe, but if not then your written agreement speaks for itself.

In my last I give you a memorandum How you might inclose the woodland adjoining the clear land on Huntershill tract as well as that adjoining the Hermitage. I learn from Thomas that Saml. has purchased in the west and him and John will soon remove to their purchase. This makes the plan now necessary, as I suppose that Saml has either sold, or will soon. this I expected, and how injurious would it have been to you if he had got Thomases lott from you. The Doctor moving will give you the use of the clear ground on Thomases Lott, and will afford plenty of ground for an abundant crop, of cotton, corn, oats and millet. in sowing your oats, and planting your corn you ought to have an eye to your Hogs, by Having both oats and corn that you may give them, the first to keep them in the summer, and the corn to fatten them in the fall, for I have no doubt you now think with me, that the greatest oeconomy is to fatten your Hogs by giving them a corn field. I am happy to have your promise that you will write me once a week, for I assure you it has given me great pain heretofore your negligence in not writing me, and you must be sensible how much pleasure it gives me situated as I am here to hear from my family and how they all are, of the farm and the stock, and particularly my mares and colts. I am now satisfied that you will weekly gratify me in these particulars. I would like to hear your description of the purchase from Mr. McLamore and how the yearling stud by crusader appears to be coming out, and how you have weaned the sucklings and their appearance as well as my two year olds, and particularly the hipshot stud colt. . . . .