

Ellen M. Hanson to Andrew Jackson, March 12, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

ELLEN M. HANSON TO JACKSON.

Rose Hill, Ky. , March 12, 1835.

Most highly esteemed Sir, May I hope to be pardoned in thus presumeing to address one whoes high standing seems to forbid a female's encroaching upon your political affairs which I suppose occupies the most of your time, but relying upon the generosity and urbanity for which you are so much renowned, I dare presume. I do not wish to tire you with my dull proseing therefore I will be as laconick as possible, and in a few words inform you of my motive in writing.

The peace of my Grandmother, (You begin to wonder what you have to do with my grandmother) seems much alloyed from the circumstance of the late arrival of catholicks to our peaceful and happy land. I would not suffer so much uneasiness from the mere emigration of Catholicks did she not suppose *you* at "heart a Roman". Strange unfounded suspicion. She thinks you, (much wronged noble general) will sanction the establishment of an *Inquisition* , in the United States, that you will go hand and hand with the blood thirsty priest, that you [will be] wiling to imbrue your native land with the blood of your country men. such feelings as these are I believe foreign from your nature, but stop flattery, I loathe particularly to one who knows their merit. The bare mention of our illustrious president, causes her heart to sink, her cheek to grow pale in anticipation of the miseries *you* will entail upon us. would you not deign to answer this scroll if by so doing you would remove or tend [to] meleroate these imaginary miseries these poignant fears. I fear soon that the spire of a Catholick church or the appearance of a priest will fill her with as much terror as

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the croaking of a Ravin, or the hooting of an Owl of the “Ivy clad tower” did even our *stout* hearted ancestors. . . .