

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, July 14, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, July 14, 1836.

. . . . There is not a word of news in this dull city nor any thing else to justify me in troubling you with a letter, and I write merely to say that all goes on smoothly, and that we are all well.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jackson left Washington for the Hermitage on July 10, 1836.

Earle feels very proud of the honor of sitting in your chair and opening your letters and sending them to the Departments. He says he will let them know they shall take responsibility of doing their own business. Jimmy O'neale told me the other day that he thought Colo Earle would make a very *stiddy* president. I could not return the compliment to the Door Keeper, though he has behaved very well so far.

Earle has resolved to make some reform he says to save Mr. V.B. trouble. He wrote to Smith, who was at Piney Point, with the Gales' Seatons' etc. etc. of the city, eating fish and crabs, that he would appoint him Keeper of the Light boat at the Wolftrap on the bay, where he might enjoy leisure and indulge his propensities. He told him he had appointed *Ned Weir* Register, in his place. Smith returned in the next Boat and pretended he had not got Earles Letter. Earle told Lewis, that he might let Eaton know, if he was not off in the next Packet he would send his brother in law, parson Evans in his stead to Spain. This Earle thinks Lewis did not relish, as he thought himself entitled to the appointment. He has a thought of giving the Post Office at Abingdon to Campbell, so that he may remain

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and enjoy his native air, which he thinks will agree better than our dusty, thirsty avenue. By way of special favor, he will order, that no mail shall arrive at Abingdon, except within an hour after Breakfast. He got a letter the other day from a mad fellow in the Philada. Penitentiary, enclosing a specification for a patent for the perpetual motion. This he gravely referred to Ellsworth. He is thus playing the part of Sancho panza, with those whom he ventures to joke with, making some pretty good hits, as the renowned Squire, did in the Government of his Island. . . . .