

Samuel Montgomery to Andrew Jackson, January 6, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SAMUEL L. GOUVERNEUR TO JACKSON.¹

¹ Gouverneur was Monroe's son-in-law. The letter he enclosed to Jackson is given with that of Jackson to John Rhea June 2, 1831 (VOL IV., p. 288n.). Jackson wrote the following indorsement on Gouverneur's letter:

“Mr. Governeer of NYork inclosing the copy of a letter from mr. John Rhea of Tennessee to Mr. munroe, on the subject of my confidential letter to him on the subject of Florida. I thank Mr. Governeer for this copy. A. J.”

New York, January 6, 1837.

Sir, The original letter of which the enclosed is a copy is in my possession. The motives which induced that disposition of it, may be explained hereafter. If I have already too long delayed, to make known to you the existence of this letter, or presume in doing so at all; the motives by which I have been influenced heretofore, as well as those which operate now, if duly appreciated, will secure me from censure. Should it be otherwise, a conviction of their purity, will be a perfect consolation. In what views, or under what influence, the enclosed may have originated, could never be imagined. It bears on its face so much of singularity both of matter and manner, that it may perhaps with best effect be left to speak for itself.

Independently of a mass of evidence in my possession Mr. Monroe has fortunately had the opportunity, immediately before his death, and in the most solemn manner of recording his views of this matter.² It is for the purpose of affording you a similar Occasion, should you

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think proper to improve it; to vindicate the claims of justice and truth in behalf of the living and the dead, that the copy herewith, is now placed in your hands.

I respectfully solicit the favor to be assured of the receipt of this letter.

2 Monroe's ante-mortem statement is in his Writings, VII. 234–236.

With great respect