

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, August 28, 1839, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

White Sulphur Springs, Va. , August 28, 1839.

. . . . The glorious result in Tennessee has been a sad damper to the Whigs. Those who had gathered at the Springs to make a parade on Clays arrival, have dispersed, and now we hear, that the travelling Electioneer will take the short route home, avoiding those places of public resort, where he would be troubled with explanations of the disasters of his party in the West. He was called "the Great Western" on his progress in New York, but he finds himself razeed on his return.

I send you enclosed an extract of a letter of Thomas Ellis, who is Secretary of Legation at Mexico; to his family who are now here. It gives some account of the President, 1 you sent back to his dignities, from the prison which would have been his grave but for your interference. I am glad to find he has some sense of gratitude, and I am in hopes he will profit by the lecture you gave him the night he visited you in your bedroom. If he should always remain under the impressions of the sound maxims you enforced upon him, while smoking your pipe and dressed in your old Calico wrapper, he will remember that true greatness does not consist in royal pageantry nor in any of the feelings which look to it for gratification; but in the honest heart and exalted mind that soar above it. No man ever gave another a better lesson of patriotism and public virtue than Santa Anna received from you, not only in words, but in the example he saw before him of simplicity probity and power.

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1 Santa Anna. He was captured by the Texans after the battle of San Jacinto, Apr. 21, 1836. In the following winter General Houston sent him to the United States, where he was released. Santa Anna's interview with Jackson, just before he left the United States, was a picturesque event and attracted much attention. It seems to have impressed Santa Anna, for after that he displayed a high respect for Jackson and Jackson's good-will.