

## Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, February 15, 1840, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, February 15, 1840.

My dear sir, I reached home from the lower country on the 2nd instant, where I received your kind letters of the 15th and 23rd of December last. These I have postponed answering until I could congratulate you on your election as public printer to the House of Representatives. This grateful intelligence I recd. yesterday thro a letter from the President, and from the Globe of the 30th and 31st ultimo, and now hasten to congratulate you and my country on this result—it gives evidence that Whiggery and Federalism is on the wane, and that the subtreasury bill will pass the House of Representatives the present Session of Congress. The passage of this bill, and the Bank of the U. States of Pennsylvania being put down by its charter being repealed by the legislature of 0074 50 Pennsylvania will at once give more relief to the present Pressure upon the labour of the country than any thing that can be done—our solvant banks being relieved from that monsters power, will be enabled to give relief to the community by a wholesome circulation of speecie, and notes payable in speecie, on demand, when relieved from the constant drain of their speecie by the frauds and machinations of the directors of this Bank, and will put down all insolvant Banks and relieve the people from the present curse of a depreciated paper which we now labour under; and which I trust we will never again be visitted with—the eyes of the people are now wide awake to this evil, and will sustain the Government in putting down this paper credit system and all bills under twenty, and I hope ere long, all bank notes under one hundred dollars.

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You will see from the public Journals an account of the proceedings of our Democratic State convention that convened at Nashville on the 11th, but as Major A. J. Donelson was a member, and was with me below, and will be in Washington about the time this reaches you I must refer you to him for all political news. There is one thing I must confidentially name to you. That is, that in Tennessee the Whiggs are making a dying struggle, but with Polk as candidate for the vice President, we will carry the state with a triumphant Majority. but notwithstanding you know my kind feelings for Col. Johnston 1 as a soldier and a patriot, still the people of Tennessee, Alabama, or Mississippi will not sustain him. In Tennessee, and why I know not, they will not sustain him as vice President, and running him as such will jeopardise the state, if not give it to the opposition. I write this that you may know it, and I wish you to consult Judge Catron 2 who knows as much of the sentiments of the people in Tennessee as any other man, as well as all our republican delegation. With Polk the battle will be won and Whiggery forever put down in Tennessee. But if the Whiggs, with White and Foster at the head of their electoral Tickett can gain the state, of which, if Col. Johnston is run, there is great danger, what a dreadful result it would be for Tennessee and the whole democratic party. If Polk is run for the vice Presidency, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana will be carried by triumphant majorities. I like Col. Johnston but I like my country more, and I allway go for my Country first, and then for my friend, where I believe in doing so I am advancing the best interest of my Country as well as serving my friend. These things I hope will be the leading principles upon with the democratic convention at Baltimore the 5th of May next may act upon and adopt.

1 Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky, vice-president 1837–1841.

2 John Catron, associate justice of the Supreme Court from 1837 to 1865.

There must be union, and the Baltimore convention must produce that union by selecting one candidate for the vice Presidency upon whom all democrats must unite. This is the only mode to insure the certain election of Mr. Van Buren. I have heard that it has been suggested at Washington to run several for the vice Presidency. This would be

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gratifying to the opposition, and the only way that could be devised 0075 51 to distract the democracy, divide them and Jeopardise the Election of VanBuren and loose the vice president. We must be united in all things or our cause goes down. We must cast away our preference for men and unite our strength upon our strongest man for the vice President or we will be defeated and if now defeated our republican Government will cease to exist and a strong consolidated aristocracy will be reared upon its ruins. It is well known that Virginia will not sustain Col. Johnston, and I doubt whether any of the Southern States will, and it appears to me, that the man that can unite them ought to be selected where it is known that his principles is sound. Col. Polk I know if selected will not offer a second time. his ambition I know will be to get back to congress so soon as his triumph in stedfastly regaining Tennessee to her republican fold again is compleat. his is an active mind, and the vice Presidency cannot have any charms for him. I am greatly solicitous that Tennessee should again be restored permanently to the democratic fold—success in the approaching battle will insure that result.

I found below the finest feeling of the people. The Whiggs in N. Orleans with Balie Payton 3 at their head could not smother this kind feeling and generous glow of gratitude. I am truly pleased that I visited the country—it was an effort in my debilitated state, but I believe I would have been benefitted by the trip if I had not, on my return passage taken cold which has restored my cough which is very distressing every morning and keeps me from sleep in the night. We on our return passage struggled against and through the ice for ten days and nights. I hope on the return of warm weather that my health may improve.

3 Balie Peyton, Whig M. C. from Tennessee 1833–1837, U. S. district attorney in Louisiana 1841–1845. See vol. V., p. 459.

I am sorry to see that our party has no head or union of action in the House of Representatives. Your Speaker is either too young and inexperienced for the place, or a temporiser, and you know my opinion, of temporisers—had there been a head and concert and Union amongst the republican party, with such a majority as elected you, how could

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it have happened that two months of the public time could have been spent in organising the House. It has truly sickened me to see the disgraceful proceedings of Congress by the opposition and the want of unity in the republican party to check and put such disgraceful proceedings to our country down—I say so disgracefull to our national character.

I have much to say to you if we should live to meet at the Hermitage. With my best wishes for the prosperity and happiness of you, and your family, in which Andrew and Sarah cordially unite, I remain yr friend