

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, April 11, 1841, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, April 11, 1841.

My Dear General: Your letter of the 31 ult: is just received. You advise precisely what I have resolved on. I shall make a demand of the printing in due form, and if I find a mandamus will lie I shall take the question before the Supreme Court. Not with a view to a pecuniary result, but to keep the wrong before the eye of the victim and to expose the baseness of the Federal leader 1 and his knavish and servile followers. You say truly of the swaggering, it is mere impudence and bullying. He and his friends tried very hard to get Colo. King, to open the way for his apology by saying he did not mean to insult him. It was refused: They next besought them to permit Clay to say that he had heard so and had been " confirmed in it. " This was repulsed. At last Preston and he were compelled to get up the expedition between themselves; for King would not allow one of his friends to move in it and would take nothing but an unconditional retraction [?] in the face of the Senate, which was adjourned over for three days at the request of Harrison; who had nothing really to occupy it that could not have been disposed of the next hour after he made his request. Harrison sent to Buchanan to second the motion to disguise the fact that it was for Clays purposes that adjourning over was asked. It really was done to give Clay time to eat and digest his words. For he was apprized that the work of purging himself could be done no where but in the face of the Senate.

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1 I. e. , Henry Clay. For the quarrel in the Senate between him and William R. King of Alabama, and the mode of its adjustment, see the Congressional Globe , 26 Cong., 2 sess., pp. 248, 256, 257. On their reconciliation see also Nilēs&apos; Register , LX. 47.

From yesterdays Globe you will perceive that Tyler is to become the tool of this poor braggart and disgraced politician. His Inaugural is full of the deceit which makes up his character. He veils his intention about the Bank but thinly. I now have no doubt that he was fully pledged at Harrisburg when he took the nomination with Harrison, to every Federal 0128 104 measure. 2 Harrison was such a wreck at the time, that those who nominated him, knew they could not calculate on his life for one year. Tyler was taken, then, with all his ultra states rights and Democratic professions to deceive the South into the support of the Ticket. His pledges were secret, but his unretracted opposition to every federal measure at all times, was left before the nation to work their way in the election. So that the nation has been bitterly cheated into the choice of a Bank tool for Presdt. Harrison himself played pretty much the same game declaring the Bank unconstitutional and yet designing to sign a charter under the pretext that the people demanded it!

I am satisfied that Tyler means to go the whole with the feds. but for the present I take him on his own ground of mystery. I think the suspense will rouse the people to the depravity of his final apostacy, more thoroughly than if the conclusion was jumped at by our party on his ambiguous givings out. Many would say that he was anxious to force him into the position of enmity to the Republican party for the benefit of industrial aspirants on our side and it would be the best cover for his going over to Federalism. I shall, therefore, track him on his own ground till (as the fox hunters say) he breaks cover, then the whole press will open on them. The monstrous corruption disclosed in the old Banks business, will make a proper mire to drag him through.

2 Tyler&apos;s later conduct shows how little basis existed for Blair&apos;s surmise.

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It was at one time settled with us that we were to meet Betsy at the Hermitage the last of May; but the call of the Extra Session defeats the arrangements. I still hope it will adjourn early enough to enable me [to] go and see my friends and relatives in the West, and among the first—the very first yourself. I continually cast my eyes to this pilgrimage as one of the most grateful journeyings of my life. I was never at the Hermitage and I shall be doubly happy in paying my devoirs there to be met by the man himself who will make it a shrine for Republicans through all future ages. present me and Eliza affectionately to Andrew, his wife and their dear little ones; and believe my dear General, that all that is mine although scattered on different continents and seas, unite in looking to you as the author of their prosperity

Yo. mo. af. friend

P.S. I wrote you a few days ago a long letter: this is, therefore, a trouble you have drawn on yourself by striking me in my strong suite —my hostility to Clay.