

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, May 16, 1841, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, May 16, 1841.

. . . . You ask me about Tylers course. He keeps dark or rather throws out ambiguous voices; like a ventriloquist so that no body can tell where he is. To some he pretends that he is as much anti-Bank as ever; but there are signs which I think very conclusively shew that his cabinet of bank bought mercenaries will do just what they please in relation to public affairs. Think of the appointment of Bela Badger and his crew of criminals! of the appointment of old Pains and Kelly <sup>1</sup> to train a parcel of Informers, to lie away the character of honest men and an honest administration!! Does any body believe that such a systematic hypocrisy as Tyler puts on about not turning out for Opinions sake while he turns out every honest Democrat and gives the place to some notorious scoundrel means anything but the adoption for the future, of the villainous policy which prevailed in the last presidential Election? In my opinion a Bank will be chartered as the grand organ of corruption and that the pipe laying business will be relied on for success in the next contest. Hence the advance of the whole corps to offices, which puts the Revenue at their disposal. They are now under their respective Leaders in Philad, New York, Ohio, (and will be every where) a train band to

1 "Pains" probably means George Poindexter, whom Tyler appointed to investigate frauds in the New York custom-house. The only Kelly to whom any reference can be found is Israel W. Kelly, appointed by Tyler to be marshal for New Hampshire.

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class=MsoNormal>0138 114 perpetrate frauds on the elections and propagate their association to the utmost extent by the foulest corruption and the greatest abuse of the public patronage. But they are such unscrupulous scoundrels from the Cabinet down, that I have no doubt, they will become the abhorrence of the whole county in less than four years. Would to god you were [not?] past fifty years old for their sake and the public happiness, mortality and freedom.