

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, January 9, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, January 9, 1844.

My Dear General, You will have seen from the Globe, that the Bill of reversal , passed yesterday. None but the very malignants among the coons dared to vote against it. It will certainly pass in the Senate. The Clay men are afraid to take the millstone of a vote against it, into the deep waters of the next canvass. They know that it would sink them. I never saw a happier set of men than the passage of this Bill in the House by such a vote, made of the Democrats, who assembled at the celebration supper to greet each other on the moral victory achieved by them on the day of your great anniversary. Your letter was read and followed by shouts from the heart which showed with what joy the assurance, that you lived to see the triumph of the 8[th] in congress was received. Wright, Benton, Allen, King, Dawson, Wilkins, Walker, Cave Johnson and others made speeches. The President sent a very good letter which was much applauded. But you will have a skeleton of our affair in a day or two. I wish it could all have been literally reported.

Now Dear General, the next thing I wish to see is a glorious trophy raised to your fame in the rotunda of the Capitol, to last as long as the 0279 255 Republic. What is better calculated to deter the Invader and save the Capitol itself from future conflagration than an impressive record of what was done at New Orleans by you? There is a large vacant panel in the Rotunda facing the surrender of the enemy at Yorktown. I wish to see it filled with a scene exhibiting the Destruction of the British at New Orleans. I think such a proposition will be made and passed. I promised a gentleman to day, to give him a little bit of your

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hair, knowing that my Daughter had some of it. But she won't part with any of it. May I beg you to let Mrs. Jackson clip a little for me and send it in a letter?

pray, with the congratulations of all my family on the glorious return of the anniversary dedicated by the nation to your remembrance, let us join our affectionate regards to Mrs. Jackson. Tell her that Mrs. Catron's account of her health has given us some uneasiness. We should be glad to hear particularly how she is now.

I am reading now the most interesting Book I ever read in my life—Cortez Conquest of Mexico. ¹ In a thousand particulars I see your character delineated in the history of this surprizing man. There are one or two points in which you are very unlike. It is clear large print and will be easy reading to you. I shall send it to you, in the hope that it will amuse you. Tell Mrs. Jackson too, she may read it for a novel, for though one of the most authentic histories it is never the less, real romance.

¹ Probably refers to William H. Prescott's Conquest of Mexico, which was published Dec. 6, 1843. It was received with the greatest enthusiasm.

With affectionate wishes for your long life I am Yo. friend