

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, July 26, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, July 26, 1844.

Private.

My dear Mr. Blair, Your long and very interesting letter of the 7th instant has just reached me—it was travelling round our union as it appears, and at last reached Nashville, seal unbroken. I have read it with attention. I have no confidence in Mr. Calhoun as you know, nor can I ever forget, however I may forgive, his duplicity to me, whilst acting as sec. of war. But I can vouch for one thing, that he cannot prevent So. Carolina from going for Polk and Dallas. As it respects the reannexation of Texas it has been injudiciously managed, I fear forever lost to the united states until regained at the point of the Bayonet, in a war with Texas and great Britain and France her allies. It is strange to me when objections were raised to annexation by treaty, (which objection was not well founded—we had obtained Texas as part of Louisiana by Treaty, and why not restore Texas to her vested rights under the Treaty of 1803, by which she had been deprived of for years, cast off and neglected as an orphan child, by our folly), I say why did not Col. Benton or some Democratic member bring in a bill founded on the Treaty embracing its precise conditions, (I mean, the treaty of 1803) and then we would have seen what member of congress could be found who would dare to vote against complying with our national faith pledged by treaty, which was the supreme law of the land, and which all subsequent treaties made and entered into, with other powers were null and void, which deprived the citizen of Louisiana of the rights and benefits secured under the treaty of 1803, and which treaty could not be abrogated

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without their consent and that of France. The bill introduced by Col. Benton 1 was truly most humiliating to us as an independent nation, and the Col. if he had reflected, might have been sure that Texas, nor the Democracy of the united states, would never humble themselves to foreign powers so much as to vote for such a law. . . .

1 Bill introduced by Benton in the Senate June 9, for annexing Texas whenever Mexico should sanction the measure.

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I have said, that I fear Texas has fell under the power and influence of England and France. her necessity, with the threatened invasion of St. anna, may have induced Houston to listen to their propositions. I have wrote to him, but candeur compells me to say, that I fear Texas is lost—What if invaded can she do? She has not the means of defence, and unless aided by the u. states, must yield to such an invasion as is proposed to be marched against her. Genl. Houston was assured by some of the senate, that if Texas would enter into the Treaty, that there were 36 senators who would vote for its ratification and this was the inducement for his entering into the Treaty, or he never would have consented to make the Treaty, knowing that it would bring upon him all the power of Mexico, urged on by the influence of England. What must be thought of the honor of our Government, if it permits Texas to fall a pray to the combined influence of England and Mexico. Should this be the case what foreign Government can have any confidence in us. but I must close, you can draw your own conclusions. I am very feeble, shortness of breath increasing. I have but one remark—support the cause of Polk and Dallas and let Tiler alone. leave Calhoun to himself, we in the south and west will attend to the Federal Union, it must be preserved. Col. Benton I fear can never regain his former standing with the Democrats. I fear he will loose his election as senator

I hope you may be successful in obtaining a colt from Emuckfa by Boston. My dear sir cannot you be with us at the great mass meeting on the 15 august at Nashville. I wish you

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would, we will with pleasure furnish you with a bed. We all rejoice at your restored health and all unite with our best wishes to you and family. yr. friend Sincerely,