

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, October 27, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, October 27, 1844.

My Dear General: It gives me great pain to learn from your last letter (just received) that your old threatening hemorrhage has returned. Still, as the paroxysm has past, I hope as heretofore it will renew your lease of life. It seems to me that these great efforts of nature to throw 0352 328 off a load of blood that encumbers your vitals, although followed by extreme debility, invariably leave you in a bounding condition for years afterwards. And this makes me think that as you have survived this attack, that it will be years before it returns. Although therefore you must count upon being an invalid, still you will not repine even under circumstances which deprive you of enjoyment, that your friends have the joy of your presence and influence and affections among them.

I regret that Mr. Rives did not get his money on soon enough to protect Major Donelsons draft from protest. I think however that he told me it was received so immediately after the hour that it was due no charges would be incurred and that he was written to that effect by the officer making the protest. I do not know how the lapse occurred, as you know as soon as he learned that Major Donelson could not meet his draft, instantly went about to prepare for it. I do not think that Mr. Rives had the money immediately by him when he received Major Donelsons draft. I had resolved I knew not how wisely to put down the scheme of electioneering against Colo. Polk, entered into by [not deciphered] raising a bragging fund in this city which was thrust in every bodys face by way of cowing and alarming the Democracy and making the impression universal among our friends that no

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one had hopes of Democratic success—at least not enough to venture any thing upon it. I found that their bragging and offering libel at all our public meetings and their newspaper offices, were doing us real mischief, and so I bragged back at them in the Globe.

We have at last silenced their Brags, but Rives had to put up more than $22,000 before it was done. This made the Globe office bare of ready money when Major Donelsons notice arrived or the Draft would have certainly been provided for. If I lose the money I have bet it will not hurt me, and whether I lose or win, I am resolved never to bet one cents worth again on any account. It is calculated to give one a bad character and ruin ones habits. So I have done with it henceforth and forever. Indeed I have felt awkward in talking about Clays gambling when staking such amounts myself. If I am twitted about this betting after the election, I will take occasion in the Globe to express my sense of the matter, excuse myself upon the score of being bullied into it and obliged to fight back in a sort of party self-defence and will record my vow to save me from it in the future.

I do not believe that there has as yet been made a perfect bargain for the presidential election between the natives, the abolitionists and the coons in either New York or Pennsylvania. They cannot beat us in Pennsylvania if the union were perfect between the three parties. In New York they can. I feel confident however that it will not be effected to a sufficient extent to carry the State against us. I have a letter from Mr. Van Buren, who writes in perfect confidence of success and he has a shrewd Judgment on such matters, especially in N. Y., and the best opportunity of knowing the facts to decide upon. I think Polk 0353 329 will beat Clay at least 80 votes. ¹ In this count I include Tennessee and all the South but N. Carolina (which I hope for) and all the north west but Ohio. I take in New York and Pa. We all send love to your household and with it the most affectionate remembrances to its venerated head. Yo. af. friend

¹ Polk had 170 electoral votes, Clay 105. The Whigs carried, aside from states in the northeast, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio.