

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, November 29, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, November 29, 1844.

Private and confidential.

My dear Mr. Blair, Your letter of the 13th instant has been some days before me, but from a continued croud of visators, and debility together, I had not a moment to acknowledge it. Altho, we have lost Tennessee by, as I am told, 113 or 105 votes we view it as a complete victory, and the state now democratic, and the name of whigg will be dropped, and native repupublicans adopted in its stead, when nine tenths of the citizens will return to the democracy. Yesterday was the day that Col. Polk was received at Nashville—I am told it was a brilliant affair. The Col. left here yesterday morning

You need have no fears about the cabinet. Col. Polk is wide awake on that head, views properly the benefit of a united Cabinet, which cannot be the case where there are aspirants for the Presidency in it. The Col. will have some trouble in forming it. Mr. Mason is a sterling democrat and old friend and schoolmate of Col. Polks, and in whom he has great confidence, and added to this, a great favorite with the democracy of the old dominion who has fought the battle well. The old dominion must not, if it can be avoided, be offended, and then there is Judge wilkins, 1 brotherinlaw to Mr. Dallas, and a favorite of the Keystone state that has, as she allways does, fight the battle well. She must not be offended, Still he must for success have a united cabinet, and no aspirants to the Presidency in it. I presume he will, like myself, enter on his administration upon written

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rules for his guide, one of which will be, that no head of a department shall permit his name as a candidate for office whilst a member of the cabinet. This with all the leading principles upon which his whole administration is based, the signatures of the heads of Departments at once closes the door to all difficulty on this head. And as to being governed by any of Tylers plans, except the speedy anexation of Texas, you lay aside all apprehensions. Col. Polk like myself will render to cesar the things that are cesars, and to god the things that are his, has and will approve of those things that have been adopted in pursuance of the constitution and the real reading of that instrument. But be assured that he will have neither a Tyler, Calhoun, or Benton clike in his cabinet.

1 William Wilkins of Pennsylvania, Secretary of War Feb. 15, 1844–Mar. 3, 1845.

Here my friend I must make a remark for your safety and that of the usefulness and proffit of your paper. The leading politicians in the democratic ranks in Tennessee, all believe that Col. Bentons Texas speeches lost us in Tennessee at least 3000 votes. The whiggs, during the canvass, never attempted to answer our speakers on the Texan question in any other way but by producing the Col's speeches, published by thousand, and reading from thence and saying here is the doctrine of one of the most important leaders of the democracy, it sustains Mr. Clays position, whom we advocate etc. etc. etc. I regret to say to you that Col. Benton has lost that high confidence that the democracy had in him 0356 332 and unless he retreats from the position he has taken on the Texan question he will loose the confidence of the democracy. the eulogies, of that lying scamp, J. Q. Adams is destroying him, and I have no doubt done by Adams to have that effect.

Nay more it is believed by leading democrats that Col. Bentons speeches, Allen and Tapan silence lost ohio, for their course on the Texan question sustained Clays position. But anough, my object is to bring to your view the position of public matters, that you have some political enemies, and it behoves you to superintend your editorial columes, defend the true republican principles, and leave those public men to defend themselves in the atitude they have assumed. Believe me my dear friend if your editorial columes attempt to

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defend Col. Benton in the stand he has taken on the Texan question and in his bill that he presented to the senate you will find it an uphill business, and it will destroy your paper in the south and west. Therefore let Capt. Tyler alone, and Mr. Calhoun, and Col. Benton work out their own plans, and preserve the usefulness of your paper, your interest, and republican character. You may rest assured that you will find Col. Polks eyes wide awake, and energy enough to have a talented and united cabinet, and will be thankful for any of your views upon the subject. If virginia would elect Mason senator, or should he be pleased to go abroad, then, Col. Polk could act freely, but such is the friendship between Polk and Mason, that it would be harassing to Polk to remove him without providing for him otherwise, indeed, I do not know how he could justify himself in doing so.

I sincerely thank you for your promised notice of that lying old scamp, J. Q. Adams. should Mr. Erving fail to come out, could you procure me a copy of the document you have seen in Genl. Jessups possession. I am getting together such documents as will be necessary to file with my papers, for your use in the hands of the historian that may write in after times.

We are all rejoicing here at the glorious result of the Presidential election, and we rejoice, that you in your coon hunt, have secured as much good fur as will keep you and your family warm thro the winter. Mr. Clay will now have leisure to take care of his fences, and short horn Durhams, and I hope that the propitious moment has arived that he can settle with Mr. Adams that adjourned and suspended case of veracity between them.

With the kind regards of myself and family to you and all yours, I remain sincerely your friend

P. S. We have just heard from our plantation on the Mississippi. we have lost by the freshet about one half of our crop there, if not a little more. In forty three, by the continued rains we lost one hundred bales. My object now is, to request the goodness of you to consult our friend Mr. Rives, how much of your debt and interest you will require of us the

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ensuing spring. We mean to remit to you the Interest with the principle, to the amount of the proceeds of the cotton, which from 0357 333 our present advices, from the low price of cotton we can make no estimate, and should the wants of you and Mr. Rives require the whole debt, we will make any sacrafice to meet your demand. The whiggs here are all broke, who were betting men. Write me on the receipt of this, after consulting Mr. Rives on the mony matters, and my dear friend keep your Editorial collum free from all cliques or factions. I recd. a letter the other day stating that you are to have a Calhoun and a Benton faction. Keep your paper in the true republican track and you are safe. Let any faction get your Editorial collum and you and your paper goes down. I am greatly afflicted still providence has spared me to see my country safe and like old Simeon I am prepared to die. your friend sincerely