

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, April 9, 1845,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, April 9, 1845.

Confidential.

*My dear Mr. Blair,* I have been quite sick for several days, my feet and legs much swollen, and it has reached my hands and abdomen, and it may be that my life ends in dropsy, all means hitherto used to stay the swelling has now failed to check it. be it so. I am fully prepared to say the Lord's will be done.

My mind since ever I heard of the attitude the President had assumed with you as Editor of the Globe, which was the most unexpected thing I ever met with, my mind has been troubled, and it was not only unexpected by me, but has shewn less good common sense by the president than any act of his life, and calculated to divide instead of uniting the democracy, which appears to be his reason for urging this useless, and foolish measure at the very threshold of his administration, and when every thing appeared to augur well for, to him, a prosperous administration. The President, here, before he set out to washington must have been listening to the secrete councils of some political cliques, such as Calhoun or Tyler cliques; for there are such here, or after he reached washington some of the secrete friends of some of the aspirants must have gotten hold of his ear and spoiled his common sense, or he never would have made such a movement, so uncalled for, and well calculated to sever the democracy by calling down upon himself suspicions, by the act, of secretly favouring some of the political cliques who are looking to the

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succession for some favorite. I have in my confidential letters, and particularly that of the 4th instant brought fully to his view in my plain common sense way his situation, and ask him at last, how he can justify his course to you to the real democracy, that sustained my administration and Mr. VBurens.

I brought to his view when I entered upon the duties of the administration of the Govrt. Duff Green [who] was the democratic Editor, who[se] object was to heat the Executive chair by me for Mr. Calhoun. He was the Executive organ until I found he was doing my administration injury and dividing the democratic ranks, That the Globe with you its Editor took Duff Greens place, That you and Col. Polk went hand and hand in sustaining all my measures, with ability and zeal. Both advocated the Election of Mr. V.Buren, and went hand and hand sustaining his administration, united in his support for a second term, have ever since the Col. name was announced as the nominee at the Baltimore convention you have given him an undeviating support, and I have fully explained to him how your paper had been drawn astray from your own matured views on the Texan question. I then conclude by asking him what excuse can he give to the old substantial Jackson and vanBuren democrats for not letting you and your paper go on as his organ untill you are in some fault, and then as I did Duff Green turn you away. I ask, have you (the Col.) any new principles, orther than those you have allways advocated and set forth in yr. inaugural, to bring before the people, that you think Mr. Blair will oppose, that at the very threshold of your administration you have repudiated Blair and his Globe from being your organ. I know this cannot be the case, therefore am entirely lost to conjecture any good cause for your unaccountable course to Mr. Blair and wind up with telling him that there is but one safe course to persue, review his course send for you and direct you and the Globe to proceed as the organ of his administration—give you all his confidence and all will be well, and end well. *This the substance*—and I had a hope on the receipt of this letter, and some others written by mutual friends, would have restored all things to harmony and confidence again. I rested on this hope until the 7th when I recd. yours of the 30th and two confidential letters from the President, directed to be laid before me, from which it would seem, that the

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purchase of the Globe and to get clear of you, its Editor, is the great absorbing question before the President.

*Well, who is to be purchaser*—Mr. Richie and Major A. J. Donelson its Editors— *Quere as to the latter*. The above question I have asked the president. Is that renegado politician, Cameron, who boasts of his *&dollar;50,000* , to set up a new paper to be one of them, who is a Bankrupt in politics and who got elected senator by selling himself to the whiggs, and could not raise one thousand dollars, to be one of the proprietors to unite the democracy. His very election has divided them, in Pennsylvania, and a letter to me says has done our mutual friend Buchannan much injury he being charged with using, *secretely* , his influence to effect it, or would Camerons ownership in part unite Horn, Kane, Leaper, Dallas and a host of other old true democrats in your expulsion—? *what delusion*. Or is Major Walker of columbia Tennessee 1 to be the purchaser. Here it is stated he is vastly encumbered with debt, by many a perfect bankrupt—who is to purchase, and where is the money to come from. Is Doctor Win. Gwinn, the satelite of Calhoun, the great friend of R.J. Walker sec. of the Treasury, a perfect Bankrupt in property. My own opinion is, that the contract made, the money cannot be raised and the Globe cannot be Bought. What then. The President will find himself in a dilema, have to apologise, and the Globe be the organ and Richie will return not so well satisfied with the segacity of the administration as when he left Richmond. These are my speculations. I may be in error, I would like to know what portion of the cabinett are supporting and advising the President to this course, where nothing but injury can result to him in the end, and division in his cabinett, arising from jealousy, what political clique is to be benefitted. my dear friend let me know all about the cabinett and their movements on this subject. How loathsome it is to me to see an old friend laid aside, principles of Justice to friendship forgotten, and all for the sake of *policy* ; and the great democratic party divided or endangered for *policy* , and that a mere imaginary policy that must tend to divide the great democratic party, whilst the whiggs are secretely rejoicing at the prospects of disunion in our ranks. I declare to you it is a course that common sense forbade the adoption, when the administration was entering

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on its career with so much harmony and prospect of success. I cannot reflect upon it with any calmness, every point of it upon scrutiny turns to harm and disunion, and not one beneficial result can be expected from it. I will be anxious to know the result. If Harmony is restore[d] and the Globe the organ I will rejoice—if sold, to whom, and for what. *Have, if you sell, the purchase money well secured.* What is the President doing for Mr. Kendall. He was to have had the city post office. This I see is given to another.

1 Polk's brother-in-law.

This may be the last letter I may be able to write you. But live or [die I am your] friend (and never deserted one for *policy*), and leave my papers and reputation into your keeping, as far as justice is due to my fame, I know you will shield it. I ask no more. I rest upon truth, and require nothing but what truth can mete to me. All my Houshold join me in kind wishes for your health and prosperity and that of all your family and that you may triumph over all your enemies—may gods choicest blessings be bestowed upon you and yrs. thro life is the prayer of yr. sincere friend,