

Andrew Jackson to Samuel Houston, January 5, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Hermitage, January 5, 1827. 10 o'clock P. M.

D'r Colo. , Your letter of Decbr. 13th ult is just handed me by Colo. McGregger, and I hasten to answer it by tomorrows mail.

The plan you propose of communicating with the Sec of the Navy I cannot consent to. was he not a branch of the Executive goverment, I should leave him to my friends, but as he occupies an exalted Station he might answer you, that he could not reply to any individual but myself, and he might make a charge of a combination, formed against him by members of Congress, who could not demand of him a reply, that the subject solely appurtained to my military charecter— *to my call* , he can have no excuse, *he must reply* . I have therefore inclosed a note to him, in its close, I inform him I have enclosed it to you with a request that you hand it, obtain his answer and forward it to me. You will find my note is calm and decorous, to which I have no doubt he will unhesitatingly reply. When he does, I wish you to keep a duplicate, least the original may be purloined on the way, and let Major Eaton see it. If the original does not reach me, I will request you to forward the duplicate.

I inclose Doctor Wallace letter to you having taking a certified copy of it, and your note, stating you have shewn the statement of Doctor Wallace to Mr. Johnston, who was present, and says it is correct.

I have recd. yours, inclosed in the report of the Sec of the Treasury, with a copy of my letter to Mr. McClain P. M. Genl. recommending Colo. Chroghan. 1 I only wanted this letter

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to have it by me, not for publication. I find it is right in these evil days, to be prepared to repel wicked slander, when coming from sources worthy of notice.

1 George Croghan, colonel and inspector-general U. S. A., noted for his defense of Fort Stephenson in 1813.

I thank you for conveying the respects of Mr. Randolph. present him with my congratulations on his good health. I wish him a continuance of it.

Mrs. J. requests to be presented to you kindly with a request that you have the goodness to present her and me to Mrs. Watson and the family. present me to all the Tennessee delegation and all other friends and receive my salutations. yrs

P. S. I write in great haste, but take time to remark, that I have no doubt in your friendship, and that the view taken of the subject as it regards Mr. Sec. Southard, is your deliberate view of the propriety of the course you recommend. you know you have my confidence but upon a full view of this subject you will agree with me, that I am the only person who have a right to make [the request]—as a military man I am bound to make it, it is due to my fame and to my country, it is due to posterity. I am sure I will reach the source, and if I should find I have been reposing confidence in a hypocritical villain, it is due to my country to expose and unmask him. to do this, it is only necessary to publish to the world the whole orders and communications I recd. from the Dept of War during the late war. These are my reasons for adopting the course I have chosen. you will please deliver the letter and inclose me his reply. I send it open that you may read, shew it to Eaton, seal and deliver it.
A. J.