

## Andrew Jackson to John Young Mason, August 1, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO JOHN Y. MASON.

Hermitage, August 1, 1844.

. . . . With much frankness I give you my opinion of the course that Mr. Tyler ought to pursue with regard to the Presidency, if he expects to retire in the confidence of the democracy; and adding to his popularity. 1 He ought to withdraw from the canvass , with such an address to his supporters for the Presidency as his good sense may suggest. My reason—1rst. Mr. Tyler has no possible chance of being elected, all the democracy being pledged to abide by the nomination of the Democratic national convention at Baltimore. This now all his friends as well as himself must see. 2nd. His enemies falsly charge that the Texas question was introduced by him to enhance his popularity and make him President. Mr. Tyler by withdrawing will releive himself from this false imputation of his enemies. thirdly, By withdrawing he will relieve himself from the imputation, of holding on to the Canvass when he can have no hopes of being elected, to aid and strengthen Mr. Clay,

1 Mason, Secretary of the Navy, had asked Jackson if he ought to resign in view of the fact that Tyler was running for office against Polk, the regular Democratic nominee.

class=MsoNormal>0330 306 and to injure the democratic cause. This, if Mr. Tyler holds on to the canvass, will be a heavy charge and will forever hereafter destroy him with the Republican and democratic party. Should he soon come out with an address to the democracy, and withdraw from the Canvass, he will retire the 4th of March next with a

## Library of Congress

greater popularity than he ever possessed, and the democracy supporting him for the Presidency of course fall into the ranks of the whole democracy without any distinction whatever.

I have been asked by several Tyler men, but who go with the mass of the democracy to the support of Poke and Dallas the nominees of the Baltimore convention, what will Mr. Tyler do. I have answered, as a democrat having now no chance to be elected he will withdraw from the canvass. This they all say is his proper course, to retain his standing with the democracy, and free himself from the imputation of his holding on now When he has no hope of being elected , is to favour Clay. If Mr. Tyler ever expects to be before the democracy for any public office he must withdraw from the canvass now. If he does not, he will retire forsaken by the true democracy of this union, never to be able to regain their confidence, when by now retiring he carries home with him the confidence and respect of all the democracy of this Union.

Should Mr. Tyler not withdraw from the canvass, his cabinet will be rather in an unpleasant situation, but my dear sir, I do not believe it would be a sufficient cause for you to resign your situation so long as Mr. Tyler administer the Government on the true republican Jeffersonian principle. All the democracy here who know you, believe your political principle too pure to be contaminated by Whigism Clayism or conservatism, therefore I say as my opinion, the course of Mr. Tyler, holding on to the canvass I cannot think would justify you in withdrawing from the Cabinet. There is but a few months to the 4th of March when, from every appearance in the South and west, Democracy will be triumphant, and we will have in Polk and Dallas a pure Jeffersonian administration to which you have allways belonged and allways supported.

My dear sir I am exhausted, and must close. My own opinion is, that Mr. Tyler will withdraw from the canvass; and the sooner he does the more credit he will get for the act. I cannot correct or copy, I know that under the pain and difficulty I write you will overlook all errors

## Library of Congress

it contains. Accept the assurance of my great respect and esteem, and believe me sincerely yr. friend,