

To John Caldwell Calhoun

May 30th. 1830—

Sir

Your communication of the 29th. Instant was handed me this morning just as I was going to church, and, of course, was not read until I returned.

· May 1830 ·

I regret to find that you have intirely mistaken my note of the 13th instant. There is no part of it which calls in question either your conduct, or your motives, in the case alluded to. Motives are to be inferred from actions, & judged of by our god. It had been intimated to me many years ago, that it was you and not Mr Crawford, as I had supposed, who had been secretly endeavouring to destroy my reputation. These insinuations I indignantly repelled, upon the ground that you, in all your letters to me, professed to be my personal friend, and approved *entirely*, my conduct in relation to the Seminole campaign. I had too exalted an opinion of your honor and frankness to believe, for a moment, that you could be capable of such deception. Under the influence of these friendly feelings (which I have always entertained for you) when I was furnished with a copy of Mr Crawfords letter, with that Frankness which ever has, and I hope ever will characterise my conduct, I considered it due to you and the friendly relations which had always existed between us, to lay it forthwith before you, and ask, if the statements contained in that letter could be true. I repeat I had a right to believe that you were my sincere friend, and until now, never expected to have occasion to say of you, in the language of Cesar—*et tu Brute*. The evidence which has brought me to this conclusion is abundantly Contained in your letter now before me. In your and Mr. Crawfords dispute I have no interest whatever, but it may become necessary for me, hereafter, when I shall have more leisure, and the documents at hand to place the subject in its proper light, to notice the historical facts & references in your communication, which will give a very different view of this subject.

It is due to myself, however, to state that the knowledge of the Executive, the documents and orders, in my possession, will shew conclusively, that I had authority for all I did, and that your explanation of my **orders** powers as detailed to Govr. Bibb shews your own understanding of them. Your letter to me of the 29th., handed to day, and now before me is the first intimation to me that *you* ever entertained any other opinion or view of them. Your conduct, words, actions & letters, I have ever thought shew this

Understanding you now, no further communication with you on this subject is necessary[.] I have the honor to be very respectfully yr mo. obt servt.

Andrew Jackson

[Endorsed by William B. Lewis:] Copy of a letter from Genl. Jackson to Mr. Calhoun—dated 30. May 1830

ALS draft, DLC (73). *US Telegraph*, February 17, 1831; *Calhoun Papers*, 11:192–93. Calhoun replied on June 1 (below).