

To Hardy Murfree Cryer

(Private & for your own eye)

Washington April 25th. 1831—

My Revd. friend

I have been gratified by the receipt of your esteemed favor of the 3rd. instant, and particularly for the friendly act of sending your son to the Hermitage, to make inquiry concerning the family, stock & farm, & communicating the result of the inquiry to me. This is truly, in my situation, the act of a friend, and I shall long, very long, cherish it, as such—was it not for your kindness, I should not hear whether the lonely house in the garden, which holds all my earthly treasure, was attended to or not. My faithful Hanah, who loved her mistress, I have confidence, will see to it.¹ I look forward with a longing desire when, if spared, I shall be permitted to return, & become its watchful sentinal until called hence, when I hope ~~I may~~ my body may be permitted to be placed & sleep beside that silent tomb, & my spirit unite with hers in the mansions of blessed.

I had received the intelligence of Genl Purdys death before your letter reached me, & had appointed Col Marshal of Nashville to fill the vacancy. Therefore, I can only say, that there is no man in whom I have greater confidence than Genl Martin—but there were many applicants, worthy men, & friends of mine, pressed upon me by numerous recommendations that until your letter placed Genl Martin before me I never thought of him, & the recommendations of Marshall was so strong, that at once I appointed him.

You will have seen from the public journals, that Mr Van Buren & my faithful Eaton tendered their resignations, which has lead to a reorganisation of my Cabinet proper.

The coalition combined with Duff Green Calhoun & Co, believed they had caught the Executive in such difculty, from which they believed he could not extricate himself—judging from themselves they could not believe that any man possessed sufficient patriotism to retire from office for public good; and that I durst not remove those who were aiding my

opponents in their secrete intrigues against the administration, without turning the great State of Pennsylvania against it, they could not believe that Mr Van Buren could be drove from his situation, or that I would part from him & my friend Major Eaton. They knew how much I esteemed them both for their virtues, talents, & pure republican principles, and the others I durst not remove. How little corrupt & intriguing demagogues know of virtuous men—how illy they judged of Van Buren & Eaton, & how little they really knew of myself. Eaton & Van Buren tendered their resignations, the reasons assigned were such as every virtuous, & patriotic heart, must approve. When I came to the conclusion to accept ~~their resignations~~ them, at the same time, I came to the conclusion to reorganize my Cabinet proper and the whole coalition & combination were check mated, & prostrated by one single move on the political chest board—so you see that altho I have to part with two of the best men and purest patriots, the executive is free; & with the full expression of the public voce going on to reorganize his Cabinet, in doing which he will be careful to select men, over whom the intriguing deceptive windings, of Mr Calhoun Duff Green & Co, can have no influence; and then I am safe—for I would rather contend against fifty open enemies, as one secrete deceptious professed friend, such as Duff Green & J. C. Calhoun. I *now* know them both, and I do not believe there are to be found any where, two greater intriguers, or men, ~~of greater~~ more devoid of principle. When men are found capable of lying, then they are capable of any act of depravity, that their selfish & ambitious views may suggest. I once had the most exalted opinion of Calhoun, I supposed him incapable of duplicity or any mean act. I repeat, I *now know him*, and believe him capable of any thing.

I sincerely regret to loose the aid of the high talents of Mr Van Buren, and Eaton, & their sterling integrity—they have both been faithful, laboured well, & with an eye single to the public good & the prosperity of my administration. I trust they will be rewarded by the approbation of a grateful country. I have invited judge White to fill the office vacated by the resignation of Major Eaton—if he accepts, there will be a vacancy in the Senate—there I want a good, & true man, in the place of White, not such as Tazwell & Tiler, who has found that the construction placed upon the constitution by Washington, Jefferson, Madison &c, approved by the elder Tazwell, & Genl Mason who then represented virginia, is all wrong.² The plan as ~~was schemed~~ they thought was well laid. Calhouns Book was printed, but withheld, until Genl Duff Green should be elected printer—in the mean time letters were written every where, & hundreds to the members of the Virginia Legislature, and Tazwell & Tyler come out against the Executive about the agents appointed to negotiate with the Port, and a dinner was getting up for the vice President at Richmond when the Legislature of virginia, it was believed & expected, would announce Calhoun for the Presidency. Tazwell & Tyler made their speeches, the

Book was published & Genl Green with all his eulogy ushered it before the public immediately after his election—the vice President hastened to Richmond, woeing & cooing with every member that would come into his embrace & lo, & behold, but 25 members could be got to subscribe to the dinner, & poor Calhoun's Book fell still born, & he went without his dinner, and poor Duff, has politically cut his throat, & Calhoun is prostrate, never to rise again. The plot was to take up Calhoun for President & Judge McLean for vice President. Whether an attempt may not now be made to unite with Clay & Webster, I cannot say. The late movement & reorganization of my Cabinet has frustrated all their organised plans.

If Judge White comes into my Cabinet how much strength it would give me in the Senate, if the Legislature of Tennessee would give me Eaton there—he could give me much aid, and his patriotism displayed in the act of going ought to draw from the State, some act of its approbation. I am sure Eaton will not offer for it—but the Legislature could do me no act that could aid me so much in my administration as this. I would still, then have both White, & his aid, all important to me in these days of corruption, and intrigue &c. If the Legislature was to take my situation into view, that I am only here for the public good, endeavouring to bring back the Government to what it was in the days of Jefferson, and warring with that *monster of corruption the United States Bank*, which if rechartered destroys our liberties, I am sure, they would give me this aid of Major Eaton. I write you in the spirit of a friend, & a republican, but my principles forbid me to lisp such a thing to the Legislature or any of its members.

I have had a laborious and I may add a disagreeable time—but I look forward for better weather & a calmer sea—still the loss of Eaton & Van Buren I sincerely regret—tho, it was necessary, it was *their wish*, & I yielded to it.

I will have Edward Livingston in the State Department—Judge McLane minister at London, in the Treasury, Woodbury in the Navy. The attorney Genl as yet not selected, and my faithful friend Judge White in the Department of War. With these men for my aid, & Major Eaton in White's place, in the Senate, with the directions & Smiles of an allwise providence, I think we will bring the national ship into a safe harbor

I have noted your remarks on the contest between Desha & Burton. If Burton continues his attitude, in the defensive, & acts with calmness & moderation, however severe, he may be, if decorous, he will prostrate Desha—and from what I see, Desha has already, & if he continues the contest in the prints, must do Gen Hall much injury. The idea if once taken up by the people, of a combination to hoist any man into office contrary to the will of the people will, destroy him. I am much Gen Hall's friend, but from the Treatment that Burton has met with, I must say, I wish him success. From the course my young friend has taken by giving

Desha a certificate to injure his cousin, by detailing a friendly conversation between them, I condemn much, & I have often told my connection that “A House divided against itself, cannot stand.” I will thank you to keep me advised of this electioneering campaign.³

I regret you did not give me the pedigree of your young [*colt*]*—*If my oscar filly has not been put to the horse before this reaches you, I will accept your offer, altho, I had a great desire to have a colt from her from Bolivar, and if I cannot have him sold, or put out to a good stand in Tennessee, I shall have him brought into this country*—*but I want to keep him there, until his colts, from some thorough bred mares, come upon the Turf. I cannot believe, but he is one of the best blooded horses in america, & will get good runners. Therefore wanted a colt from him by the oscar filley.⁴

I must have three of my colts trained this fall. Will Mr Cotton train them I can find him a grown hand & perhaps two boys the [balance] he must find himself*—*see, consult Mr Cotton & write me. Major Donelson says the Pacolet filleys by Stockholder, and the oscars by Sir William are the finest colts he ever saw.⁵ I will send my son out & by him a necklace to my dear little Rachel by whom I will write you. Present me kindly to Mrs Cryer and your family & believe me yr friend

Andrew Jackson

P.S. I want to sell of my Stock, in this, I wish your aid to my son, for which I will give you a percentage A. J

Major Lewis, Mr Earle & my son send their kind respects to you & family A. J.

ALS, ArU (17-1228).

1. Hermitage slave Hannah (b. c1801) was head of the household staff and had been Rachel Jackson's personal servant.

2. Tazewell's father, Henry Tazewell (1753–1799), and Stevens Thomson Mason (1760–1803) of Virginia served with AJ in the Senate in 1797–98.

3. AJ's friend was his nephew Daniel S. Donelson, who had lately given out accounts of a conversation he held with Robert M. Burton around the time of Robert Desha's election for Congress in 1829 over William Trousdale. As Donelson related it to Robert L. Caruthers on February 20, 1831, Burton had told him that he was pledged to support Trousdale and had voted for him but had done nothing to aid him against Desha*—*a declaration, said Donelson, which impressed “clearly upon my mind, that he had not acted in good faith to Majr. Trousdale” (Caruthers Papers, NcU).

4. AJ's horse Bolivar, sired by Oscar out of a Pacolet mare, stood at stud at the Hermitage in 1830 and again from March to July 1831.

5. Pacolet was a racer once owned by AJ. Sir William had stood at Cryer's stable. Horse trainer John Brown Cotton (1778–1849) was Cryer's uncle.