

## To Levi Woodbury

*[The first text below is a draft penned by Jackson's secretary George Breathitt with additions by Jackson. The second is the sent letter, entirely in Breathitt's hand.]*

(Confidential)

Hermitage, Sept. 11. 1832.

My Dear Sir,

It has been more than intimated to me, by a confidential friend, that *efforts have been made, and perhaps not without success*, by the nullifiers, *to disaffect* the Officer of the Navy in command at charlston ~~with~~ towards the Union, and secure his co-operation with them in the event of serious difficulties happening.<sup>1</sup> While I will not admit the probability of things in the South coming to a desperate issue, ~~still~~ yet it behoves us to be ready for any emergency. I communicate this information to you with the suggestion that you make such arrangements as will enable the Government to be relieved, ~~without~~ if it should unfortunately become necessary, of any difficulty in respect to this matter. It is further said that the Legislature will be convened immediately after the elections in So Ca, and that ~~their~~ then the nullifiers will determine their course (in S.C) ~~will then be immediately determined on.~~

It is likewise stated that the same efforts, ~~which~~ of a simular character with to mentioned to have been used with the Navy, have also been ~~tried~~ ~~with~~ practiced by the nullifiers upon the Army in whose cooperation they confide. I desire you to communicate this confidentially to the Secretary of War, and request him, for me, to make arrangements to relieve the troops now at charlston at any time it may be desireable, <sup>2</sup>and having in

our Forts at charleston, officers, who cannot be corrupted by nullifiers. The idea is, that by the treachery of our officers, to get possession of our Forts, and thereby prevent a blockade. *This must be guarded against, & prevented.*

I am becoming more and more convinced of the propriety of our having Captain Elliot *afloat*.<sup>3</sup> at the Norfolk Station, that he may be in readiness to take command of the squadron that it may be ordered necessary to that Charleston Station, should it become necessary employ, if any we shall be required to use any.

I shall set out in a few days on my return to Washington via K.y. and reach the city as soon as I can by easy marches. My health continues good. Make my respects & that of Mr Breathit to all the heads of Departments & Bureaus & their families including your own and believe me very respectfully yours

A. J.

LS draft in George Breathitt's hand with additions by AJ, DLC (41).

1. Captain James Renshaw commanded at the Charleston station.

2. The text from here to the end of the paragraph is in AJ's hand.

3. The text from here to the end of the letter is in AJ's hand.

Confidential

Hermitage, Sept. 11. 1832.

My Dear Sir,

It has been more than intimated to me, by a confidential friend, that *efforts have been made*, and perhaps not without success, by the nullifiers, to *disaffect* the Officer of the Navy in command at charlston towards the Union, and secure his co-operation with them in the event of serious difficulties happening.

While I will not admit the probability of things in the South coming to a desperate issue, yet it behoves us to be ready for any emergency.

I communicate this information to you with the suggestion that you make such arrangements as will enable the Government to be relieved, ~~without~~ if it should unfortunately become necessary, of any difficulty in respect to this matter. It is further said that the Legislature will be convened immediately after the elections in South Carolina and that then the nullifiers will determine their course. It is likewise stated that efforts, of a similar character with those mentioned to have been used with the Navy, have also been ~~tried~~ practiced by the nullifiers upon the Army, *in whose co-operation they are represented to confide*. I desire you to communicate this confidentially to the Secretary of War, and request him, for me, to make arrangements to relieve the troops now at charlston at any time it may be desirable. We must have in our Forts at charlston Officers who cannot be corrupted by the nullifiers. It is intimated that they expect by the treachery of our Officers to get possession of our Forts, and thereby prevent a blockade. *This must be guarded against, and, if attempted, prevented.*

· September 1832 ·

I am becoming more and more convinced of our having Captain Elliot *afloat* at the Norfolk station that he may be ready to take command of ~~any~~ the squadron ~~we have~~ it may be necessary to employ, if we shall be required to use any.

I shall set out in a few days on my return to Washington via Kentucky and will reach the city as soon as we can by easy stages. My health continues good. Make my respects, as also Mr. Breathitt's to the heads of Departments, Bureaus, & their families not forgetting your own, and believe me to be Very Respectfully Yr. friend

Andrew Jackson

LS in George Breathitt's hand, DLC-Woodbury Papers (mAJs).