

"OLD HICKORY" LETTER FOUND

**Guest at Hotel Leaves Valuable Relic
in Trunk—The Letter Was Writ-
ten in 1835.**

Memphis, July 21.—A valuable relic came to light recently out of the rubbish cellar of the Albany Hotel by Samuel F. Dutton, one of the proprietors. It is nothing less than a bona fide letter from Andrew Jackson, written by his own hand June 1, 1835.

Several years ago some guest of the Albany disappeared, leaving behind an old trunk. As the man did not return his trunk was confiscated and taken down into the cellar. There it was opened to discover if it contained anything of sufficient value to offset the man's bill, but little was found. Among the odds and ends was what, in the semi-gloom of the cellar, seemed merely an old picture frame. It was set aside by Mr. Dutton until it should be needed.

Mr. Dutton, desiring to hang up a notice, bethought him of the frame in the cellar. When he had brought it into the light and dusted it off he was amazed to see the signature of "Old Hickory."

The letter is addressed to Captain J. C. McLemore, presumed to have lived at Nashville, Tenn. It was written from Washington, and is intended to assure that gentleman of the safe arrival of his son and A. J. Coffee, who, twelve years later made himself famous while aide-de-camp to General Taylor at Buena Vista, and was brevetted lieutenant-colonel for his gallant conduct.

The lads were on their way to West Point and were in charge of Andrew Jackson Donelson, who was then the President's private secretary. It was this Donelson after whom Fort Donelson, the Confederate stronghold, was named. In 1820, fifteen years before this letter was written, Donelson was aide-de-camp to General Jackson. In 1844 he was made charge d'affaires to Texas. In 1846 he was Minister to Prussia, and in 1848-49 he was Minister to Germany. In 1852 he was candidate for Vice President of the United States. After this he retired to Bolivar county, Mississippi, and in 1865 he removed to Memphis, where he practiced law until his death, in 1871.

The paper on which the letter is written is yellow and worn, and the text is rather difficult to decipher. It runs thus:

"Washington, June 1, 1835.—My Dear Sir: Major A. J. Donelson, accompanied with your son and A. J. Coffee, reached us on the evening of the 30th ultimo, all in good health. The young gentlemen will tarry with us a few days, and then proceed on to West Point. I will give them letters to the superintendent, which will make them known and insure them a friendly reception. I hope they will do well. They are very fine-looking youths. With my kind regards to your amiable family, believe me, your friend.

ANDREW JACKSON.

"Captain J. C. McLemore."